

CHAPTER 3

Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures

3.0.1 Introduction to Analysis

This chapter of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) informs decision makers and the public of the type and magnitude of the change to the existing environment that could result from the Arroyo Seco Music and Arts Festival Project (proposed Project or Festival). Environmental topics addressed in this EIR were identified in the Notice of Preparation (NOP)/Initial Study prepared by the City of Pasadena (City) for the Project and issued by the City on May 8, 2015.

This EIR addresses the issues determined to be potentially significant pursuant to the Initial Study, input from neighbors and the community, and responses to the NOP and input at the scoping meetings from the public and agencies. This EIR addresses these issues and identifies potentially significant environmental impacts of the Project and other cumulative projects in the City in accordance with provisions set forth in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (CEQA Guidelines). This EIR also recommends feasible mitigation measures, where possible, that would reduce or eliminate adverse environmental effects. Through this process, the City has determined that this EIR analysis should focus on the following environmental issues:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Traffic and Circulation
- Water Supply

3.0.2 Format of the Environmental Analysis

Each section of Chapter 3 in this EIR addresses a potentially significant environmental impact of the proposed Project, as listed on the previous page. The analysis of each environmental issue is organized under the following headings: Introduction, Environmental Setting, Regulatory Framework, Analysis of Impacts, and Cumulative Effects. The following provides a brief description and overview of these six components of each environmental analysis.

Introduction

This subsection provides a brief introduction of the environmental issue along with an overview of the individual analyses that are provided in the balance of the section.

Environmental Setting

This subsection provides a description of existing and pre-Project conditions in terms of the physical environment that pertains to each respective environmental issue. This section also provides the background information that supports the analysis of the Project's impacts that follows.

Regulatory Framework

This subsection provides a description of existing and pre-Project conditions in terms the applicable regulations (e.g., state, regional, and City policies) that pertain to each respective environmental issue.

Analysis of Impacts

The environmental analysis evaluates both the Project-specific impacts and the potential environmental effects associated with cumulative development; accordingly, this subsection provides the analysis of the Project's potential direct and indirect project-related environmental effects.

This subsection starts with a description of the methodology, including the key assumptions, used in the analysis. Following this discussion is a listing of the thresholds of significance used to assess the Project's impacts. Environmental issues that have been scoped out during the scoping process will be identified following the thresholds.

- **Thresholds of significance:** A threshold of significance is a criterion applied by the Lead Agency to identify significant adverse environmental impacts. A threshold is defined by a Lead Agency based on scientific and factual data

relative to the Lead Agency jurisdiction, views of the public in affected areas, the policy/regulatory environment of affected jurisdictions, and other factors.

Each impact is summarized in an “impact statement” that is separately numbered, corresponds with a significance threshold, and is followed by a detailed discussion. Where the impact analysis identifies significant adverse environmental effects that could be reduced or avoided through implementation of a mitigation measure, the measure is presented after the relevant impact discussion. Mitigation measures identify the parties responsible for implementation, a timeframe for implementation, and any applicable public agency approval, oversight, or monitoring that may be required. Mitigation measures would usually be implemented by the project sponsor or applicant, with oversight by one or more public agencies, unless indicated otherwise.

This subsection concludes with a statement regarding whether the impact, after implementation of the mitigation measures and/or compliance with existing local, state, and federal laws and regulations, would remain significant or be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

A “significant effect” is defined by Section 15382 of the CEQA Guidelines as:

“a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment...[but] may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant.”

This EIR uses the following terms to describe the level of significance of impacts identified during the course of the environmental analysis:

- **Less-than-significant impact:** A less-than-significant impact does not result in a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the Project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance (see CEQA Guidelines Section 15382). Impacts determined to be less than significant do not require mitigation measures.
- **Significant impact:** Public Resources Code Section 21068 defines a significant impact as “a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment.” The thresholds identified in each section of this EIR and the CEQA definition of “significant impact” are applied to reach this conclusion. Feasible mitigation measures or alternatives to the Project must be identified and adopted if they would avoid or substantially reduce the significant impact.

- **Potentially significant impact:** A potentially significant impact is one that, if it were to occur, would be considered a significant impact as described above; however, the likelihood of the impact's occurrence is uncertain. For example, although the EIR may provide evidence that nesting birds could be found in a particular location, the actual discovery is not determined until the time of Project construction. For CEQA purposes, a potentially significant impact is treated (i.e., mitigated) as if it were a significant impact. Mitigation measures or alternatives to the Project must be identified and adopted if they would avoid or substantially reduce the potentially significant impact.
- **Significant and unavoidable impact:** A significant and unavoidable impact is a substantial adverse effect on the environment that cannot be mitigated to a less-than-significant level. A project with significant and unavoidable impacts could still proceed, but the City would be required to prepare a statement of overriding considerations, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, explaining why the City would proceed with the Project in spite of the potential for significant environmental impacts.

