

SECTION 4.0

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes the environmental consequences that would result from the development of the project alternatives. The analysis presented in this section has been prepared in accordance with CEQ's NEPA Regulations Section 1502.16. The direct environmental effects of each alternative are provided under the resource headings described in **Section 3** and listed below. This section also provides analysis of growth-inducing, cumulative, indirect, and unavoidable adverse effects.

| Section | Resource Area/Issue |
|----------------|--|
| 4.2 | Land Resources |
| 4.3 | Water Resources |
| 4.4 | Air Quality |
| 4.5 | Biological Resources |
| 4.6 | Cultural Resources |
| 4.7 | Socioeconomic Conditions and Environmental Justice |
| 4.8 | Resource Use Patterns |
| 4.9 | Public Services |
| 4.10 | Other Values |
| 4.11 | Growth-Inducing Effects |
| 4.12 | Cumulative Effects |
| 4.13 | Indirect Effects |
| 4.14 | Unavoidable Adverse Effects |

4.1.1 DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

The CEQ Regulations for Implementing NEPA (Section 1508.27) define significance of effects in terms of context and intensity. Context refers to society as a whole, the affected region or interests, and the locality. The significance of effects varies depending on the setting of the proposed action. Intensity refers to the severity of effect. The following issues should be considered in evaluating intensity:

- Effects may be both beneficial and adverse.
- The degree of public health or safety effects.
- Unique resource characteristics of the geographic area.
- The degree of controversy over environmental effects.
- Uncertainty and unknown risks of effects.
- The degree to which the action may set a precedent.
- Cumulative effects.
- Effects on scientific, cultural, or historic resources.
- Effects to endangered or threatened species or its habitat.
- Violation of federal, state, or local environmental regulations.