

4.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the potential environmental impacts and presents the findings of the environmental analysis conducted for the proposed project. The following environmental issues are evaluated in Sections 4.2 through 4.15: Land Use and Planning, Aesthetics, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services and Utilities, Recreation, and Transportation/Traffic.

4.1.1 ORGANIZATION OF CHAPTER

Each of the sections in this chapter is organized as follows:

- **Existing Conditions** are on-site and surrounding environmental conditions in existence at the time of publication of the Notice of Preparation (NOP), as well as relevant regulatory standards and requirements.
- **Environmental Analysis** first specifies the applicable significance thresholds (i.e., criteria by which the level of significance of each potential impact is evaluated), and then describes changes that would result in the existing physical environment should the proposed project be implemented. The analysis focuses on the changes that might be significant impacts if the project is implemented.

Project impacts are identified within each section. A summary of the potential impact is presented first, its level of significance is specified second, environmental analysis is provided third, and any required mitigation is identified last. If mitigation is required, the section concludes with the residual level of significance after mitigation.

4.1.2 MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation measures are required as feasible when significant impacts are identified. Mitigation measures must be fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other legally binding instruments. Each mitigation measure is numbered sequentially so that it directly correlates to the impact it addresses.

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