

4.0 OVERVIEW OF EIR METHODOLOGY AND SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION

The EIR includes as much detail as possible to maximize information available for public review and thus avoid and/or minimize the need for future environmental documentation (see Section 2.0 of this EIR for further explanation of the EIR process). The EIR includes information gathered from correspondence from utility/service providers, available literature/reference documents, and consultation with potentially affected agencies (see Section 2.7, Incorporation by Reference). In addition, several technical studies were prepared for review and incorporation into this EIR. Technical studies completed for the Seawater Desalination Project at Huntington Beach include:

- Noise Data
- Air Quality Data
- Growth Assessment and General Plan Evaluation
- Underground Booster Pump Station Cultural Resources Assessment Reports
- Geological Report - Desalination Site
- Geological Report - Aboveground Product Water Storage Tank
- Preliminary Seismic Assessment
- Report on Local and Regional Power Requirements and Generation Resources
- Local Alternative Site Investigation
- Underground Booster Pump Station Biological Constraints Survey
- Marine Biological Analysis
- Supplemental Report on the Effects of a Retrofitted Diffuser on the Discharge Outfall for the Proposed Seawater Desalination Project at Huntington Beach
- Marine Biological Considerations
- Intake Effects Assessment
- Watershed Sanitary Survey
- Hydrodynamic Modeling Report
- Receiving Water Chemistry and Quality Report
- Distribution System Corrosion Control Study
- Disinfection Byproduct Formation Study
- RO Membrane Cleaning Solution Discharge Test Stream Data
- Pressure Surge Analysis
- Preliminary Pipeline Assessment
- Desalination Facilities Located Throughout the World

The analysis of the project's impacts, as contained in this EIR, is presented to clearly indicate the significance determination for each of the impacts by numbering each impact, with a correspondingly numbered impact discussion, and, if necessary, mitigation measure(s). The significance determinations are based on a number of factors as explained in each impact section. These primarily include Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, General Plan policies, ordinances, generally accepted professional standards, and established quantified thresholds by the City of Huntington Beach or other agencies.

The following is an explanation of the different significance determinations made in this EIR:

A. NOT SIGNIFICANT

This determination is made when any of the three following cases apply:

1. *No Impact*: Due to the nature or location of the project, this impact will not occur. For example, underground facilities do not have the potential for long-term visual impacts.
2. *Less Than Significant*: Although an impact may occur, it will not be at a significant level based on the above described standards. For example, construction-related air emissions that fall below the adopted air quality standards are less than significant.
3. *Potentially Significant Impact "Mitigated" Through Existing Requirements (No EIR mitigation required)*: In this case, there is an impact which, although it is potentially significant, will be reduced to less-than-significant levels through adherence to and/or implementation of various existing requirements. These existing requirements include the City of Huntington Beach Ordinances, engineering and design requirements (through the Uniform Building Code and other regulations), and from other regional, state, and federal agencies.

B. LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION

This determination is made when a potentially significant impact can be reduced, avoided or offset to less-than-significant levels by incorporating EIR mitigation measures.

C. SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION

This determination is made for a potentially significant impact where there is either no mitigation available, or the recommended mitigation measures are not sufficient to reduce the impact to less-than-significant levels. This determination requires a Statement of Overriding Considerations, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093 (this would be adopted by the City of Huntington Beach prior to approving the project).