
5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The environmental topic areas (e.g., Chapter 6.0, Land Use) included in Chapters 6.0 through 19.0 are generally organized according to the following format.

5.1 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.

5.2 REGULATORY SETTING

The Regulatory Setting describes the applicable regulatory framework as well as pertinent federal, state, regional, and local laws and regulations that may apply to the proposed project. It also presents an evaluation of the proposed project's consistency with the various policies and regulations established by agencies with jurisdiction over the Project.

5.3 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.

5.4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDED MITIGATION

The impact analyses describe anticipated changes in the environment from construction and operation of the Project and 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 provided 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.

5.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The cumulative impacts analysis is included at the end of each environmental resource section. If the Project is found to make considerable contribution to a cumulatively significant effect, the analysis identifies recommended mitigation measures to reduce the project's contribution to a level of less than significant. Chapter 20 - Mandated Environmental Analysis, Section 20.1 - Cumulative Impacts explains the approach used to analyze the Project's cumulative impacts. The list of projects considered in the cumulative analysis is provided in Table 20-1.