

3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSES

3.0 INTRODUCTION

This section provides an overview of the structure and format for the environmental analysis of the Proposed Project. Sections 3.1 through 3.16 discuss the environmental impacts that may result with approval and implementation of the Proposed Project (including Options), and where impacts are identified, proposes mitigation measures that, when implemented, would reduce significant impacts to a level less than significant, or otherwise to the extent feasible.

Chapter 3 presents the following environmental resource topics:

- > Section 3.1, Transportation
- > Section 3.2, Land Use and Planning
- > Section 3.3, Aesthetics
- > Section 3.4, Air Quality
- > Section 3.5, Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- > Section 3.6, Noise and Vibration
- > Section 3.7, Biological Resources
- > Section 3.8, Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources
- > Section 3.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- > Section 3.10, Hydrology and Water Quality
- > Section 3.11, Utilities and Services Systems
- > Section 3.12, Energy
- > Section 3.13, Cultural Resources
- > Section 3.14, Tribal Cultural Resources
- > Section 3.15, Public Services and Recreation
- > Section 3.16, Other CEQA Considerations

3.0-1 Chapter 3 Format and Content

For each environmental resource topic, the format and content is as follows:

- > **Regulatory Framework:** contains an overview of the relevant federal, state, regional, and local laws and regulations that apply to the Proposed Project.
- > **Methodology:**
 - **Resource Study Area:** This section defines resource study areas (RSAs) in which all environmental investigations specific to each environmental resource are conducted.
 - **Significance Thresholds:** This section lists the thresholds used to determine the significance of each project impact.
 - **Project Features:** This section describes any project features that would be implemented during construction or operations, which would ensure compliance with the laws, guidelines, and best practices of regulatory agencies.
- > **Affected Environmental/Existing Conditions:** This discussion provides a description of the existing physical environment and baseline setting for each environmental issue area. For the purpose of this document and pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15125(a)), the environmental setting is used to determine the impacts associated with the Proposed Project and is generally based on the environmental conditions that existed at the time the Notice of Preparation (NOP) was published (January 29, 2021).
- > **Environmental Impacts:** This section describes the impacts of the Proposed Project, the Trench Option, and the Hawthorne Option, and states whether the impacts would exceed a threshold of

significance. Impacts are determined without consideration of mitigation measures, and if mitigation measures are proposed, impacts are determined again with consideration of the applicable mitigation measures.

- > **Mitigation Measures:** This section describes the mitigation measures that are proposed to avoid or minimize a significant impact.
- > **Project Impacts Remaining After Mitigation:** This section summarizes the impact conclusions, including a determination of any significant impacts that would remain significant even after mitigation measures are applied.
- > **Cumulative Analysis:** This section provides the analysis of cumulative impacts for the resource topic.

