

## CHAPTER 5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

This chapter evaluates the potential environmental effects that would result from construction and operation of the La Brea Tar Pits Master Plan and identifies mitigation measures for impacts found to be potentially significant. Table 5-1 provides a brief summary of the results of the analysis.

**Table 5-1. Summary of Environmental Impacts Analysis**

Environmental Resource	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact
Aesthetics		X	
Agriculture and Forestry Resources*			X
Air Quality		X	
Biological Resources		X	
Cultural Resources – Archaeological Resources		X	
Cultural Resources – Historic Resources	X		
Energy*			X
Geology and Soils		X	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions		X	
Hazards and Hazardous Materials		X	
Hydrology and Water Quality		X	
Land Use and Planning	X		
Mineral Resources*			X
Noise and Vibration		X	
Population and Housing*			X
Public Services*			X
Recreation		X	
Transportation	X		
Tribal Resources		X	
Utilities and Service Systems		X	
Wildfire*			X

\* Issues evaluated in Section 7.5, Environmental Effects Found Not to be Significant. Based on preliminary analysis and discussions with the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History Foundation, it was determined that the project would not result in significant impacts related to agricultural and forestry resources, energy, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, and wildfire.

Each environmental issue area discussed in Chapter 5 of this EIR has been divided into subsections, as follows:

**Existing Conditions:** The description of the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project, as they exist at the time of the established baseline physical conditions.

**Regulatory Setting:** The regulations in effect at the time the Notice of Preparation was published. These are the applicable regulations governing each environmental topic, such as the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and its requirements for protecting rare and endangered species. This is not an exhaustive analysis of the regulations, but rather information to assist the reader in understanding the potential impacts of the project from a regulatory perspective.

**Thresholds of Significance:** The thresholds used to evaluate each environmental topic based on Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and other sources.

**Impact Assessment Methodology:** Methods used to determine the impacts associated with the project, such as measurements or field investigative processes.

**Environmental Impact Analysis:** The statement of the level of significance of potential environmental effects of the project. These include the significant environmental effects of the project, as further defined below. The impacts are identified and then are followed by the mitigation measures that can minimize significant impacts; mitigation measures must be enforceable and feasible. In addition, there must be an essential nexus between the mitigation measure and a legitimate governmental interest, and the mitigation measure also must be “roughly proportional” to the impacts of the project.

**Cumulative Impact Analysis:** The cumulative effects of the project when the project’s incremental effect is considered in combination with other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects.

All impacts in this EIR, following the application of any recommended mitigation measures, have been classified according to the following criteria (note: CEQA does not recognize a beneficial effect as an impact):

*A significant and unavoidable impact* would cause a substantial adverse effect on the environment that meets or exceeds the applicable significance criteria thresholds for a particular resource, and no feasible mitigation measures would be available to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.

*A less than significant impact with mitigation* is an adverse impact that would cause a substantial adverse effect that meets or exceeds the applicable significance criteria thresholds for a particular resource but can be reduced to a less-than-significant level through successful implementation of identified mitigation measures.

*A less than significant impact* or a conclusion of *no impact* means the effect does not meet or exceed the applicable significance criteria thresholds for a particular resource. No mitigation measures are required for less than significant impacts or issue areas where no impact would occur; only compliance with standard regulatory conditions would be required.

The term “significance” is used throughout the EIR to characterize the magnitude of the projected impact. For this EIR, a significant impact is a substantial or potentially substantial change to resources in the project area or the area adjacent to the project. In the discussions of each issue area, thresholds of significance are identified to distinguish between significant impacts and impacts that would not arise to the level of significance.

Where feasible, measures have been identified to reduce project impacts to less-than-significant levels. CEQA states that public agencies should not approve projects as proposed if there are feasible mitigation measures available that would substantially lessen the environmental effects of such projects (Public Resources Code Section 21002).