

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION INTRODUCTION

The following sections evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed La Bahia Hotel Project:

- 4.1 Aesthetics
- 4.2 Historic Resources
- 4.3 Transportation and Traffic
- 4.4 Water Supply
- 4.5 Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- 4.6 Geology and Soils
- 4.7 Land Use

Each section in Chapter 4 generally follows the same format and consists of the following subsections:

- **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:** This section describes the existing physical environment, and applicable laws and regulations relevant to a discussion of impacts in the topic category. The Environmental Setting sections provide a general overview of the existing conditions throughout the City related to the topic being addressed. Local, State, and federal regulations also are identified and discussed, when relevant.
- **RELEVANT PROJECT ELEMENTS:** A Relevant Project Elements section provides a description of the elements of the project that are relevant to the impact analysis for a particular topic, such as building design, construction techniques or other project elements. Any project elements that may cause impacts, as well as those that may serve to eliminate or reduce impacts, will be identified.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES:** The Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures section provides an outline of the criteria used to evaluate whether an impact is considered significant, based on standards identified in or criteria derived from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. In some cases, agency policies and regulations or professional judgment are used to further define CEQA standards of significance.

This section first identifies issues for which no impacts have been identified. The section then evaluates and analyzes significant or potentially significant project impacts, states the level of significance prior to mitigation, and proposes mitigation measures (in bold) that can reduce such impacts. A statement regarding the level of significance of each impact after mitigation follows the mitigation measures for that impact. For impacts found to be less than significant, mitigation measures are not required, but where relevant, the EIR recommends project modifications or appropriate conditions of approval.