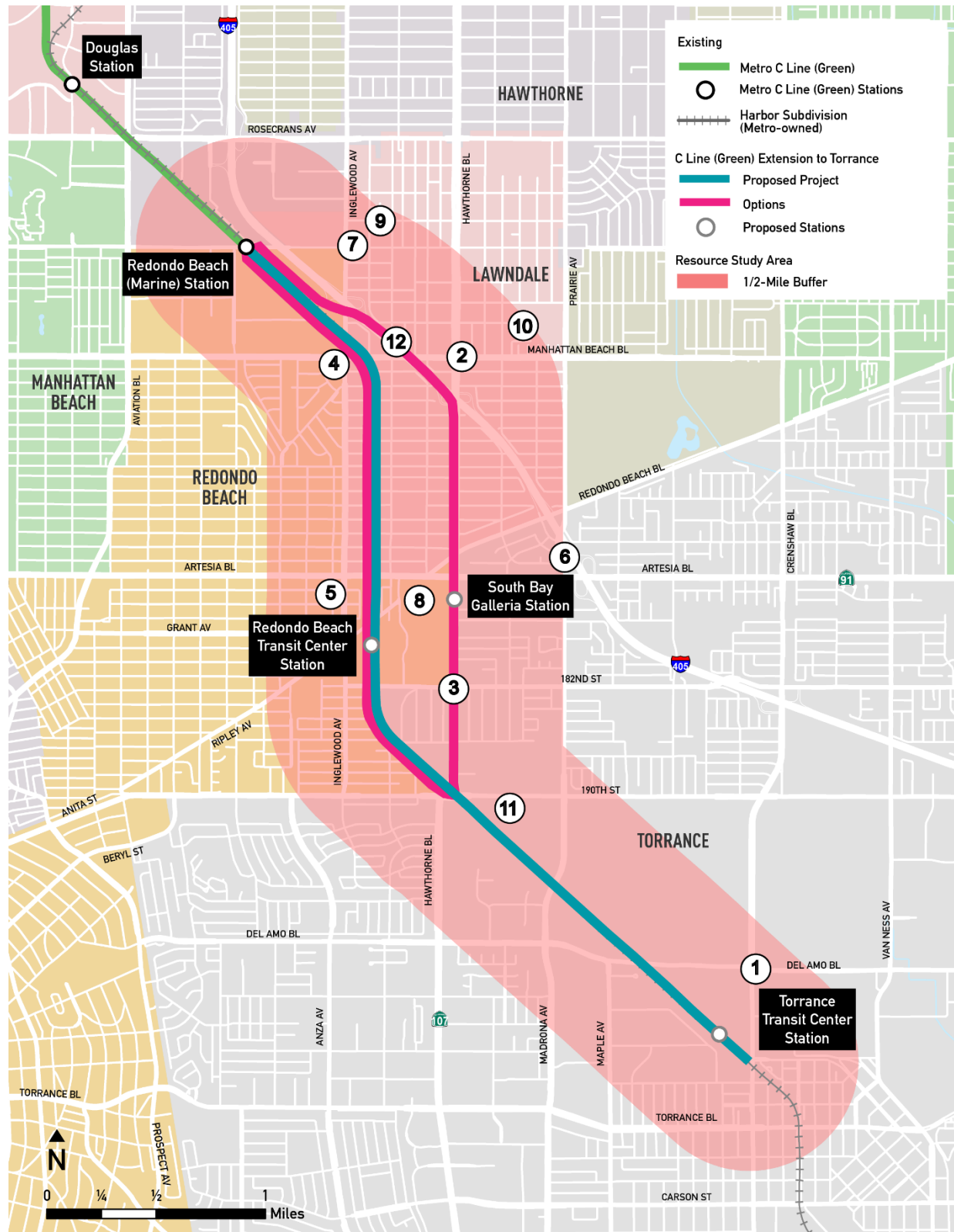
3.0-2 Cumulative Analysis Methodology

CEQA requires an analysis of a project's contribution to cumulative impacts. CEQA Guidelines (Section 15355) define a cumulative impact as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts." The individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects. The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, projects taking place over a period of time.

CEQA requires that the discussion of cumulative impacts reflect the severity of the impacts, as well as the likelihood of their occurrence; however, the discussion need not be as detailed as the discussion of environmental impacts attributable to the Proposed Project alone. Further, the discussion is intended to be guided by the standards of practicality and reasonableness. A discussion of significant cumulative impacts involves analyzing: (1) "a list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, including, if necessary, those projects outside the control of the agency," or (2) "a summary of projections contained in an adopted local, regional or statewide plan, or related planning document, that describes or evaluates conditions contributing to the cumulative effect" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(b)(1)).

This Draft EIR utilizes both approaches. For regional cumulative impacts, the cumulative analysis incorporates regional projections from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The RTP/SCS reflects transportation, population, employment, and land use data for the six-county SCAG area through the year 2045. For more site-specific or localized cumulative impacts, the analysis is based on a list of probable future projects within a half-mile of the alignments, listed in Table 3.0-1 and depicted in Figure 3.0-1. The cumulative analysis for each environmental resource is included in the individual sections in Chapter 3.

Figure 3.0-1. Cumulative Projects Within Half-Mile of the Proposed Alignments



Source: STV, 2022

Table 3.0-1. Cumulative Projects Within Half-Mile of the Proposed Alignments

Map #	Status	Project Type	Project Name	Project Description	Project Location	Project City
1	Pre-Construction	Road	Crenshaw Boulevard Intersection Improvements	Addition of dedicated right-turn lane for southbound lane	Crenshaw Blvd between Del Amo Blvd and the Torrance TC entrance	Torrance
2	Pre-Construction	Road	Manhattan Beach Boulevard Improvements	Left-Turn traffic signal improvements	Manhattan Beach Blvd and Hawthorne Blvd	Lawndale
3	Pre-Construction	Road	Hawthorne Boulevard Corridor Improvement	Installation of turn lanes	Hawthorne Blvd and 182nd Street	Torrance
4	Planning	Road	Inglewood Avenue Intersection Improvements	Construction of a right turn only lane	Inglewood Ave at Manhattan Beach Blvd	Redondo Beach
5	Pre-Construction	Road	Grant Avenue Signal Improvements	Upgrade six existing traffic signals	Grant Ave between Inglewood Ave and Aviation Blvd	Redondo Beach
6	Design	Road	South Bay Forum Traffic Signal Corridors Project	Upgrade and synchronization of traffic signals and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Prairie Ave: 118th St/Redondo Beach Blvd > Redondo Beach Blvd: Artesia Blvd to Vermont Ave > Manhattan Beach Blvd: Manhattan Ave to Van Ness Ave 	Hawthorne
7	Construction	Road	Inglewood Avenue Street Improvements Project Phase 1 and 2	Pavement striping and rehabilitation; Traffic signal upgrades	Inglewood Ave from Marine Ave to railroad tracks north of Manhattan Beach Blvd	Lawndale
8	Planning	Commercial	South Bay Galleria Development	300-unit residential building, 15,730 sq. ft commercial space, 150-room hotel, 17,000 sq. ft. retail, town square plaza	1815 Hawthorne Blvd	Redondo Beach
9	Planning	Commercial	Hilton Hotel	195-unit hotel	15239 Hawthorne Blvd	Lawndale
10	Planning	Recreation	Lawndale Wellness and Activity Center	New community center adjacent to and on school property	4161 Manhattan Beach Blvd	Lawndale

Map #	Status	Project Type	Project Name	Project Description	Project Location	Project City
11	Pre-construction	Industrial	Torrance Industrial Exchange	428,020 sq. ft. warehouse/industrial complex	19201 Prairie Ave	Torrance
12	Pre-construction	Road	I-405 Auxiliary Lanes Improvement Project	Addition of auxiliary lanes between I-105 and Artesia Blvd	I-405 between I-105 and Artesia Blvd	Hawthorne, Lawndale, Redondo Beach, Torrance