

Chapter 3.0

Environmental Analysis1
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3 This chapter discusses the terminology used in this document and the CEQA
4 requirements related to the analysis of impacts. The sections following Section 3.0
5 contain a discussion of the possible effects of the proposed Project for the specific
6 environmental issue (or resource) areas identified by the LAHD. Sections 3.1 through
7 3.12 discuss both environmental issues found to be potentially significant and those
8 found not to be significant.

9 To assist the reader in comparing information about the various environmental issues,
10 Sections 3.1 through 3.12 each present the following information for their specific
11 resource area:

- 12 • Environmental Setting (the environmental setting or baseline for this Draft EIR is the
13 physical condition that existed in September 2005 [when the review and comment
14 period of the NOP ended for this project])
- 15 • Applicable Plans, Programs, and Regulations (i.e., the regulatory setting)
- 16 • Significance Criteria (i.e., the criteria against which the significance of impacts is
17 judged)
- 18 • Impact Assessment Methodology
- 19 • Impacts and Mitigation Measures of the proposed Project
- 20 • Mitigation Monitoring
- 21 • Significant Unavoidable Impacts

22 Significant cumulative impacts of the proposed Project for each environmental resource
23 area are summarized in Chapter 4.0 of this Draft EIR. The alternatives to the proposed
24 Project are evaluated in Chapter 5, and the Project alternatives are compared to the
25 proposed Project and to the CEQA Baseline. That chapter also ranks the alternatives
26 relative to each other based on anticipated impacts for each resource area to determine the
27 environmentally preferred alternative. The environmental justice-related impacts of the
28 proposed Project and alternatives are considered in Chapter 6, the socioeconomic
29 implications of the proposed Project and alternatives in Chapter 7, and the growth-
30 inducing implications of the proposed Project in Chapter 8. Chapter 9 describes any
31 significant and irreversible impacts of the proposed Project. The CEQA Baseline and its
32 application to analysis of potential impacts from the proposed Project and alternatives is
33 explained in detail in Section 1.5.5 and Section 2.6 in this Draft ER.

3.1 Terminology Used in this Environmental Analysis

In evaluating the potential impacts of the proposed Project and the Project alternatives, the level of significance is determined by applying the threshold of significance (significance criterion) presented for each resource evaluation area. The following terms are used to describe each impact:

- *No Impact*: A designation of no impact is given when no adverse changes in the environment are expected.
- *Less Than Significant Impact*: A less-than-significant impact would be identified when the proposed Project or alternatives would cause no substantial adverse change in the environment, i.e., the impact would not reach the threshold of significance.
- *Significant Impact*: A significant (but mitigable, or avoidable) impact would create a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the proposed Project or alternatives. Such an impact would exceed the applicable significance threshold established by CEQA, but would be reduced to a less-than-significant level by application of a mitigation measure.
- *Significant Unavoidable Impact*: As required by Section 15126.2(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, this determination is used when a residual impact that would cause a substantial adverse effect on the environment could not be reduced to a less-than-significant level through any feasible mitigation measure(s).
- *Beneficial Effect*: The proposed Project or alternatives would create a positive change in any of the physical conditions in the affected resource area.
- *Mitigation*: This term refers to measures that would be implemented to avoid or lessen potentially significant impacts. Mitigation includes:
 - Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;
 - Minimizing the impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation;
 - Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;
 - Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and
 - Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

The mitigation measures would be proposed as a condition of project approval and would be monitored to ensure compliance and implementation.

- *Residual Impacts*: This term refers to the level of impact after the implementation of mitigation measures.

1 **3.2 Requirements to Evaluate Alternatives**

2 CEQA Guidelines 15126.6 require that an EIR describe a range of reasonable alternatives
3 to the Project, or to the location of the Project, that could feasibly attain most of the basic
4 objectives of the Project but would avoid or substantially lessen any significant
5 environmental impacts. The EIR should compare merits of the alternatives and
6 determine an environmentally superior alternative. Section 2.5 of this Draft EIR sets
7 forth potential alternatives to the Project and evaluates their suitability, as required by
8 CEQA Guidelines (Section 15126.6). Section 1.5.7 and Sections 6.2 and 6.3 of this Draft
9 EIR describe the detailed requirements to evaluate alternatives.