

CHAPTER 3.0 – ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ADDRESSED

An Initial Study (IS) was prepared for the Proposed Project in April 2019 (see Appendix B). Based on the findings documented in the IS, the City determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would be required for the Proposed Project. Environmental issue areas are listed in Table 3-1 by the level of significance of their impacts, as determined by the IS process and by comments received during the scoping period. Those issue areas identified in the IS as having potentially significant impacts are further analyzed in this EIR.

Table 3-1: Summary of Environmental Impacts Identified in the Initial Study

No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact
Agricultural & Forestry Resources	Hydrology & Water Quality	Aesthetics
Biological Resources	Public Services	Air Quality
Energy	Recreation	Cultural Resources
Geology & Soils	Tribal Cultural Resources	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Hazards & Hazardous Materials	Utilities & Services Systems	Land Use/Planning
Mineral Resources	Wildfire	Transportation

The City used the IS, as well as agency and public input received during the public comment during the scoping period (April 15, 2019 to May 16, 2019), to determine the final scope for this EIR. The six issue areas and their corresponding subchapter numbers discussed in their EIR include:

- 3.4 – Aesthetics
- 3.5 – Air Quality
- 3.6 - Cultural Resources
- 3.7 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- 3.8 – Land Use
- 3.9 – Transportation

Chapters 3.4 through 3.9 provide a detailed discussion of the environmental setting, applicable project design features, impacts associated with the Proposed Project, cumulative impacts, and mitigation measures designed to reduce significant impacts. Where impacts cannot be reduced to a less than significant level, City of San Juan Capistrano shall consider adopting a Statement of Overriding Considerations (SOC).

3.2 ORGANIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

To assist the reader in comparing information about the various environmental issues, each chapter contains the following information, as appropriate.

- Introduction

- Existing Environmental Setting
- Applicable Regulations
- Impacts and Mitigation
 - Methodology
 - Criteria for Determining Significance
 - Project Impacts
 - Mitigation Measures
 - Residual Impacts
 - Cumulative Impacts
 - Mitigation Measures
 - Residual Impacts

3.3 TERMINOLOGY USED IN THIS ANALYSIS

For each CEQA checklist question listed in the EIR, a determination of the level of significance of the impact is provided. Impacts are categorized in the following categories:

- **No Impact.** A designation of *no impact* is given when no adverse changes in the environment are expected.
- **Less Than Significant.** A *less than significant impact* would cause no substantial adverse change in the environment.
- **Less Than Significant with Mitigation.** A *potentially significant (but mitigable) impact* would have a substantial adverse impact on the environment but could be reduced to a less-than-significant level with incorporation of mitigation measure(s).
- **Potentially Significant.** A *significant and unavoidable impact* would cause a substantial adverse effect on the environment and no feasible mitigation measures would be available to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.