

5. Environmental Analysis

Chapter 5 examines the environmental setting, impacts, and mitigation measures associated with the Sierra Madre General Plan Update. This chapter is divided into sections for respective environmental issue areas that were determined to need further study in the DEIR as part of the scoping process.

The scope of the environmental analysis was determined using the Notice of Preparation (NOP) that was published in September 2013 (see Appendix A). Environmental issues and their corresponding sections are:

- 5.1 Aesthetics
- 5.2 Air Quality
- 5.3 Biological Resources
- 5.4 Cultural Resources
- 5.5 Geology and Soils
- 5.6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- 5.7 Land Use and Planning
- 5.8 Noise
- 5.9 Population and Housing
- 5.10 Public Services
- 5.11 Recreation
- 5.12 Transportation and Traffic
- 5.13 Utilities and Service Systems

Sections 5.1 through 5.13 provide a detailed discussion of the environmental setting, impacts associated with the General Plan Update, and mitigation measures designed to reduce significant impacts where required and when feasible. The residual impacts following the implementation of any mitigation measure are also discussed.

As presented in the NOP prepared for the General Plan Update (Appendix A), one environmental topic (mineral resources) was determined not to be significantly affected by implementation of the project and therefore is not included for further discussion in this DEIR. Refer to Chapter 8, *Impacts Found Not To Be Significant*, for a summary of and additional discussion regarding impacts that were found to be less than significant.

Organization of Environmental Analysis

To assist the reader in comparing information about the respective environmental issues, each section (Sections 5.1 to 5.13) is organized as follows:

5. Environmental Analysis

- Environmental Setting
- Thresholds of Significance
- Environmental Impacts
- Relevant General Plan Policies and Implementation Program Measures
- Existing Regulations
- Level of Significance Before Mitigation
- Mitigation Measures
- Level of Significance After Mitigation
- References

In addition, Chapter 1, *Executive Summary*, includes a table summarizing all the impacts by environmental issue.

Terminology Used in This Draft EIR

For each impact identified in this DEIR, 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:

- “No impact”: The project would not change the environment.
- “Less than significant impact”: The project would not cause any substantial, adverse change in the environment.
- “Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated”: The EIR includes mitigation measures that avoid substantial adverse impacts on the environment.
- “Significant and unavoidable impact”: The project would cause a substantial adverse effect on the environment, and no feasible mitigation measures are available to reduce the impact to a less than significant level.