

Section 4: ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

EARVIN “MAGIC” JOHNSON RECREATION AREA MASTER PLAN
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This EIR analyzes those environmental issue areas as stated in the Notice of Preparation (Appendix A, Notice of Preparation) where potentially significant impacts have the potential to occur.

The EIR will examine the following environmental factors outlined in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Environmental Checklist:

- 4.1 Aesthetics, Light and Glare
- 4.2 Air Quality
- 4.3 Biological Resources
- 4.4 Cultural Resources
- 4.5 Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
- 4.6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change
- 4.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- 4.8 Hydrology and Water Quality
- 4.9 Land Use
- 4.10 Noise
- 4.11 Public Services and Utilities
- 4.12 Recreation
- 4.13 Transportation and Circulation

Each environmental issue is addressed in a separate section of the EIR, and is organized into the following sections:

“Existing Conditions” describes the physical conditions that exist at this time and that may influence or affect the issue under investigation.

"Regulatory Setting" describes the pertinent policy, standards, and codes that exist at this time and that may influence or affect the regulatory environment of the proposed Project.

"Significance Criteria" provides the thresholds that are the basis of conclusions of significance, which are primarily the criteria in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Environmental Checklist.

Major sources used in crafting criteria include the CEQA Guidelines; local, State, Federal, or other standards applicable to an impact category; and officially established significance thresholds. *"...An ironclad definition of significant effect is not possible because the significance of any activity may vary with the setting."* (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064[b]). Principally, *"...a substantial, or potentially substantial adverse change in any of the physical conditions within an area affected by the Project, including land, air, water, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic and aesthetic significance"* constitutes a significant impact (CEQA Guidelines Section 15382).

IMPACTS

The **"Level of Significance"** identifies the impact significance level with implementation of the proposed Project. Impacts are classified as potentially significant impact, less than significant impact, or no impact.

Project impacts are the potential environmental changes to the existing physical conditions that may occur if the proposed Project is implemented.

Evidence, based on factual and scientific data, is presented to show the cause-and-effect relationship between the proposed Project and the potential changes in the environment. The exact magnitude, duration, extent, frequency, range, or other parameters of a potential impact are ascertained, to the extent possible, to determine whether impacts may be significant; potential direct and reasonably foreseeable indirect effects are considered to the extent feasible.

Mitigation measures are those Project-specific measures that would be required of the Project to avoid a significant adverse impact; to minimize a significant adverse impact; to rectify a significant adverse impact by restoration; to reduce or eliminate a significant adverse impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations; or to compensate for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environment.¹

“Cumulative Impacts and Mitigation Measures” describes potential environmental changes to the existing physical conditions that may occur with the proposed Project together with all other reasonably foreseeable, planned, and approved future Projects.

“Significant Unavoidable Impacts” describes impacts that would be significant, but cannot be feasibly mitigated to less than significant; thus, they would be unavoidable. To approve a Project with unavoidable significant impacts, the Lead Agency must adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations. In adopting such a statement, the Lead Agency is required to balance the benefits of a Project against its unavoidable environmental impacts in determining whether to approve the Project. If the benefits of a Project are found to outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse effects may be considered “acceptable” and the Project approved (CEQA Guidelines Section 15093[a]).

All impacts for this EIR that are Less Than Significant or No Impact are not located in the topic chapter, but rather in the Effects Found Not To Be Significant (EFNTBS) chapter.

¹The measures presented in this EIR are either “Project design features” (those that would be implemented as part of Project design) or mitigation measures (those that would mitigate Project impacts above and beyond any reduction in impacts accomplished by Project design features).

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