

## **SECTION 3.0**

### **EXISTING CONDITIONS, IMPACTS, MITIGATION, AND LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION**

---

This section of the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (EIR) evaluates the potential of the proposed 2008 Owens Valley PM<sub>10</sub> Planning Area Demonstration of Attainment State Implementation Plan (2008 SIP)<sup>1</sup> (proposed project) to result in significant impacts to the environment as a result of construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project. This section of the Subsequent EIR provides a full scope of environmental analysis in conformance with the State of California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (State CEQA Guidelines).

The Initial Study for the proposed project determined that there was no evidence that the proposed project would cause significant environmental effects related to seven environmental resources: aesthetics, agricultural resources, geology and soils, noise, population and housing, public services, and recreation.<sup>2</sup> The Initial Study identified the potential for the proposed project to result in significant impacts to nine environmental resources warranting further analysis: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, traffic and transportation, and utilities and service systems. As a result of the detailed evaluation contained in this EIR, it has been determined that the proposed project would not result in potential significant impacts to aesthetics, agricultural resources, geology and soils, noise, population and housing, public services, and recreation. The potential significant impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems would be avoided or reduced to below a level of significance.

Each section describes the regulatory framework, existing conditions, thresholds of significance, impact analysis, mitigation measures for significant impacts, and level of significance after mitigation. The applicable federal, state, regional, county, and local statutes and regulations that govern individual environmental resources that must be considered by the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District Governing Board as the Lead Agency, the California State Lands Commission as a Trustee and Responsible Agency, the California Department of Fish and Game as a Trustee Agency, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power as the Applicant and Responsible Agency in the decision-making process are included in the regulatory framework described for each environmental resource. The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District has a requirement to attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards pursuant to the Federal Clean Air Act and must evaluate environmental impacts pursuant to CEQA regarding the implementation of dust control measures on the lake bed. The existing conditions portion of the analysis has been prepared in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines and includes a description of the environment in the vicinity of the proposed project as it currently exists, from both a local and regional perspective. The existing conditions are described based on literature review and archived resources, agency coordination, and field inspections. Significance thresholds were established in accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The potential for cumulative impacts was considered in relation to three related projects identified as a result of scoping, agency consulting, and site inspections. Mitigation measures were derived from

---

<sup>1</sup> PM<sub>10</sub> refers to particulate matter up to 10 micrometers in size, a regulated air emission pursuant to the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

<sup>2</sup> Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District. 27 February 2007. *2008 Owens Valley PM<sub>10</sub> Planning Area Demonstration of Attainment State Implementation Plan Initial Study*. State Clearinghouse Number 96122077. Bishop, CA.

public and agency input and state-of-the-practice engineering methods. The level of significance after mitigation was evaluated in accordance with the thresholds of significance and the effectiveness of the proposed mitigations to reduce potentially significant impacts to below the significance threshold. The impact analysis contained in this environmental document is based solely on the implementation of the proposed project as described in Section 2, *Project Description*.