

Chapter 2

Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project

This chapter includes analysis of those effects determined to have a significant environmental impact on the existing environment. Each environmental issue area describes the existing environmental condition at the time the environmental analysis began, as well as a discussion of applicable local, state, and federal regulations pertaining to that particular resource, an analysis of the project impacts and a determination of significance, a cumulative impact analysis considering past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, and determinations as to the significance of an impact prior to mitigation and after mitigation. This chapter also includes a section that discusses any significant irreversible environmental changes as a result of the proposed project.

The organization of the discussion of potential project impacts varies from section to section depending on the level of information available for each use promoted by the proposed project. In some cases, there is sufficient information for each use to support a separate subsection to describe the potential impacts. In other cases, providing separate subsections would be highly redundant and, therefore the potential impacts of the various uses are described as a combined section. County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance were reviewed and applied as appropriate in this EIR. However, the County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance were primarily written with the intent to be applied to development projects and, therefore, are inappropriate to directly apply to a policy project, such as the proposed Agricultural Promotion Project. Project-specific thresholds that are consistent with past County policy projects were applied to the proposed project.

The eight environmental issue areas addressed in Chapter 2 include the following:

- Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Section 2.1)
- Biological Resources (Section 2.2)
- Cultural Resources (Section 2.3)
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Section 2.4)
- Hydrology and Water Quality (Section 2.5)
- Noise (Section 2.6)
- Traffic (Section 2.7)
- Water Supply and Groundwater (Section 2.8)

Section 2.9 then provides a discussion on significant irreversible environmental changes as a result of the proposed project.

