

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES, AND AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND/OR MITIGATION MEASURES

Chapter 3.0 describes the existing affected environment for the Study Area. The affected environment is the base environmental condition on which environmental effects of the build alternatives are evaluated in this Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS).

The sections in Chapter 3.0 include the regulatory setting applicable to the environmental topic, the methodology of impact analysis, a description of the affected environment, environmental effects resulting from the build and no build alternatives, a discussion of environmental effects relative to public health considerations, and measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts of the build alternatives. Photographs, graphic exhibits, and data matrices are included throughout Chapter 3.0 where applicable to support the impact analyses.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) uses the terms impact, effect, and consequences synonymously. For an action to affect the environment it must have a causal relationship with the environment. NEPA distinguishes three types of causal impacts: direct, indirect, and cumulative. Cumulative impact is defined and the contribution of the build alternatives to cumulative effects is analyzed in Section 3.25 of this EIR/EIS. Direct and indirect effects are defined below and analyzed in Sections 3.1 through 3.24 of this EIR/EIS. Sections 3.1 through 3.23 analyze the permanent effects of the build alternatives, and Section 3.24 analyzes the temporary effects of the build alternatives during construction.

- Direct effects are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1508.8).
- Indirect effects are caused by the action and occur later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate, as well as related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems (40 CFR 1508.8).

As part of the scoping and environmental analysis conducted for the project, the following environmental resources were considered, but no potential for adverse impacts to these resources was identified. Consequently, there is no further discussion regarding these resources in this Draft EIR/EIS:

- **Farmlands and Timberlands:** There are no timberlands or prime, unique, or soils of local significance for farmlands within the Study Area.
- **Wild and Scenic Rivers:** There are no rivers listed in the National Inventory of Wild and Scenic Rivers located in the Study Area.