

Chapter IV
SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

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This chapter contains an analysis of each issue that has been identified through preliminary environmental analysis and the public scoping sessions for the Berkeley General Plan Update and, as such, constitutes the major portion of the Draft EIR. Sections A through N of this chapter describe the environmental setting of the project as it relates to each specific issue, the impacts resulting from implementation of the project and mitigation measures that would reduce impacts of the project.

1. 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 and mitigation measure section of this chapter is prefaced by a summary of criteria of significance. These criteria have been developed in a cooperative process with City and LSA Associates, Inc. staff using the *CEQA Guidelines* and applicable City policies, including the existing 1977 *Master Plan*.

2. Issues Addressed in the Draft EIR

The following environmental issues are addressed in this chapter:

- \$ Land Use
- \$ Population, Employment and Housing
- \$ Community Services
- \$ Transportation
- \$ Infrastructure
- \$ Urban Design and Visual Quality
- \$ Cultural Resources
- \$ Open Space and Recreation
- \$ Geologic and Seismic Hazards
- \$ Hydrology and Water Quality
- \$ Natural Resources

¹ Public Resources Code 21068.

- \$ Air Quality
- \$ Noise
- \$ Hazardous Materials

Preliminary analysis determined that the proposed project would not result in significant impacts to energy and mineral resources. Consequently, this issue is not examined in this chapter of the EIR, but is briefly discussed in Chapter VI, CEQA Required Assessment Conclusions.

3. Format of Issue Sections

Each environmental issue section has two parts: 1) Setting, and 2) Impacts and Mitigation Measures of the proposed project. Each impacts and mitigation measures subsection is further divided into an initial discussion of *less-than-significant* impacts and a following discussion of *significant* impacts. Impacts are numbered and shown in bold type, and the corresponding mitigation measures are numbered and indented. Impacts and mitigation measures are numbered consecutively within each topic and begin with an acronymic reference to the impact section (e.g., LU). The following symbols are used for individual topics:

- LU: Land Use
- POP: Population, Employment and Housing
- SVC: Community Services
- TRN: Transportation
- INF: Infrastructure
- VIS: Urban Design and Visual Quality
- CUL: Cultural Resources
- REC: Open Space and Recreation
- GEO: Geologic and Seismic Hazards
- HYD: Hydrology and Water Quality
- NAT: Natural Resources
- AIR: Air Quality
- NOI: Noise
- HAZ: Hazardous Materials

Impacts are also categorized by type of impact as follows:

- \$ S = Significant
- \$ SU = Significant and Unavoidable
- \$ PS = Potentially Significant
- \$ LTS = Less than Significant

These notations are provided following each impact and each mitigation measure to identify their significance before and after mitigation.