

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

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The following environmental analyses provide information relative to 12 environmental topics as they pertain to the proposed Cypress College Facilities Master Plan (proposed project). Each section of this chapter describes existing environmental and regulatory conditions, presents the criteria used to determine whether an impact would be significant, analyzes significant impacts, identifies mitigation measures for each significant impact, discusses the significance of impacts after mitigation has been applied, and discusses cumulative impacts.

This chapter includes a separate section for each of the following issue areas:

- Section 4.1, Aesthetics
- Section 4.2, Air Quality
- Section 4.3, Cultural Resources
- Section 4.4, Geology and Soils
- Section 4.5, Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Section 4.6, Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Section 4.7, Hydrology and Water Quality
- Section 4.8, Land Use and Planning
- Section 4.9, Noise
- Section 4.10, Public Services
- Section 4.11, Traffic and Circulation
- Section 4.12, Utilities and Service Systems.

Issues for which effects were found not to be significant are agricultural and forestry resources, biological resources, mineral resources, population and housing, and recreation. These environmental topics are discussed in Section 5.4, Effects Found Not to Be Significant, of Chapter 5, Other CEQA Considerations, of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and are not discussed in further detail pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15128 (14 CCR 15000 et seq.). Chapter 6 analyzes alternatives, and Chapter 7 includes the list of preparers.

## Analysis Format

This Program EIR assesses how the proposed project would impact the issue areas listed above. Each environmental issue addressed in this Program EIR is presented in terms of the following subsections:

- **Introduction.** Discusses the resource area to be evaluated and describes the methodology used for the analysis, including any surveys and documentation reviewed to conduct the analysis of existing conditions and potential impacts.
- **Existing Conditions.** Describes the existing setting on or surrounding the project site that may be subject to change as a result of implementation of the project. This setting describes the conditions that existed when the Notice of Preparation (NOP) was sent to responsible agencies and the State Clearinghouse.
- **Relevant Plans, Policies, and Ordinances.** Describes relevant federal, state, and local policies and regulations pertaining to a particular issue area.
- **Thresholds of Significance.** Provides criteria for determining the significance of project impacts for each environmental issue.
- **Impacts Analysis.** Provides a discussion of the characteristics of the proposed project that may have an effect on the environment, analyzes the nature and extent to which the proposed project is expected to change the existing environment, and indicates whether the project impacts meet or exceed the levels of significance thresholds.
- **Mitigation Measures.** Identifies mitigation measures to reduce significant adverse impacts to the extent feasible.
- **Level of Significance after Mitigation.** Provides a discussion of significant adverse environmental impacts that cannot be feasibly mitigated or avoided, significant adverse environmental impacts that can be feasibly mitigated or avoided, and adverse environmental impacts that are not significant.
- **Cumulative Impacts.** Provides a discussion of the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects relevant to each resource analysis and documents cumulatively considerable environmental impacts that cannot be feasibly mitigated or avoided; cumulatively considerable environmental impacts that can be feasibly mitigated or avoided; and environmental impacts that are not cumulatively considerable. Mitigation measures to reduce cumulative impacts are included where necessary.
- **References.** Lists the sources cited during preparation of the EIR.