

Chapter 3

Environmental Analysis

Introduction

This chapter contains individual sections that describe the potential environmental impacts of the proposed program. Each topical section (3.1 through 3.12) describes the existing setting and background information to help the reader understand the conditions that could be affected by the proposed program. According to CEQA, an EIR should define the threshold of significance and explain the criteria used to determine whether an impact is above or below that threshold. Significance criteria are identified for each environmental category to determine whether implementation of the program or project would result in a potentially *significant environmental impact* when evaluated against the environmental setting. In general, effects can be either significant (above threshold) or less than significant (below threshold). Finally, each section recommends mitigation measures, where possible, for those impacts identified as potentially significant.

Proposed Traffic Improvements

Proposed traffic improvements described in Chapter 2 include specific roadway improvements, e.g. passing lanes, turning lanes, shoulder widenings, paved turnouts, roadway extensions, and other lane additions or grade separations, upgrading bicycle lanes, and changes in signage and/or signalization at intersections.