

# 3: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSES

## 3.0 Introduction

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### 3.0.1 CHAPTER FORMAT

This section of the EIR presents the findings of the environmental analyses conducted for the Lone WWTP Master Plan Project. Analyses were conducted for each of the following key environmental parameters:

- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Biological Resources
- Geology, Soils, Minerals, and Seismicity
- Air Quality
- Aesthetics
- Land Use, Planning, and Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services and Utilities
- Agriculture
- Greenhouse Gases

Each of the analytical sections in this chapter identifies the:

- Environmental Setting
- Regulatory Setting
- Thresholds of Significance
- Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

### 3.0.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The environmental setting sections present a description of the physical environment for each of the 14 environmental parameters analyzed for the proposed project. The discussion of environmental setting varies among the parameters. As appropriate, separate environmental setting discussions are presented for regional and local environments. The content and level of detail in each environmental setting section is relative to the parameter discussed and the extent of the potential impacts that could occur from project activities.

### 3.0.3 REGULATORY SETTING

Current regulatory settings are presented in the Regulatory Setting section for the 14 environmental parameters. Federal, state, regional, and local regulations applicable to the project are identified.

### 3.0.4 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance criteria are identified for each resource category. The significance criteria are a benchmark for determining if a project would result in significant environmental impacts when evaluated against the baseline (i.e., existing conditions). According to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15382, a significant impact on the environment means "...a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project..." The significance criteria used in this EIR are based on:

- Environmental Checklist Form included as Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, as amended on July 27, 2007
- City and County policies
- Other local, state, and federal regulations
- Professional judgment based on knowledge of the project activities and the existing environment

### 3.0.5 POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The potential impacts of the proposed project are evaluated by considering the initial construction activities (Construction) and the long-term operation and maintenance (Operation and Maintenance) of each of the project elements, including:

- Existing Infrastructure
  - Construction, reconstruction, and operation of Pond 7
- Part I – Treatment
  - Line or partially fill Ponds 5 and 6
  - Activated sludge system
  - Existing secondary WWTP facility demolition
  - Close and reclaim Ponds 1-4
  - Pipelines between the secondary and tertiary WWTP facilities
  - Tertiary WWTP expansion
- Part II – Disposal
  - Construction and operation of Pond 8
  - Disposal Option 1
    - Construction and operation of Pond 9
  - Disposal Option 2
    - Construction and operation of a pipeline from the tertiary WWTP to Charles Howard Park and Unimin Mine
  - Disposal Option 3
    - Construction and operation of additional percolation ponds

- Construction and operation of a pipeline from the tertiary WWTP to other potential disposal locations
- Part III – Storage
  - Preston Reservoir
  - Lone Water Reservoir
  - Other water reservoirs

The proposal contains many project-level and program-level elements, and this document has been structured to provide the clearest possible description of the potential environmental impacts of each element and sub-element. Where appropriate, the potential impacts of each project element and/or sub-element are evaluated and presented separately in each resource category. For several resource categories, however, potential impacts are the same or similar for some or all project elements and sub-elements. A brief summary of the overall project impacts is presented in these cases rather than a repetitive discussion of the impact analyses divided by project element or sub-element.

Where potentially significant impacts could occur as a result of the proposed project, mitigation measures are identified that would avoid or reduce the impacts to less than significant levels. All impacts of the proposed project were determined to be less than significant with implementation of the defined mitigation measures.

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