

IV. SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This chapter contains an analysis of each environmental topic analyzed in the evaluation of the Measure DD Project, and, as such, constitutes the major portion of this Draft EIR. Sections A through M of this chapter describe the environmental setting of the Measure DD Project as it relates to each specific environmental issue, the impacts resulting from implementation of the project, and mitigation measures, as appropriate, that would reduce impacts of the project.

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Under CEQA, a significant effect is defined as a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment.¹ The *CEQA Guidelines* direct that this determination be based on scientific and factual data. Each impact evaluation in this chapter is prefaced by criteria of significance, which are the thresholds for determining whether an impact is significant. In accordance with Section 15022(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, the City of Oakland has drafted local CEQA thresholds and criteria of significance guidelines that are consistent with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The City's thresholds are intended to supplement provisions in the CEQA Guidelines for determining the significance of environmental effects, including Appendix G of the Guidelines. As appropriate, state and federal regulations supplement the City's local thresholds and guidelines.

ISSUES ADDRESSED IN THE DRAFT EIR

The following environmental issues are addressed in this chapter:

- A. Land Use
- B. Planning Policy
- C. Transportation, Circulation and Parking
- D. Air Quality
- E. Noise
- F. Biological Resources
- G. Cultural Resources
- H. Hydrology and Water Quality
- I. Geology, Soils and Seismicity
- J. Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- K. Public Services and Recreation
- L. Utilities and Infrastructure
- M. Aesthetic Resources

¹ Public Resources Code Section 21068.

FORMAT OF ISSUE SECTIONS

Each environmental issue section has two main subsections: 1) Setting; and 2) Impacts and Mitigation Measures. Each impact and mitigation measures subsection is further divided into *Impacts and Mitigation Measures Applicable to all Project Components* and *Impacts and Mitigation Measures Applicable to Specific Project Components*. Any identified significant impacts are numbered and shown in bold type, and the corresponding mitigation measures are numbered and indented. Significant impacts and mitigation measures are numbered consecutively within each topic and begin with a shorthand abbreviation for the impact section (e.g., LAND for Land Use). The following abbreviations are used for individual topics:

LAND:	Land Use
POL:	Planning Policy
TRANS:	Transportation, Circulation and Parking
AIR:	Air Quality
NOISE:	Noise
BIO:	Biological Resources
CULT:	Cultural Resources
HYD:	Hydrology and Water Quality
GEO:	Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
HAZ:	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
PUB:	Public Services and Recreation
UTL:	Utilities and Infrastructure
AES:	Aesthetic Resources

The following notations are provided after each identified significant impacts and mitigation measure:

SU	=	Significant and Unavoidable
S	=	Significant
LTS	=	Less than Significant

These notations indicate the significance of the impact before and after mitigation.

UNIFORMLY APPLIED DEVELOPMENT STANDARD CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

The City's Uniformly Applied Development Standard Conditions of Approval are incorporated into projects as Conditions of Approval regardless of a project's environmental determination. As applicable, the Conditions of Approval are adopted as requirements of an individual project when it is approved by the City and are designed to, and will, substantially mitigate environmental effects. For the Measure DD Project the City's Conditions of Approval have been incorporated as part of the project.

In reviewing project applications, the City determines which of the standard conditions are applied, based upon the zoning district, community plan, and the type(s) of permit(s)/approval(s) required for the project. Depending on the specific characteristics of the project type and/or project site, the City will determine which Development Standards apply to each project; for example, Development Standards related to creek protection permits will only be applied projects on creekside properties.

The Development Standards incorporate development policies and standards from various adopted plans, policies, and ordinances (such as the Oakland Planning and Municipal Codes, Oakland Creek Protection, Stormwater Water Management and Discharge Control Ordinance, Oakland Tree Protection Ordinance, Oakland Grading Regulations, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, Housing Element-related mitigation measures, California Building Code, and Uniform Fire Code, among others), which have been found to substantially mitigate environmental effects. Where there are peculiar circumstances associated with a project or project site that will result in significant environmental impacts despite implementation of the Development Standards, the City will determine whether there are feasible mitigation measures to reduce the impact to less than significant levels.

