

3: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSES

Introduction

Sections 3.1 through 3.15 present the findings of the environmental analyses conducted for the proposed WGSJ Expansion Project. Each of these sections identifies the:

- Environmental Setting
- Regulatory Setting
- Environmental Analysis

Environmental Setting

The environmental setting sections present a description of the physical environment for each of the 15 environmental parameters. The discussion of environmental setting varies among the parameters. As appropriate, separate environmental setting discussions are presented for federal, state, regional, and local environments.

Regulatory Setting

Similar to the Environmental Setting discussions, current regulatory settings are presented for each of the 15 environmental parameters. Federal, state, regional, district, and local regulations applicable to the lands on which the proposed project would be built and to the proposed project are identified.

Environmental Analysis

The results of the environmental analyses conducted for the proposed project are presented in these portions of sections 3.1 through 3.15. Each of the environmental analysis discussions present:

- Areas of potential environmental concern
- Threshold of significance
- Impact discussion
- Levels of significance
- Mitigation measures

The areas of potential environmental concern identify a range of potential impact areas for each parameter. The threshold of significance discussions outline the point at which a significant impact would occur for each of the individual areas of potential environmental concern.

Each of the environmental analysis sections presents discussions on the potential effects of the proposed project on the environment. Analyses are presented for each area of potential environmental concern, with a determination made as to whether or not the proposed project would result in a significant environmental impact based on the established thresholds of significance. If warranted, mitigation measures are identified that could reduce the impact to a less than significant level. If warranted by the environmental parameter, the area of potential environmental concern, or the threshold of significance, the impact analyses are divided into the four basic components of the proposed project, and further divided into construction and operation discussions.