

## 5. Environmental Analysis

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Chapter 5 examines the environmental setting, impacts, and mitigation measures associated with the General Plan Update (proposed project). This chapter is divided into sections for respective environmental issue areas that were determined to need further study in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). The scope of the original Draft PEIR was determined based on the City's Notice of Preparation (NOP), published February 2020, as well as public and agency comments received during the NOP comment period (February 26, 2020 to March 27, 2020; see Volume III, Appendix A-a) and the scoping meeting. The Recirculated Draft PEIR process did not require a new NOP or scoping meeting. The scope of the Recirculated Draft PEIR was based on the conditions that required its preparation, which are described in Section 1.4, *Recirculated Draft PEIR*, and include the City's decision to reclassify the GPU's potential recreation impacts as significant. The City also recognized the opportunity to more thoroughly disclose existing conditions and potential GPU impacts on disadvantaged communities.

Environmental issues and their corresponding sections are:

- 5.1 Aesthetics
- 5.2 Air Quality
- 5.3 Biological Resources
- 5.4 Cultural Resources
- 5.5 Energy
- 5.6 Geology and Soils
- 5.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- 5.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- 5.9 Hydrology and Water Quality
- 5.10 Land Use and Planning
- 5.11 Mineral Resources
- 5.12 Noise
- 5.13 Population and Housing
- 5.14 Public Services
- 5.15 Recreation
- 5.16 Transportation
- 5.17 Tribal Cultural Resources
- 5.18 Utilities and Service Systems

Sections 5.1 through 5.18 provide a detailed discussion of the environmental setting, impacts associated with the proposed project, and mitigation measures designed to reduce significant impacts where required and when feasible. The residual impacts following the implementation of any mitigation measure also are discussed.

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### Organization of Environmental Analysis

To assist the reader in comparing information about the respective environmental issues, each section (Sections 5.1 to 5.18) is organized as follows:

- Environmental Setting
- Thresholds of Significance
- Regulatory Requirements and General Plan Policies
- Environmental Impacts
- Existing Regulations
- Level of Significance Before Mitigation
- Mitigation Measures
- Level of Significance After Mitigation
- References

In addition, the Executive Summary includes a table summarizing all the impacts by environmental issue. The approach to analysis for cumulative impacts for each topical section is summarized in Section 4.5, *Assumptions Regarding Cumulative Impacts*.

### Terminology Used in This Draft PEIR

For each impact identified in this Draft PEIR, a statement of the level of significance of the impact is provided. While criteria for determining significant impacts are unique to each issue area, the environmental analysis applies a uniform classification of the impacts based on the following definitions consistent with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines:

- A designation of *no impact* is given when no changes in the environment would occur.
- A *less than significant impact* would cause no substantial adverse change in the environment.
- A *less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated* avoids substantial adverse impacts on the environment through mitigation measures.
- A *significant unavoidable impact* would cause a substantial adverse effect on the environment, and no feasible mitigation measures would be available to reduce the impact to a less than significant level.