

## 4.0 IMPACT ANALYSIS

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This chapter contains an analysis of each topic that has been identified through preliminary environmental evaluation of the proposed project and, as such, constitutes the major portion of the EIR. Each of the impact analysis sections is organized in the following manner:

1. **Issues.** The specific issues within the larger topic heading are identified.
2. **Setting.** This subsection describes the existing environmental conditions pertinent to each issue area, and is considered the baseline used for the analysis of impacts. The baseline is generally defined as conditions existing at the time of the publication of the Notice of Preparation (March 2006).
3. **Regulatory Setting.** This subsection describes the existing regulations that are pertinent to each issue area.
4. **Methodology.** This subsection describes the methodology used to conduct the impact analysis.
5. **Significance Thresholds.** This subsection identifies the thresholds by which a determination of impact significance is made. Thresholds set quantitative or qualitative standards or criteria for a particular resource. These criteria of significance are used to determine whether an impact is significant. The thresholds used in this report are generally based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, standards expressed through policies in the City's General Plan or other documents, as well as thresholds established by other regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over aspects of the proposed project, and were confirmed in consultation with City of Cotati staff.
6. **Impacts and Mitigation Measures.** This subsection analyzes the impacts of buildout of the DSP and mitigation measures to address significant impacts. Impacts are separated into less than significant impacts and significant impacts. All significant impacts are numbered; the mitigation measures use the same numbering system to correspond to the impacts.
7. **Cumulative Impacts.** This section addresses the impacts of the project in light of pending, approved, or other reasonably foreseeable projects that have bearing on a particular issue area. More detail about the scope of cumulative impacts is addressed in Section 3.13 of the Project Description and in each topical impact section.
8. **References.** This section lists the reference documents identified in the text.

