

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

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**Chapter 4.0** of this Draft EIR contains individual sections that describe the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project described in **Chapter 3.0**. Each topical section describes the existing setting and background information necessary to help the reader understand the conditions that would cause an impact to occur. In addition, each section includes a description of how an impact is determined to be significant or not significant. Finally, the individual sections recommend mitigation measures to reduce significant impacts. The following issue area sections are addressed in **Chapter 4.0**:

- Section 4.1 – Aesthetics
- Section 4.2 – Air Quality
- Section 4.3 – Biological Resources
- Section 4.4 – Cultural Resources
- Section 4.5 – Geology and Soils
- Section 4.6 – Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Section 4.7 – Hydrology and Water Quality
- Section 4.8 – Land Use
- Section 4.9 – Noise and Vibration
- Section 4.10 – Transportation and Circulation
- Section 4.11 – Agricultural Resources

### CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

According to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) *Guidelines* Section 15355, “cumulative impacts refer to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.” CEQA requires that cumulative impacts be discussed when the project’s incremental effect is cumulatively considerable (*Guidelines* Section 15130(a)). These impacts are discussed when appropriate in the relevant issue area sub-section within **Chapter 4.0** and summarized in **Section 5.2**.

The context for the cumulative impact analysis within this EIR is based on the long term development levels projected in the City General Plan and County General Plan, as well as reasonably foreseeable potential development projects in the vicinity of the EWWTP. Reasonably foreseeable development projects considered within this Draft EIR consist of the proposed Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) Vaca Station Project, a 660-megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired power plant, to be located on the southeast portion of the City owned property which includes the project site. The CPV Vaca Station project is proposed by a private energy company and the application and environmental analysis for this project is subject to approval by the California Energy Commission (CEC). The City does not have any jurisdiction

over the environmental review or permits for this project. If ultimately approved by the CEC, it is anticipated that construction of the CPV Vaca Station would begin in the first quarter of 2011 and would be in commercial operation by the second quarter of 2013. Refer to **Section 5.2.1** for further discussion of the cumulative context.