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ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This section of the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) evaluates the potential of the Plan to result in significant impacts to the environment. This section provides a full scope of environmental analysis in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (State CEQA Guidelines).

As a result of the detailed evaluation contained in this PEIR, it has been determined that the Plan would result in potentially significant impacts to Aesthetics; Agriculture and Forestry Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Energy; Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Mineral Resources; Noise; Population, Housing, and Employment; Public Services; Recreation; Transportation, Traffic, and Safety; and Utilities and Service Systems. Although mitigation measures have been proposed for all of the above issue areas that would reduce the potentially significant impacts to the maximum extent practicable, impacts would remain significant and unavoidable, even with the implementation of mitigation measures. However, Impacts to Geology and Soils would be able to be mitigated to a level below significance with mitigation measures.

Each section provides the regulatory framework, existing conditions, thresholds of significance, impact analysis, cumulative impact analysis, mitigation measures for significant impacts, and level of significance after mitigation. The applicable federal, state, regional, county, and local statutes and regulations that govern individual environmental resources that must be considered by SCAG in the decision-making process are included in the regulatory framework described for each environmental resource. The existing conditions portion of the analysis has been prepared in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines and includes a description of the environment in the Plan study area. The existing conditions are described based on literature review and archived resources, and agency coordination. Significance thresholds were established in accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The potential for cumulative impacts was considered in relation to related projects identified as a result of scoping, agency, and consultation with SCAG member jurisdictions and stakeholders. Mitigation measures were derived from public, agency, and SCAG member jurisdiction and stakeholder input. The level of significance after mitigation was evaluated in accordance with the thresholds of significance and the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts to below the significance threshold. The impact analysis contained in this environmental document is based solely on the implementation of the 2016 RTP/SCS as described in **Section 2, Project Description**. The mitigation measures have been designed to address impacts at a programmatic level and contain SCAG mitigation measures and project-level mitigation measures.