

# 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

## INTRODUCTION

The following 15 chapters evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed City of Santa Cruz Draft *General Plan 2030*. In accordance with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the potential environmental effects of the proposed General Plan are analyzed for the following environmental issue areas:

### LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 Land Use
- 4.2 Population, Employment and Housing
- 4.3 Aesthetics

### PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- 4.4 Transportation and Traffic
- 4.5 Water Supply
- 4.6 Public Services and Utilities
- 4.7 Hydrology, Storm Drainage and Water Quality

### RESOURCES AND HAZARDS

- 4.8 Biological Resources
- 4.9 Cultural Resources
- 4.10 Geology and Soils
- 4.11 Air Quality
- 4.12 Global Climate Change
- 4.13 Noise
- 4.14 Hazardous Materials
- 4.15 Agricultural, Forest and Mineral Resources

Each section in Chapter 4 generally follows the same format and consists of the following subsections

- **INTRODUCTION:** This section describes the scope of the issue under consideration. This section identifies key studies utilized in the environmental analysis.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:** This section describes the existing physical environment, and applicable laws and regulations relevant to a discussion of impacts in the topic category. The Environmental Setting sections provide a general overview of the existing conditions throughout the City related to the topic being addressed. Local, State and federal regulations are also identified and discussed, when relevant.
- **RELEVANT PROJECT ELEMENTS:** A Relevant Project Elements section provides a description of the elements of the project that are relevant to the impact analysis for a particular topic. Relevant project information may relate to proposed policies, actions and guidelines, as well as to potential future development and growth that may be accommodated by the proposed General Plan. Any project elements that may cause

impacts, as well as those that may serve to eliminate or reduce impacts, will be identified.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES:** The Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures section provides an outline of the criteria used to evaluate whether an impact is considered significant based on standards identified in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. In some cases, agency policies and regulations or professional judgment are used to further define CEQA standards of significance.

This section first identifies issues for which no impacts have been identified. The section then evaluates and analyzes significant or potentially significant project impacts, states the level of significance prior to mitigation, and proposes mitigation measures (in bold) that can reduce such impacts. A statement regarding the level of significance of each impact after mitigation follows the mitigation measures for that impact. For impacts found to be less-than-significant, mitigation measures are not required, but where relevant, the EIR recommends project modifications or appropriate conditions of approval.

- **REFERENCES:** For convenience, all references cited in each section are listed at the end of the section, as well as in a complete “References” list at the end of the EIR.