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4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This chapter provides a description of the existing social, economic, and environmental settings for the area affected by the system alternatives (System Alternatives 1, 2, 3, and the Preferred Alternative) and the No Action Alternative. Current conditions are described for each resource of concern in the proposed project area. The discussion contains study methodologies, background information, descriptive data, issues, and values that have a bearing on possible impacts and mitigation measures associated with the system alternatives, including the Preferred Alternative.

Probable beneficial and adverse social, economic, and environmental consequences of alternatives under consideration are described. The information provides a basis for evaluating the comparative merits of the alternatives. Impacts to specific resources in the human and natural environment were evaluated for each system alternative and the No Action Alternative. This chapter also identifies measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate identified adverse impacts of the alternatives.

This EIS was prepared consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500. et seq) and FHWA's Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents (FHWA Technical Advisory T 6640.8A, October 30, 1987). The FHWA guidance lists potentially significant impacts most commonly encountered by highway projects and directs that these factors should be discussed for each reasonable alternative where a potential for impact exists.

Environmental and socioeconomic factors potentially impacted by the proposed project are analyzed in detail in this chapter. The following resources do not occur in the vicinity of the project and therefore have no potential for project-related impacts and are not discussed in this chapter:

- Farmland
- Wild and Scenic Rivers

The following technical reports and addenda were prepared for this EIS, and are available at the locations listed in **Chapter 9**:

- Aesthetics and Urban Design Report and Addendum
- Air Quality Impact Assessment Report and Addendum
- Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Report and Addendum
- Cultural Resources Inventory
- Paleontology Survey Report
- Water Resources Report and Addendum
- Wetland Delineation Report
- Wetland Finding (presented as Appendix C of this Final EIS)

- Modified Environmental Site Assessment

These technical reports and addenda provide additional detail to supplement the information presented in this Chapter.