

IV. SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This chapter contains an analysis of each potentially significant environmental issue that has been identified in the Notice of Preparation (NOP) prepared for the East Bay Regional Park District's (EBRPD's) Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan (Plan) and, as such, constitutes the major portion of the Draft EIR. Sections A through I of this chapter describe the environmental setting of the Study Area as it relates to each specific issue. The impacts resulting from implementation of the Plan and mitigation measures that would reduce impacts, if necessary, are also presented in each of the sections.

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Under CEQA, a significant effect is defined as a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment.¹ The *CEQA Guidelines* direct that this determination be based on scientific and factual data. Each topical section of this chapter includes criteria of significance. These criteria have been developed in a cooperative process with EBRPD and LSA Associates, Inc. staff using the *CEQA Guidelines* and applicable EBRPD policies and guidelines, such as those found in the EBRPD Master Plan, or the standards of other regulatory agencies, such as the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

1. Issues Addressed in the Draft EIR

The following environmental issues are addressed in this chapter:

- A. Land Use and Planning Policy
- B. Biological Resources
- C. Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
- D. Hydrology and Water Quality
- E. Cultural and Paleontological Resources
- F. Air Quality and Global Climate Change
- G. Noise
- H. Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- I. Visual Resources

Preliminary analysis contained in the Initial Study (included in Appendix A) determined that the proposed project would not result in significant impacts to agricultural resources, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, and utilities. Consequently, these issues are not examined in this chapter of the EIR.

¹ Public Resources Code 21068.

2. Format of Issue Sections

Each environmental topic considered in Chapter IV comprises two primary sections: 1) Setting, and 2) Impacts and Mitigation Measures. An overview of the general organization and the information provided in the two sections is provided below.

a. Setting. The Setting section for each environmental topic generally provides a description of the applicable physical setting for the Study Area and its surroundings (e.g., existing land uses, existing soil conditions, existing visual resources). Each section begins by describing the regional context for the Plan and then more specific information about the Study Area, as appropriate. An overview of regulatory considerations that are applicable to the specific environmental topic is also provided.

b. Impacts and Mitigation Measures. The Impacts and Mitigation Measures section for each environmental topic presents a discussion of the impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project. The section begins with the criteria of significance, establishing the thresholds to determine whether an impact is significant. The latter part of the section identifies impacts related to implementation of the proposed project and any mitigation measures, if required. The impacts of the proposed project are delineated into separate categories according to the significance criteria: less-than-significant impacts, which do not require mitigation measures; and significant impacts, which do require mitigation measures.

Impacts are numbered and shown in bold type, and the corresponding mitigation measures are numbered and indented. Impacts and mitigation measures are numbered consecutively within each topic and begin with an acronymic reference to the impact section (e.g., LU). The following symbols are used for individual topics:

LU:	Land Use and Planning Policy
BIO:	Biological Resources
GEO:	Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
HYDRO:	Hydrology and Water Quality
CULT:	Cultural and Paleontological Resources
AIR:	Air Quality and Global Climate Change
NOI:	Noise
HAZ:	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
VIS:	Visual Resources

Impacts are also categorized by type of impact as follows: Less-than-Significant (LTS); Significant (S); and Significant and Unavoidable (SU). These notations are provided following each impact and each mitigation measure to identify their significance before and after mitigation.