

Chapter 21

Impact Conclusions

Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

Significant and unavoidable impacts associated with the project alternatives are listed below. Unavoidable impacts are those impacts that would result even when the mitigation measures incorporated into the project description and the mitigation measures described in each resource chapter of this EIR/EIS are implemented.

Alternatives 2–5

Significant and unavoidable impacts under this alternative are:

- short-term increases in construction noise levels during daytime hours,
- exposure of noise-sensitive land uses to general construction noise at night, and
- increase in noise levels from facility operation.

Alternative 6

Significant and unavoidable impacts under this alternative are:

- loss of whitewater boating on the upper Mokelumne River between the Middle Bar Bridge and SR 49 bridge,
- loss of whitewater boating on the upper Mokelumne River Electra Run,
- short-term increases in construction noise levels during daytime hours,
- exposure of noise-sensitive land uses to general construction noise at night,
- increase in noise levels from facility operation, and
- changes in visual resources from inundation of the area upstream of the existing Pardee Reservoir (upper Mokelumne River).

Less-than-Significant Impacts

Each resource chapter throughout this EIR/EIS identifies impacts found to be less than significant.

Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Irreversible commitments of resources would result from implementing any of the project alternatives. These resources include:

- construction materials;
- labor;
- energy needed for construction, operation, and maintenance; and
- minor land conversion of open space, agricultural, and natural environments.

Land uses that would be irreversibly committed include prime agricultural lands that are used to grow row crops, vineyards, and orchards; annual grasslands used for grazing; oak woodlands; riparian habitats; and wetland areas. The loss of oak woodland, riparian habitat, wetland resources, and some agricultural lands could be mitigated by creating new habitats as part of the project. The conversion of some agricultural lands to nonagricultural uses, and not mitigated, is considered an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources.

Relationship between Local Short-Term Uses of the Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

NEPA requires that the local short-term benefits of implementing any of the project alternatives be compared to the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity (42 U.S.C. 4332; 40 C.F.R. 1502.16). While many of the benefits listed below are intended to be realized over many years, they are considered local short-term benefits as required by NEPA. The local short-term benefits include:

- provision of water supplies to the Zone 40 area to support development approved under the Sacramento County General Plan,
- provision of a surface water supply to use conjunctively with groundwater supplies within the Zone 40 area,
- reduced deficiencies to EBMUD customers, and

- improved system reliability for EBMUD customers.

Long-term productivity refers to the values of the existing environment. The values of the existing environment affected by the project alternatives would be relatively minor, as described throughout this EIR/EIS.

Mitigation Measures

Each topical chapter of the EIR/EIS contains a description of mitigation measures that could be implemented to reduce identified impacts to less-than-significant levels. Please refer to Tables S-1 and S-2 of the Summary chapter for a list of all mitigation measures, including those for the preferred alternative (Alternative 5).

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 requires that a reporting and monitoring program be adopted to ensure compliance with project mitigation measures identified in an EIR or other conditions requiring monitoring. According to that section, “the reporting or monitoring program shall be designed to ensure compliance during project implementation.” The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan will identify the impacts and present the mitigation measures contained in the final EIR/EIS.