



Chapter 4

Environmental Analysis

Chapter 4.0, Environmental Analysis provides a programmatic analysis of the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the goals, policies, and actions and the projected buildout of the MoVal 2040 Project (project), which consists of the 2021 General Plan Update (GPU), Housing Element Update, and Climate Action Plan (CAP). The analysis area covers the entire city of Moreno Valley and sphere of influence, which are collectively referred to as the Planning Area. Within the analysis, Concept Areas refer to those areas where the GPU proposes land use changes as shown on Figure 3-1.

Topics Analyzed

The following environmental topics from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G are evaluated in Section 4.1 through 4.18:

- 4.1 Aesthetics
- 4.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- 4.3 Air Quality
- 4.4 Biological Resources
- 4.5 Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
- 4.6 Energy
- 4.7 Geology/Soils
- 4.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- 4.9 Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- 4.10 Hydrology/Water Quality
- 4.11 Land Use/Planning
- 4.12 Mineral Resources
- 4.13 Noise
- 4.14 Population/Housing
- 4.15 Public Services and Recreation
- 4.16 Transportation
- 4.17 Utilities/Service Systems
- 4.18 Wildfire

Type of EIR

Consistent with Section 15168 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, this Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) provides a programmatic analysis of the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the goals, policies, actions, and projected buildout of the project. A program-level environmental review document is prepared when a project consists of a series of actions that are characterized as one large project through reasons of geography, similar rules or regulations, or where individual activities will occur under the same regulatory process with similar environmental impacts that can be mitigated in similar ways. As described in Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines, program-level environmental review documents are appropriate when a project consists of a series of actions related to the issuance of rules, regulations, and other planning criteria. The project that is the subject of this EIR consists of long-term plans that will be implemented as policy documents guiding future development activities and City of Moreno Valley (City) actions. Therefore a program-level EIR is appropriate.

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168, a program-level EIR may serve as the EIR for subsequent activities or implementing actions, provided it contemplates and adequately analyzes the potential environmental impacts of those subsequent projects. If, in examining future actions for development within the proposed project areas, the City finds no new effects could occur or no new mitigation measures would be required other than those analyzed and/or required in this program-level EIR, the City can approve the activity as being within the scope covered by this program-level EIR, and no new environmental documentation would be required. If additional analysis is required, it can be streamlined by tiering from this program-level EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15152, 15153, 15162, 15163, 15164, 15168, and 15183 (e.g., through preparation of a Consistency Determination, Mitigated Negative Declaration, Addendum, or Supplemental or Subsequent EIR).

Cumulative Impacts

CEQA Guidelines Section 15130 provides that “An EIR shall discuss cumulative impacts of a project when the project’s incremental effect is cumulatively considerable,” as defined in Guidelines Section 15065(a)(3). Cumulatively considerable means “the incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects” (14 California Code of Regulation 15065.) The discussion of cumulative impacts is contained within each subsection. In general, the cumulative analysis approach is based on a summary of projections as specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15030(b)(1)(B). This approach is appropriate due to the nature of the project which is based on projections for buildout of the 2021 GPU. Additionally, the CAP is based on a summary of greenhouse gas reduction projections over time. Applicable modeling used to support cumulative analysis conclusions is referenced in the subsections as appropriate.