## SECTION 3: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

## Organization of Issue Areas

This Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) provides analysis of impacts for those environmental topics where it was determined in the Notice of Preparation, as provided in Appendix A, or through subsequent analysis that the proposed project would result in "potentially significant impacts."  Sections 3.1 through 3.12 discuss the environmental impacts that may result with approval and implementation of the proposed project.

## Issues Addressed in this Draft EIR

The potential environmental effects of the project are analyzed in the following topical environmental issue areas:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Noise
- Public Services
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

Each environmental issue area in Sections 3.1 through 3.12 contains a description of:

1. The environmental setting as it relates to the specific issue
2. The regulatory framework governing that issue
3. The methodology used in identifying the issues
4. The significance criteria
5. An evaluation of the project-specific impacts and identification of mitigation measures
6. A determination of the level of significance after mitigation measures are implemented

## Level of Significance

Determining the severity of project impacts is fundamental to achieving the objectives of CEQA. CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 requires that decision makers mitigate, as completely as is feasible, the significant impacts identified in the Final EIR.  If the EIR identifies any significant unmitigated impacts, CEQA Guidelines Section 15093 requires decision makers in approving a project to adopt a statement of overriding considerations that explains why the benefits of the project outweigh the adverse environmental consequences identified in the EIR.

The level of significance for each impact examined in this Draft EIR was determined by considering the predicted magnitude of the impact against the applicable threshold. Thresholds were developed using criteria from the CEQA Guidelines and checklist; state, federal, and local regulatory schemes; local/regional plans and ordinances; accepted practice; consultation with recognized experts; and other professional opinions.

## Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measure Format

Each the environmental impact analysis section typically contains the following components:

- **Environmental Setting** identifies and describes the existing onsite physical environmental conditions associated with each of the impact sections.

- **Regulatory Framework** provides an understanding of the regulatory environment associated with the project.

- **Methodology** identifies and describes the documents prepared and consulted in the preparation of each impact section.

- **Thresholds of Significance** identifies thresholds from Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines that assist in a determination of whether an impact is significant. Unless specifically identified within each environmental issue section of this document, the thresholds of significance used are those contained in Appendix G of the Guidelines.

- **Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures** describes environmental changes to the existing physical conditions that may occur if the proposed project is implemented, and evaluates these changes with respect to the thresholds of significance. There are two sub-categories in this discussion: Entertainment and Open Space Area (Program Level) and Fairgrounds (Project Level).

    - **Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation** describes the level of impact significance prior to applying mitigation measures.

    - **Mitigation Measures** are those specific measures that may be required of the project by the Lead Agency in order to (1) avoid an impact, (2) minimize an impact, (3) rectify an impact by restoration, (4) reduce or eliminate an impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations, or (5) compensate for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources.

    - **Level of Significance After Mitigation** describes the level of impact significance remaining after mitigation measures have been implemented.

- **Residual Significant Impacts** identifies those impacts that would remain significant and unavoidable after mitigation measures have been implemented.

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Table 3-1 shows a list of abbreviations used in the project impact and mitigation measure numbering.

**Table 3-1: Environmental Abbreviations in Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

| Code | Environmental Issue |
|------|---------------------|
| AES | Aesthetics |
| AIR | Air Quality |
| BIO | Biological Resources |
| CUL | Cultural Resources |
| GEO | Geology, Soils, and Seismicity |
| GHG | Greenhouse Gas Emissions |
| HAZ | Hazards and Hazardous Materials |
| HYD | Hydrology and Water Quality |
| NOI | Noise |
| PS | Public Services |
| TRANS | Transportation/Traffic |
| USS | Utilities and Service Systems |