

# 4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

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This Section provides an overview of the subsections format found in Section 4 of this Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (Sections 4.1 through 4.9). For the purpose of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the Appendix G Guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act have been used as the basis for the environmental issue area analyses.

## Impact Analysis Format

The purpose of this Draft EIR is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Project. Environmental topic areas outlined in Sections 4.1 through 4.9 of the Draft EIR were determined to be the applicable and appropriate topics to analyze in the Draft EIR, as identified through the Initial Study, which was prepared and circulated with the Notice of Preparation (NOP) and included in Appendix A-1 of this Draft EIR. Section 2.4 in Section 2 of this Draft EIR, discusses the environmental effects found not to be significant as a result of the Project. The Initial Study for the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project Areas 2 and 3 concluded that the proposed Project would result in no environmental impacts or less than significant impacts to the topics of Aesthetics, Agricultural and Mineral Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire. These environmental topics are analyzed as part of the 2015 IS/MND, and/or the 2019 Initial Study prepared for the Project and are not analyzed as part of this Draft EIR.

Topics that are brought forth for analysis in this Draft EIR include:

- 4.1 Air Quality
- 4.2 Biological Resources
- 4.3 Cultural Resources
- 4.4 Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- 4.5 Hydrology and Water Quality
- 4.6 Noise
- 4.7 Recreation
- 4.8 Transportation
- 4.9 Tribal Cultural Resources

The Draft EIR assesses how the Project would impact each of these issue areas, and the mitigation required to reduce potential impacts. Each environmental issue addressed in Sections 4.1 through 4.9 is presented in terms of the following subsections:

- **Methodology** – This subsection describes the methodology used in preparation of the impacts analysis, including existing resources, technical data, applicable laws and guidelines, or specific technical reports prepared for the Project.
- **Existing Conditions** – This subsection describes the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the proposed Project at the time of publication of the NOP. The existing conditions establishes the baseline conditions by which the City will determine whether specific Project-related impacts are significant.

- **Relevant Plans, Policies, and Ordinances** - This subsection describes the laws, regulations, ordinances, plans, and policies applicable to the environmental issue area and the proposed Project.
- **Thresholds of Significance** – This subsection identifies a set of thresholds by which the level of impact is determined.
- **Environmental Impacts Analysis** – This subsection provides a detailed analysis regarding the environmental effects of the proposed Project, and whether the impacts of the Project would meet or exceed the thresholds of significance.
- **Cumulative Impacts** – Provides an evaluation of the potential cumulative impacts of the Project in combination with identified related projects.
- **Mitigation Measures** – This subsection identifies potentially feasible mitigation measures that would avoid or substantially reduce significant adverse project impacts.
- **Level of Significance After Mitigation** – This subsection discusses whether Project-related impacts would be reduced to below a level of significance with implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the Draft EIR. If applicable, this subsection also identifies any residual significant and unavoidable adverse impacts of the proposed Project that would result even with implementation of any feasible mitigation measures.
- **References** – This subsection outlines all references cited throughout the EIR Section.