

## **SECTION 5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION PROGRAM, CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, AND LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION**

This section analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with approval and implementation of the Master Development Plan Input (MDPI) for the Whittier Narrows Dam Basin Recreation Area (WNDBRA). While the MDPI document is not a policy or regulatory document, nor will it lead to any immediate or direct changes to the physical environment, it proposes the implementation of a number of programs, facilities and improvements to the WNDBRA. The operating and administrative actions in the MDPI would not lead to physical impacts, but the implementation of some programs and future development of the proposed facilities and improvements could result in environmental impacts. Thus, the analysis on this section focuses on the impacts of proposed programs, facilities, and improvements that could occur in the WNDBRA.

This EIR addresses the MDPI's potential impacts on the following environmental issues:

- Aesthetics (Section 5.1);
- Agriculture and Forest Resources (Section 5.2);
- Air Quality (Section 5.3);
- Biological Resources (Section 5.4);
- Cultural Resources (Section 5.5);
- Geology and Soils (Section 5.6);
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Section 5.7);
- Hydrology and Water Quality (Section 5.8);
- Land Use and Planning (Section 5.9);
- Mineral Resources (Section 5.10);
- Noise (Section 5.11);
- Population and Housing (Section 5.12);
- Public Services (Section 5.13);
- Recreation (Section 5.14);
- Transportation (Section 5.15);
- Utilities and Service Systems (Section 5.16); and
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Section 5.17).

Sections 5.1 through 5.17 describe the existing conditions in the WNDBRA and in the surrounding area and identify the potential changes to existing conditions or environmental impacts that may result from implementation of the MDPI. Programs and features of the MDPI that may avoid or reduce potential impacts are presented for each environmental issue, where relevant. The mitigation program identified to reduce potential environmental impacts consists of project design features (PDFs), Standard Conditions and Requirements (SCs), and mitigation measures (MMs). The components of the mitigation program are described below.

- **Project Design Features.** Some programs and features of the MDPI would prevent the occurrence of, or reduce the significance of, potential environmental effects. Because the programs and features are part of the MDPI, they do not constitute mitigation measures as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). However, they are identified for each topical issue and would be implemented as a part of the MDPI.
- **Standard Conditions and Regulations.** SCs are existing regulations and requirements based on local, State, or federal regulations or laws that are required independent of CEQA review and also serve to offset or prevent specific impacts. Examples of typical standard conditions and requirements include compliance with the provisions of the California Building Code and pertinent South Coast Air Quality Management District rules. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the County of Los Angeles, or other lead agencies may also impose additional conditions on proposed facilities and improvements during their approval process, as appropriate.
- **Mitigation Measures.** MMs are required when a potentially significant environmental effect has been identified and is not reduced to a level considered to be less than significant after the implementation of the PDFs and SCs. CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(a) requires lead agencies to consider feasible mitigation measures to avoid or substantially reduce a project's significant environmental impacts. All feasible mitigation measures are identified in this section to reduce potential environmental impacts of the MDPI that are determined to be significant.