

CHAPTER 4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ANALYSIS

This chapter of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) evaluates the potential environmental effects that would result from construction, operation, and maintenance of the Dana Reserve Specific Plan (DRSP; project) and identifies mitigation measures for impacts found to be potentially significant.

Table 4-1. Summary of Environmental Impacts Analysis

Environmental Resource	Significant, Unavoidable Adverse Impacts	Significant, but Mitigable Impacts	Less than Significant Impacts
Aesthetics		X	
Agriculture and Forestry Resources		X	
Air Quality	X		
Biological Resources	X		
Cultural Resources		X	
Energy		X	
Geology and Soils		X	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	X		
Hazards and Hazardous Materials		X	
Hydrology and Water Quality		X	
Land Use and Planning	X		
Mineral Resources			X
Noise		X	
Population and Housing	X		
Public Services		X	
Recreation		X	
Transportation	X		
Tribal Cultural Resources		X	
Utilities and Service Systems		X	
Wildfire		X	

Each environmental issue area discussed in Chapter 4 of this EIR has been divided into subsections, as follows:

Existing Conditions: The description of the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project, as they exist at the time of the established baseline physical conditions.

Regulatory Setting: The regulations in effect at the time the Initial Study/Notice of Preparation (IS/NOP) was published. These are the applicable regulations governing each environmental topic, such as the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and their requirements for protecting rare and endangered species. This is not an exhaustive analysis of the regulations, but rather information to assist the reader in understanding the potential impacts of the project from a regulatory perspective.

Thresholds of Significance: The thresholds used to evaluate each environmental topic based on California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Appendix G, Environmental Checklist Form.

Impact Assessment Methodology: Methodology used to determine the impacts associated with the project, such as measurements or field investigative processes.

Project-Specific Impacts and Mitigation Measures: The statement of the level of significance of potential environmental effects of the project. The impacts are identified and then are followed by the mitigation measures that can minimize significant impacts; mitigation measures must be enforceable and feasible. In addition, there must be an essential nexus between the mitigation measure and a legitimate governmental interest, and the mitigation measure also must be “roughly proportional” to the impacts of the project.

Residual Impacts: The statement of the level of impact, significant or insignificant, that would remain after the implementation of identified mitigation.

Cumulative Impacts: The cumulative effects of the project when the project’s incremental effect is considered in combination with other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects.

Secondary Impacts: If implementation of an identified mitigation measure would cause one or more significant effects in addition to those that would be caused by the project, the effects of the mitigation measure are discussed but in less detail than the significant effects of the project.

All residual impacts in the EIR have been classified according to the following criteria (note: CEQA does not recognize a beneficial effect as an impact):

A significant and unavoidable impact would cause a substantial adverse effect on the environment that meets or exceeds the applicable significance criteria thresholds for a particular resource, and no feasible mitigation measures would be available to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.

A less-than-significant impact with mitigation is an adverse impact that would cause a substantial adverse effect that meets or exceeds the applicable significance criteria thresholds for a particular resource but can be reduced to a less-than-significant level through successful implementation of identified mitigation measures.

A less-than-significant impact is an adverse impact that does not meet or exceed the applicable significance criteria thresholds for a particular resource. Generally, no mitigation measures are required for less-than-significant impacts; only compliance with standard regulatory conditions would be required. However, mitigation may still be recommended should the lead or responsible agencies deem it appropriate to reduce the impact to the maximum extent feasible, as long as there is rough proportionality between the environmental impacts caused by the project and the mitigation measures imposed on the project.

The term “significance” is used throughout the EIR to characterize the magnitude of the projected impact. For the purpose of this EIR, a significant impact is a substantial or potentially substantial change to resources in the project area or the area adjacent to the project. In the discussions of each issue area, thresholds are identified that are used to distinguish between significant and insignificant impacts. To the extent feasible, distinctions are also made between regional and local significance and short-term versus long-term duration.

Where possible, measures have been identified to reduce project impacts to less-than-significant levels. CEQA states that public agencies should not approve projects as proposed if there are feasible mitigation measures available that would substantially lessen the environmental effects of such projects (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21002). Included with each mitigation measure are the requirements related to the required timing of the action (e.g., prior to development of final construction plans, prior to commencement of construction, prior to operation, etc.) and the party responsible for verifying implementation of the mitigation measures.

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