

## Chapter 4 CEQA Environmental Analysis

Based on public comments, public agency input, and preliminary studies (i.e., traffic impact analysis, air quality study, noise study), LACMTA determined that an EIR would be required for the project. In addition, LACMTA considered agency and public input received during the Notice of Preparation (NOP) comment period (September 23, 2009 to October 23, 2009) and the four scoping meetings held on October 5, 7, 8, and 13, 2009 to determine the scope of the evaluation for the EIR/EA.

The NOP and/or agency and public comments identified seven issue areas as potentially significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. These environmental issues and their corresponding section numbers are as follows:

- 4.1 Traffic, Circulation, and Parking
- 4.2 Air Quality
- 4.3 Cultural Resources
- 4.4 Noise
- 4.5 Land Use
- 4.6 Aesthetics (Tree Removal)
- 4.7 Biological Resources (Tree Removal)

The other environmental issues were identified as less than significant or no impact. Therefore, only the seven environmental issue areas are evaluated in this chapter.

Sections 4.1 through 4.7 provide a detailed discussion of the environmental setting, impacts associated with the proposed project, cumulative impacts, and mitigation measures designed to reduce significant impacts.

Each section contains the following information:

- Environmental Setting;
- Thresholds of Significance;
- Environmental Impacts;
- Mitigation Measures; and
- Level of Significance After Mitigation.

For each impact identified in the EIR/EA, a statement of the level of significance of the impact is provided. Impacts are categorized in the following categories:

- A designation of **no impact** is given when no adverse changes in the environment are expected.
- A **less-than-significant impact** would cause no substantial adverse change in the environment.
- A **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).
- A **significant 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.
- **Level of significance after mitigation** is the remaining impact after the identified mitigation is implemented.