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3 Introduction to the Analysis

4 Chapter 3 of this Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) contains individual
5 subchapters that describe the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and 130-
6 Unit Alternative. Each topical section (Chapters 3.1 through 3.13) describes the existing setting and
7 background information to help the reader understand the conditions that could be affected by the
8 Proposed Project and the 130-Unit Alternative. In addition, each section includes a discussion of the
9 criteria used in determining the significance levels of the Proposed Project's and 130-Unit
10 Alternative's environmental impacts. Finally, each section recommends mitigation measures, where
11 possible, for significant impacts identified.

12 Potential secondary environmental effects of the proposed transfer of 60 acre-feet per year (AFY) of
13 water to other Cal-Am customers are addressed separately in Chapter 4, under *Growth-Inducing*
14 *Impacts*.

15 Significance of Environmental Impacts

16 According to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an EIR should define the threshold of
17 significance and explain the criteria used to determine whether an impact is above or below that
18 threshold. Significance criteria are identified for each environmental category to determine whether
19 implementation of the project would result in a significant environmental impact when evaluated
20 against the environmental setting baseline conditions. The significance criteria vary depending on
21 the environmental category. In general, effects can be either significant (above threshold) or less
22 than significant (below threshold). In some cases a significant impact may be identified as significant
23 and unavoidable if no feasible mitigation measure(s) is/are available to reduce the impact to a less-
24 than-significant level. If a project is subsequently adopted despite identified significant impacts that
25 would result from the project, CEQA requires the lead agency to prepare and disclose a statement of
26 overriding considerations describing the social, economic, and other reasons for adoption.