3.0.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis

CEQA requires that EIRs discuss a project's potential contribution to cumulative impacts, in addition to project-specific impacts. In accordance with CEQA, the discussion of cumulative impacts must reflect the severity of the impacts and the likelihood of their occurrence; however, the discussion need not be as detailed as the discussion of environmental impacts attributable to the proposed project alone. According to Section 15355 of the CEQA Guidelines:

“Cumulative impacts” refer to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.

(a) The individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects.

(b) The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time.

Section 15130(a) (l) of the CEQA Guidelines further states, “A cumulative impact consists of an impact which is created as a result of the combination of the project evaluated in the EIR together with other projects causing related impacts.” Other projects include past projects (existing conditions), present projects (projects under

construction), and reasonably foreseeable future projects (proposed, approved, or reasonably expected).

Section 15130(a) of the CEQA Guidelines also requires that EIRs discuss the cumulative impacts of a project when the proposed project's incremental effect is "cumulatively considerable." Under Section 15065(a)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, "cumulatively considerable" means that "the incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects." Where a Lead Agency is examining a proposed project with an incremental effect that is not cumulatively considerable, it need not consider the effect significant but must briefly describe the basis for its conclusion. If the combined cumulative impact associated with a project's incremental effect and the effects of other projects is not significant, Section 15130(a) (2) of the CEQA Guidelines requires a brief discussion in the EIR of why a cumulative impact is not significant and why it is not discussed in further detail. Section 15130(a)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines requires supporting analysis in the EIR if a determination is made that a project's contribution to a significant cumulative impact is rendered less than cumulatively considerable and, therefore, is not significant. CEQA recognizes that the analysis of cumulative impacts need not be as detailed as the analysis of project-related impacts, but instead should "be guided by the standards of practicality and reasonableness." (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)). The discussion of cumulative impacts in this EIR focuses on whether the impacts of the Project are cumulatively considerable.

The fact that a cumulative impact is significant does not necessarily mean that project-related contribution to the cumulative impact analysis is significant as well. Instead, under CEQA, a project-related contribution to a significant cumulative impact is only significant if the contribution is "cumulatively considerable." To support each significance conclusion, this EIR provides a cumulative impact analysis, and where Project-specific impacts have been identified that, together with the effects of other related projects, could result in cumulatively significant impacts, these potential impacts are documented.

Section 15130(b) of the CEQA Guidelines defines consideration of the following two elements as necessary to provide an adequate discussion of cumulative impacts: "(A) a list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, including, if necessary, those projects outside the control of the agency, or (B) a summary of projections contained in an adopted local, regional, or statewide plan, or related planning document, that describes or evaluates conditions contributing to the cumulative effect." In this EIR, a combination of these two methods is used depending upon the specific environmental issue area being analyzed. Cumulative study areas are defined based on an analysis of the geographical scope relevant to each particular environmental issue. Therefore, the cumulative study area for each individual environmental impact issue may vary. For example, a cumulative land use impact generally may only affect the compatibility of uses within the vicinity of the Project site,

while a cumulative air quality impact may affect the entire South Coast Air Basin. The specific boundaries and the projected growth within those boundaries for the cumulative study area of each environmental issue are identified in the applicable environmental issue section in Chapter 3, “Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures” of this EIR.

The cumulative analysis in this EIR considers a combination of identified related projects as well as a forecast of land use growth above and beyond the identified related projects, as discussed below. A list of proposed development projects throughout the City that could affect conditions in the Project area (e.g., by adding traffic volumes to study area intersections and/or generating population increases) was prepared based on data obtained from the City of Pasadena Planning and Community Development and Public Works Departments and is presented in **Table 3-1**. Related projects are also shown in **Figure 3-1**.

Table 3-1
List of Cumulative Projects ^a

City Index No.	Project Location	Project Description
1	1201 East Colorado Boulevard	80 room hotel
2	550 East Colorado Boulevard	112,000 square foot medical office
3	880 East Colorado Boulevard	140,000 square foot office
		5,000 square foot retail
		156 room hotel
4	1043 East Del Mar Boulevard	30 dwelling unit condominium
5	132 North Euclid Avenue	50,300 square foot church
6	233 North Fair Oaks Avenue	144 room hotel
7	300 West Green Street	136 dwelling unit apartments
		one dwelling unit single-family home
8	151 South Hill Avenue	34,453 square foot church
9	270 North Los Robles Avenue	18 dwelling unit apartments
10	123 South Los Robles Avenue	34 dwelling unit condominiums
		2,000 square foot office
11	842 East Villa Street	25 dwelling unit assisted-living senior apartments
12	167 East Walnut Street	100 dwelling unit apartments
13	770 East Walnut Street	91 dwelling unit apartments
		6,000 square foot retail
14	851 East Washington	40 dwelling unit apartments

