

Table of Contents

4 Environmental Impact Analysis 4-1

Tables

None.

Figures

None.

4 Environmental Impact Analysis

This section discusses the possible environmental impacts of the proposed project for specific issue areas that were identified through the Notice of Preparation and scoping process as having the potential to experience significant effects.

A “significant effect” is defined by the *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15382 as “a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. A social or economic change related to a physical change may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant.”

The assessment of each issue area begins with a discussion of the environmental setting related to the issue, which is followed by the impact analysis. In the impact analysis, the first subsection identifies the methodologies used and the “significance thresholds,” which are the criteria and thresholds adopted by the City. The analysis relies on the significance thresholds from Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines* and the County of Santa Barbara’s *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual*, which have been adopted by the City of Goleta.¹ Where appropriate, the analysis also relies on criteria and thresholds adopted by other agencies, universally recognized, or developed specifically for this analysis to determine whether potential effects are significant. The next subsection describes each impact of the proposed project, mitigation measures for significant impacts, and the level of significance after mitigation. Each effect under consideration for an issue area is separately listed in bold text with the discussion of the effect and its significance. Each bolded impact statement also contains a statement of the significance determination for the environmental impact as follows:

- **Class I, Significant and Unavoidable.** An impact that cannot be reduced to below the threshold level given reasonably available and feasible mitigation measures. Such an impact requires a Statement of Overriding Considerations to be issued if the project is approved per Section 15093 of the *CEQA Guidelines*.
- **Class II, Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** An impact that can be reduced to below the threshold level given reasonably available and feasible mitigation measures. Such an impact requires findings under Section 15091 of the *CEQA Guidelines*.
- **Class III, Less than Significant.** An impact that may be adverse but does not exceed the threshold levels and does not require mitigation measures. However, mitigation measures that could further lessen the environmental effect may be suggested if readily available and easily achievable.
- **Class IV, Beneficial:** An impact that would reduce existing environmental problems or hazards.

Following each environmental impact discussion is a list of mitigation measures (if required) and the residual effects or level of significance remaining after implementation of the measure(s). In cases where the mitigation measure for an impact could have a significant environmental impact in another issue area, this impact is discussed and evaluated as a secondary impact. The impact analysis

¹ In 2008, the City adopted the County’s 2002 *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual* (published May 1992, last revised in October 2002). Since adoption by the City, the County has revised the *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual* multiple times to reflect changes to the State *CEQA Guidelines*. For consistency with current CEQA requirements, the analysis in this EIR relies on the most current County *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual* published in January 2021.

City of Goleta
Sywest Industrial Building Project

concludes with a discussion of cumulative effects, which evaluates the impacts associated with the proposed project in conjunction with other planned and pending developments in the area listed in Section 3, *Environmental Setting*.