

## 3.0 SETTING, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS, MITIGATION MEASURES

This section of the Master Environmental Impact Report (Master EIR) evaluates the potential of the Rio Hondo College Master Plan and subsequent projects developed under the Master Plan (proposed project) to result in significant adverse impacts to the environment as a result of construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project. This section of the Master EIR provides a full scope of environmental analysis in conformance with the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)<sup>1</sup> and the CEQA Guidelines<sup>2</sup>.

The Initial Study<sup>3</sup> identified the potential for the proposed project to result in significant impacts to five environmental resources warranting further analysis in the Master EIR: aesthetics, air quality, biology, traffic and transportation, hydrology/water quality and utilities and service systems. In addition, in response to comments received during the public scoping period for the Master EIR in response to the Notice of Preparation<sup>4</sup>, the following issue areas were further identified for detailed analysis in the Master EIR: geology and soils, hazardous materials, and noise. This section of the Master EIR provides a detailed analysis of these environmental resources.

Each sub-section describes the 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 are included in the regulatory framework described for each environmental resource. The environmental setting 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 regional and local perspective, as applicable. The existing conditions are described based on literature review and archived resources, agency coordination, and field inspections. Significance thresholds were established in

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<sup>1</sup> State of California. *California Environmental Quality Act, California Public Resources Code, Division 13, Environmental Protection, Sections 21000 - 21777*. Available at <http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/>

<sup>2</sup> State of California, 2005. *Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, Title 14 California Code of Regulations. Chapter 3*. Available at: [http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env\\_law/ceqa/guidelines/](http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines/)

<sup>3</sup> Rio Hondo College, 4, January 2005. *Initial Study for the Proposed Rio Hondo College Master Plan*, prepared by URS Corporation, 915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90017

<sup>4</sup> Rio Hondo College, 4 January 2005. *Notice of Preparation of EIR and Public EIR Scoping Meeting*.



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accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The potential for cumulative impacts was considered in relation to past present and reasonable foreseeable future projects identified as a result of scoping and agency consulting. Mitigation measures were derived from public and agency input and state-of-the-practice engineering methods. The level of significance after mitigation was evaluated considering the thresholds of significance and the effectiveness of the proposed mitigations to reduce potentially significant impacts to below the 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. No further environmental analysis under CEQA will be necessary for the subsequent projects identified pursuant to the Rio Hondo College Master Plan consistent with the environmental analysis contained in this section of the Master EIR.