**Table 3-1
List of Cumulative Projects ^a**

City Index No.	Project Location	Project Description
	Boulevard	15,000 square foot retail
15	150 West Dayton Street	41 dwelling unit apartments
16	153 West Dayton Street	59 dwelling unit apartments
17	170 West Dayton Street	52 dwelling unit apartments
18	231 South De Lacey Avenue	480 dwelling unit apartments
19	367 West Del Mar Boulevard	4 dwelling unit condominiums
20	168 West Green Street	25 dwelling unit apartments
		9,000 square foot retail
		4,000 square foot restaurant
21	153 South Hudson Avenue	9 dwelling unit apartments
		3,000 square foot medical office
22	145 Valley Street	56 dwelling unit apartments
23	175 Valley Street	74 dwelling unit apartments
24	Devil's Gate Dam Sediment Removal Project	A comprehensive sediment removal plan which will restore flood capacity and establish a reservoir management system to maintain the flood control capacity of the reservoir
25	100 West Walnut Street	475 dwelling unit apartments
		590,000 square foot office
		40,000 square foot retail
26	480 South Arroyo Pkwy	26 dwelling unit condominiums
		10,000 square foot commercial
27	200 South Sierra Madre Boulevard	60 dwelling unit condominiums
28	105 South Los Robles Avenue	50 dwelling unit condominiums
29	100 West California Boulevard	65 beds
30	680 East Colorado Boulevard	137,000 square foot office
		3,700 square foot retail
		4,500 square foot restaurant
31	680 East Walnut Street	82 dwelling unit apartments
		5,600 square foot retail
32	101 Foothill Boulevard	Hahamonga Watershed Park trail restoration
33	686 East Union Street	118 dwelling unit apartments

**Table 3-1
List of Cumulative Projects ^a**

City Index No.	Project Location	Project Description
		10,000 square foot retail
34	135-145 South Wilson Avenue	30 dwelling unit condominiums
35	1336 and 1347 East Colorado Boulevard	40,000 square foot retail
		520 room hotel
36	270-280 South Oakland Avenue	28 dwelling unit condominiums
37	922-936 East Green Street	45 dwelling unit condominiums
		12,800 square foot retail
38	86 South Raymond Avenue	64 dwelling unit apartments
		5,000 square foot retail
39	655 Westminster Drive	9 dwelling unit single-family
40	1001 Rose Bowl Drive	Project includes 5-year use of Rose Bowl by NFL ^b
41	1727-1787 East Walnut Street	128 dwelling unit apartments
		5,000 square foot commercial
42	260-386 East Colorado Boulevard	2,000 square foot commercial
		175 room hotel
43	686 South Fair Oaks Avenue	37,000 square foot medical laboratory
44	750 North Fair Oaks Avenue	70 dwelling unit assisted-living senior apartments
45	78 North Marengo Avenue	5,000 square foot restaurant
		150 room hotel
46	3330 East Foothill Boulevard	212 dwelling unit apartments
47	31-71 South Fair Oaks Avenue	28,000 square foot office
		16,400 square foot retail
48	2460-2480 Oswego Street	33 dwelling unit condominiums
49	835 North Michillinda Avenue	94,000 square foot school
50	52, 74 South San Gabriel Boulevard	14,300 square foot school
51	2116 East Villa Street	12,300 square foot school
52	940 Avenue 64	3,300 square foot school
53	290 North Wilson Avenue	33 dwelling unit condominiums
54	909-915 South Fair Oaks Avenue	74,800 square foot medical office

**Table 3-1
List of Cumulative Projects ^a**

City Index No.	Project Location	Project Description
55	130-140 North Fair Oaks Avenue	39 dwelling unit condominiums
		3,374 square foot office
56	25 West Walnut Street	201 dwelling unit apartments
		10,000 square foot retail
57	262 North Los Robles Avenue	496 dwelling unit apartments
58	277 North El Molino Avenue	105 dwelling unit apartments
59	922-936 East Green Street	45 dwelling unit apartments
		14,791 square foot office
60	123 Hurlbut Street	29 dwelling unit apartments
61	245 South Los Robles Avenue	58 dwelling unit
62	55 Fillmore Street	90 beds
63	60-80 South Vinedo Avenue	26 dwelling unit condominiums
64	1880 East Walnut Street	52 dwelling unit apartments
65	1700 Lida Street	18,800 square foot school
66	870-988 South Raymond Avenue	375 dwelling unit apartments
		392,000 square foot school
67	1111 South Arroyo Parkway	153,209 square foot school
68	1030 East California Boulevard	38,214 square foot school
69	Various locations within Brookside Golf Course, Rose Bowl Stadium Area and Brookside Park.	The Pasadena Non-Potable Water Project aims to construct and operate a new non-potable water distribution. Phase I of this project is scheduled to be operational by 2018.
70	Arroyo Seco channel that extends approximately 11 miles from the southern border of the Angeles National Forest (ANF) border to approximately 0.5 miles from its confluence with the Los Angeles River (portion runs through project site).	The Arroyo Seco Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Feasibility Study proposes the restoration of aquatic and riparian sites along the Arroyo Seco, while maintaining flood risk management.

