

SECTION 4.0 LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS

CEQA requires an evaluation of the long-term implications of implementation of the proposed project. This section addresses: (1) environmental effects that were found not to be significant, (2) unavoidable significant effects, (3) significant irreversible environmental change, and (4) the growth inducing impacts of the proposed project.

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THAT WERE FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT

Section 15182 of the CEQA Guidelines requires that the environmental document include a brief discussion of the various environmental issues that were determined not to be significant. This Draft SEIR addresses the environmental consequences due to the infeasibility (deletion) of portions of previously adopted ESP Mitigation Measure R-8. With the exception of Recreation, the proposed project does not result in any additional environmental impacts beyond those already adequately addressed in the ESP Final EIR/EIS. The following impacts, therefore, are not discussed in this Draft SEIR:

- Land Use
- Visual Quality
- Socioeconomics
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology/Seismicity
- Paleontological Resources
- Water Resources
- Traffic/Transportation
- Air Quality
- Noise and Vibration
- Public Safety
- Public Utilities/Services
- Energy

4.2 UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 (b) requires a description of any significant impacts, including those that can be mitigated but not to below a level of significance. Section 3.0 analyzed the infeasibility of implementing portions of ESP Mitigation Measure R-8 and the resulting impacts to Recreation. In the ESP Final EIR/EIS, a specific significance threshold was defined for recreational impacts. It was determined that the temporary closure of a portion of the Coast to Crest Trail during construction activities, which would last over two years, would result in an unavoidable significant impact. Realignment of the trail during construction was proposed to mitigate these impacts to less than significant. Based on an evaluation of site construction,

realignment of the trail during construction of the Lake Hodges Pump Station (PS 9) is not feasible. Development of an alternative trail would result in significant impacts to sensitive habitat and/or create an unacceptable safety hazard to trail users. CEQA Findings of Fact and a Statement of Overriding Considerations will be prepared to address the revisions to ESP Mitigation Measure R-8.

4.3 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

Section 21100(b)(2)(B) of CEQA requires that an EIR identify any significant irreversible changes that would result from project implementation. Section 15126.2(c) of CEQA provides guidance as to what sorts of changes might be considered irreversible.

“Uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible since a large commitment of such resources makes removal or non-use thereafter unlikely. Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as highway improvement which provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also, irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified.”

Deletion of a portion of ESP Mitigation Measure R-8 would not result in any irreversible environmental changes. Temporary closure of the Lake Hodges segment of the Coast to Crest Trail during construction of the pump station would last approximately two years. The trail will be restored when pump station construction is complete.

4.4 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS OF PROPOSED PROJECT

This SEIR addresses a minor change to a portion of Mitigation Measure R-8, and is part of the ESP project. Growth inducement was addressed in the ESP EIR/EIS, which is incorporated herein by reference. The infeasibility of implementing a portion of Mitigation Measure R-8 is not considered growth inducing.