

## **4. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

# SECTION 4

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This section of the EIR addresses specific topics required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Setting section for each topic (i.e., land use, geology) includes a description of existing conditions for the proposed project. The Impacts and Mitigation Measures section for each topic addresses impacts specifically related to the project. The impact analysis includes a discussion of all goals, objectives, and policies included in the Kings County Revised Draft Dairy Element (Element) that serve to mitigate the identified impact. In many cases, implementation of the policies of the Element is found to mitigate the identified impact to a less-than-significant level.

Unless otherwise noted, all identified impacts are considered potentially significant impacts. The corresponding mitigation measures, unless otherwise noted, would be sufficient to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. When more than one mitigation measure is recommended for a specific impact, all the measures would be required to reduce the impact to a level of insignificance unless the word “or” or “alternatively” appears in the list of mitigation measures. Although not required by CEQA, several less-than-significant impacts have also been discussed because they are issues of local concern. No mitigation is required by CEQA for less-than-significant impacts. However, all policies of the Element that mitigate the impact are identified for less-than-significant impacts. Mitigation measures are provided for all significant impacts.

Each impact is summarized, numbered, and shown in bold lettering. Text then follows each summarized impact statement to provide more detailed discussion and analysis. At the end of the impacts discussion, mitigation measures are listed and numbered to correspond to the numbered impact. The summary table in Section 2 of this EIR includes the same text shown in bold lettering and the mitigation measure(s).

## DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Under CEQA, a significant impact is defined as a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment (Public Resources Code 21068). The guidelines implementing CEQA direct that this determination be based on scientific and factual data. The specific criteria for determining significance of a particular impact are identified prior

to the impact discussion in each topical section, and are consistent with significance criteria set forth in the recently revised guidelines implementing Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, and those used locally, where available.