

4.0 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The following chapter contains 12 sections; each section addresses one environmental topic outlined in Appendix G of the Guidelines for the California Environmental Quality Act (State CEQA Guidelines) (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 14, Chapter 3, Sections 1500–15397).

For each environmental impact issue analyzed, the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) includes a detailed explanation of the existing conditions; the regulatory setting applicable to the environmental topic; the methodology of the impact analysis; thresholds of significance that will be applied to determine whether the project’s impacts are significant or less than significant; identification of short-term and long-term direct and indirect project impacts; and mitigation measures identified to avoid or substantially reduce potentially significant adverse project impacts. A “significant impact” or “significant effect” means “a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project” (14 CCR 15382). Each environmental topic section in Chapter 4.0 also includes a discussion of the cumulative effects of the project when considered in combination with other projects, causing related impacts, as required by Section 15130 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

The following environmental topics are assessed in Chapter 4.0:

- 4.1 Aesthetics
- 4.2 Air Quality
- 4.3 Biological Resources
- 4.4 Cultural and Historic Resources
- 4.5 Geology and Soils
- 4.6 Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- 4.7 Hydrology and Water Quality
- 4.8 Land Use and Planning
- 4.9 Noise
- 4.10 Public Services and Utilities
- 4.11 Recreation
- 4.12 Transportation and Circulation