
4 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Each environmental topic area (e.g., Section 4.1, Land Use) in this Chapter is generally organized according to the following format.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Environmental Setting describes the existing conditions as they relate to the attributes of the environment that may be affected by the project.

REGULATORY SETTING

The Regulatory Setting describes the various policies and regulations established by agencies with jurisdiction over the project.

EVALUATION CRITERIA WITH POINTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

This section identifies the relevant local, state, TRPA, and federal standards (i.e., water quality standards, air quality standards, zoning provisions, etc.) and other criteria by which a change in the environment can be assessed.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDED MITIGATION

The impact analyses describe anticipated changes in the environment from construction and operation of the Boulder Bay Alternatives. The level of significance is identified for each impact based on a comparison with the impact evaluation criteria. Where an Alternative results in impacts that are considered significant with respect to the impact evaluation criteria, mitigation measures are proposed to avoid or minimize the impact. Where impacts cannot be reduced to a level that is less than significant, the impact is identified as significant and unavoidable.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Cumulative impacts are discussed for each topic section when the project's incremental effect is "cumulatively considerable". "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of the project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects. The list of projects considered in the cumulative analysis is provided in Chapter 5.