

3 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

3.1 APPROACH TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

In accordance with Section 15126.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines, this DEIR identifies and focuses on the significant direct and indirect environmental effects of the proposed County Jail Project, giving due consideration to both its short-term and its long-term effects. Short-term effects are generally those associated with construction, and long-term effects are generally those associated with operation of jail facilities. As described in Chapter 1, “Introduction,” this analysis focuses on a limited number of environmental resource topics because other topics have already been addressed in the Initial Study (see Appendix A).

This DEIR evaluates construction of a 366-bed jail, with potential expansion to 526 beds and including a 100-bed staff-secure facility (to transition inmates from jail to the community). The DEIR also addresses two options for placement of the project on one of two parcels. The DEIR addresses impact differences from the different sizes and locations, where it is relevant to do so.

The project site is divided into two parcels based on ownership. The parcel that fronts State Route 221, known as the Pacific Coast parcel (APN# 046-370-021), covers approximately 27 acres. The eastern parcel, the Boca parcel (APN# 046-370-024), covers approximately 55 acres.

The remainder of this chapter addresses the following resource topics:

- ▲ Section 3.2, Aesthetics;
- ▲ Section 3.3, Air Quality;
- ▲ Section 3.4, Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
- ▲ Section 3.5, Hazards and Hazardous Materials;
- ▲ Section 3.6, Hydrology and Water Quality;
- ▲ Section 3.7, Land Use;
- ▲ Section 3.8, Noise;
- ▲ Section 3.9, Transportation and Traffic; and
- ▲ Section 3.10, Utilities and Service Systems.

Sections 3.2 through 3.10 follow the same general format as follows:

Regulatory Setting presents the laws, regulations, plans, and policies that are relevant to each issue area. Regulations originating from the federal, state, and local levels are each discussed as appropriate.

Environmental Setting presents the existing environmental conditions on the project site and surrounding area as appropriate, in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15125. The extent of the environmental setting area evaluated (the project study area) differs among resources, depending on the locations where impacts would be expected. For example, air quality impacts are assessed for the air basin (macroscale) as well as the site vicinity (microscale), whereas aesthetic impacts are assessed for the project site vicinity only.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures identifies the thresholds of significance used to determine the level of significance of the environmental impacts for each resource topic, in accordance with State CEQA

Guidelines Sections 15126, 15126.2, and 15143. The thresholds of significance used in this DEIR are based on the checklist presented in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines; best available data; and regulatory standards of federal, state, and local agencies. The level of each impact is determined by comparing the effects of the proposed project to the environmental setting. Key methods and assumptions used to frame and conduct the impact analysis as well as issues or potential impacts not discussed further (such issues for which the project would have no impact) are also described.

Project impacts are organized numerically in each subsection (e.g., Impact 3.2-1, Impact 3.2-2, Impact 3.2-3, etc.). A bold-font impact statement, a summary of each impact, and its level of significance precedes the discussion of each impact. The discussion that follows the impact summary includes the substantial evidence supporting the impact significance conclusion.

The DEIR must describe any feasible measures that could avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for significant adverse impacts, and the measures are to be fully enforceable through incorporation into the project (Public Resources Code Section 21081.6[b]). Mitigation measures are not required for effects that are found to be less than significant. Where feasible mitigation for a significant impact is available, it is described following the impact along with its effectiveness at addressing the impact. Each identified mitigation measure is labeled numerically to correspond with the number of the impact that would be mitigated by the measure. Where sufficient feasible mitigation is not available to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level, or where the County lacks the authority to ensure that the mitigation is implemented when needed, the impacts are identified as remaining “significant and unavoidable.”