

Fifteen environmental, human health and safety, and cultural/social topics are evaluated in this EIR in the subsections that follow. The existing and future setting, the potential for the proposed project to significantly impact the resources, and recommended mitigation measures that could reduce or avoid potential impacts are described for each of these topics.

The environmental setting sections describe the existing environment, as well as conditions in the future, where appropriate, when the proposed campus would be fully developed. The extent of the environmental setting area evaluated (the study area) differs among resources depending on the locations where impacts would be expected. For example, traffic impacts due to the proposed project are assessed for the regional roadway network, whereas cultural resource impacts are assessed at the specific location of the proposed campus. The setting section, therefore, describes both local resources and regional resources that occur throughout the broader geographic area.

The analyses of impacts are based primarily upon one of two factors, depending on the primary cause of the impact. Impacts related to traffic, air quality, noise, utilities, and public services are analyzed on the basis of the total population associated with the proposed campus. Impacts related to geologic, hydrological, cultural, and biological resources are analyzed on the basis of the footprint of the proposed campus, or the location and acreage of ground disturbance.

In addition to the impacts of the project, this section also discusses cumulative impacts of development under the LRDP considered together with other development that may cause related impacts. Under each topic, the discussion of cumulative impacts is presented in two subsections. First, the EIR identifies any combined effects of the Campus, the County's proposed University Community, and the proposed Campus Parkway. As explained in Section 2, these three projects are in close proximity to one another and are related projects. Accordingly, this EIR describes the cumulative impacts of these three projects considered together in a separate analysis.

To the extent that other development in the region also contributes to a cumulative effect, the EIR also describes the combined impacts of the three projects and all projects in the relevant geographic area. The geographic area considered for each impact depends upon the impact that is being analyzed. For example, in assessing aesthetic impacts, only development within the vicinity of the project would contribute to a cumulative effect. In assessing air quality impacts, on the other hand, all development within the air basin contributes to regional emissions of criteria pollutants, and basinwide projections of emissions is the best tool for disclosing the cumulative effect. Similarly, cumulative traffic impacts are based upon projections in the Regional Transportation Plan, as well as the general plans of relevant jurisdictions.

The EIR also examines reasonable, feasible options for mitigating or avoiding the project's contribution to any significant cumulative effects.