**Table 3-1
List of Cumulative Projects ^a**

City Index No.	Project Location	Project Description
71	655 Westminster Drive	This project provides for the development of 3.8 acres of new park land located at the former Desiderio Army facility. The City acquired the facility in 2013. The park will be a passive neighborhood park featuring a meadow-type landscape with limited site amenities including play equipment and furnishings. A new restroom was added to the scope of work of this project during the entitlement process. The park restroom will be designed after community outreach on this element is completed. Design and construction of the site amenities will be completed in fiscal year 2016.
72	Annandale Canyon Park	This project will provide for trail construction, trailhead improvements, a small parking lot, and accessibility improvements at the Annandale Canyon park. The acquisition of three additional parcels will expand the footprint of the park. Other improvements include trail and interpretive signs, and small site amenities. In fiscal year 2016, work will include the completion of trailhead improvements and trail construction utilizing an existing route and precise design for additional trail routes will continue. Phase II trails and other improvements such as parking and additional site furnishings will be implemented when funds are available.
73	Brookside Park	The Citywide Park Accessibility Improvements project provides for the implementation of the remaining park items contained within the ADA Transition Plan and other accessibility-related improvements in City parks. The project will continue in fiscal year 2016 and be completed in fiscal year 2017.
74	Rose Bowl Recreation Loop	The H2O on the Go pilot project provides for the installation of one innovative public bicycle repair station and public water dispensing technology that facilitates the refilling of reusable water bottles as well as upgrades to City's existing water fountains. In fiscal year 2016, one installation will be done in the Central Arroyo and a study to identify future locations will begin.
75	Area H	This project provides for new amenities and renovations to Area H. Features include a perimeter jogging path with fitness stations and improved access points for event parking. CEQA, planning, and design will begin in fiscal year 2016.

**Table 3-1
List of Cumulative Projects ^a**

City Index No.	Project Location	Project Description
76	Central Arroyo	This project provides for the reconstruction and/or stabilization of the arroyo stone walls located throughout the Central Arroyo. This project also includes the repair of several existing trails, erosion stabilization related to the trails, and the creation of a new trail along Salvia Canyon. This project is scheduled to be completed in fiscal year 2016.
77	1133 Rosemont Avenue	This project provides for various repairs and upgrades to the Jackie Robinson baseball stadium such as the installation of accessible walkways, renovation of the dugouts, new fencing, replacement of deteriorated seating, renovation of the entry areas, replacement of field lights, and the installation of an upgraded score board. The project is scheduled to be completed in fiscal year 2016.
78	Arroyo Seco	This project provides for the conversion of a former Washington Boulevard roadway segment into a recreational trail. The work includes removal of the existing asphalt paving, drainage improvements, stone wall repair, trail and trail head improvements, habitat restoration plantings, and site amenities. The construction schedule for this project includes removing existing asphalt paving, installing drainage improvements, and establishing the earthen trail in fiscal year 2016. Habitat restoration may also occur in collaboration with a neighborhood group.
79	Rose Bowl Recreation Loop	This project provides for improvements to the three-mile recreation loop around the Rose Bowl including color seal coat, striping, replacement of missing delineators and plugged bases as necessary. This construction schedule for this project will be determined when funds are identified.

Source: City of Pasadena, 2015.

^a A feasible future project that is currently in the preliminary (pre-design) phase is seismic upgrades to the Holly Street Bridge. It is not known at this time what the potential cumulative effects, if any, would be from the implementation of this project. Any future CEQA evaluation of this project would be required to consider the cumulative impacts associated with its implementation to the proposed Project as well as any future displacement events at the Rose Bowl Stadium, including the proposed Project. Management of displacement event traffic would be required to account for this Project, if necessary, and would happen prior to and during the event, consistent with current practice.

^b The proposed Amendment as part of the Project would specify that the Festival could not occur in the same calendar year as any NFL regular season game if the City were to reach an agreement with the NFL to play at the Rose Bowl Stadium. Both projects are temporary in nature, and if they are not occurring simultaneously, would not contribute cumulative impacts. Therefore, the NFL project is provided in the list of cumulative projects; however, it would not result in cumulative effects.

