Chapter 9
Effects Considered Not Significant

Introduction

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15128, an EIR shall contain a statement briefly indicating the reasons why certain effects of the project were determined not to be significant and were, therefore, not discussed in detail in the EIR. Accordingly, this chapter presents the CEQA Checklist topics that have been considered not significant for the proposed project and, as such, have been excluded from further analysis in this EIR. The following presents a brief discussion of why each topic was considered not significant.

CEQA Topics Considered Not Significant

Aesthetics, Glare, and Lighting

Completion of the proposed restoration plan would introduce new parking and visitor/educational facilities and would include activities that would restore and enhance the existing natural features of the lagoon area through vegetation management (including invasive/exotic vegetation removal), channel enhancement, and habitat improvement.

In addition to vegetative restoration, appropriate considerations to elevations, slopes, and sediment characteristics would be made, resulting in landscaped areas that would contribute to the aesthetic quality of the lagoon. The proposed activities would be small in scale and would not substantially alter views of the lagoon and wetland area from vista points and residential properties surrounding the site. Therefore, no significant impact to aesthetics would occur.

Construction of the project will cause a temporary aesthetic impact. Previously vegetated wetlands will temporarily be devoid of vegetation during and after grading until the new vegetation is established. This temporary impact is expected to last approximately six months. This impact will be less noticeable during times of high tide when much of the wetland will be underwater.

Aesthetic impacts resulting from moving the parking lot closer to PCH will be longer lasting until screening vegetation is mature enough to block views of the parking lot. Appropriate temporary screening will be installed as necessary to further minimize aesthetic impacts. As these aesthetic impacts would be temporary and of limited scope, they are not considered significant under CEQA. Because the wetland ecosystem will be expanded and the lagoon restored, long-term project effects to the aesthetics of the lagoon would be beneficial.

The existing and proposed natural and built features of the lagoon area currently have very little potential to significantly affect adjacent properties due to glare. Glare is a result of sharply reflected light caused by sunlight or artificial light reflecting from highly finished surfaces, such as window glass or brightly colored surfaces. The sparse built features on-site are or would be constructed of either wood, pavement, and other materials that carry little to no potential for significant glare effects.

No new sources of light would result from implementation of the project so no lighting impacts would occur.

Agricultural Resources

No farmland exists on or within the vicinity of the lagoon. The site is zoned as Public Open Space and is not used for agricultural purposes. In addition, the lagoon is not under a Williamson Act agricultural contract.[1] Therefore, no impact to agricultural resources would occur.

Air Quality (Post-construction)

The proposed project is not expected to result in an increase in vehicle trips since the existing use of the lagoon would remain the same, and the relocated parking lot would have about the same number of parking spaces as the existing parking lot. As such, daily operational emissions from vehicles would remain the same as existing conditions, and no air quality impacts associated with the completed project would occur. Please refer to Chapter 8 for a discussion of potential Air Quality effects during construction.

Geology and Soils

The proposed project would not result in increased exposure of people to geologic hazards. The reconfiguration of the channels and the creation of the avian islands would be beneficial to the ecology of the lagoon and its biological inhabitants. In addition, as part of the restoration process, a Habitat Plan is provided that will provide details for slopes, drainage, topsoil salvage, and management of vegetative communities. A Monitoring Plan will provide specific monitoring tasks for an adaptive

[1] City of Malibu, *Malibu Zoning*, http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm?fuseaction=download&cid=5122, last revised 2005.

management framework, including those for bathymetry (lagoon topography). Therefore, no significant impact to geology or soils would occur.

Mineral Resources

According to the Conservation Element of the Malibu General Plan, mineral resources are not known to exist on the lagoon or other areas in Malibu.[2] Further, the California Geological Survey (formerly the California Division of Mines and Geology) indicates that Malibu is not an area classified by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) as a production-consumption region for mineral resources.[3]

The lagoon is an ecological and recreational resource that is protected by the California Coastal Act from mining operations and development and the proposed project does not involve the extraction of mineral resources.[4] Therefore, no impact to mineral resources would occur.

Noise

The existing use of the lagoon would remain the same, and operation of the proposed project would not generate any new vehicle trips. The related parking lot would have about the same number of parking spaces as the existing parking lot. As such, the proposed project would not introduce new sources of vehicle noise. It is anticipated that noise levels would remain similar to existing conditions. Therefore, no impact on existing ambient noise levels would occur.

Population and Housing

The proposed project is a restoration and enhancement plan for Malibu lagoon and does not involve a housing component that would generate a population increase or any other component that could reasonably be expected to result in a population change or demand for housing. Therefore, no impacts to population or housing would occur.

Hazardous Materials and Public Health (Vector Control)

Construction of the proposed project has the potential to result in potential hazardous substances spills during construction equipment operation. However, compliance with applicable federal, state, and local

[2] City of Malibu, Malibu General Plan Conservation Element, November 1995.
[3] California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, *Publications of the SMARA Mineral Land Classification Project Dealing With Mineral Resources in California*, http://www.consrv.ca.gov/ CGS/minerals/mlc/SMARA_pubs_2001.pdf., 2001.
[4] City of Malibu, *City of Malibu LCP Land Use Plan*, http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/download/index.cfm?fuseaction=download&cid=1577, last revised September 13, 2002.

regulations would reduce the likelihood of the occurrence of potentially significant impacts. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact related to hazardous materials.

Similarly, operation of the proposed project would not result in any health risks associated with the use or generation of hazardous materials. The proposed project would include implementation of a Water Management Plan, which is designed to eliminate all polluted runoff source discharges to the lagoon to benefit lagoon water quality and maintain improved circulation within the lagoon under both open and closed conditions.

Currently, direct surface discharges to the lagoon result from storm water and irrigation. In order to redirect storm water away from the lagoon and towards other appropriate drainage facilities, the proposed project considers two options: (1) to downward slope the parking lot towards the north, such that the run-off flows in a direction opposite of the lagoon, and (2) to route the drainage westward toward the collection sump for the City of Malibu's future force main line along Malibu Road.

Vector Control

Due to the most recent West Nile Virus epidemic, the following discussion briefly addresses the health impacts associated with vector-transmitted diseases, specifically those associated with mosquitoes. With just one bite, mosquitoes can transmit the West Nile Virus and other viruses that can cause encephalitis. Stagnant water can serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes to lay their eggs.

According to the Los Angeles County West Vector and Vector Borne Disease Control District, mosquito and vector control is necessary on a continuous routine and area-wide basis to protect the health and enhance the economic development, recreational use, and enjoyment of outdoor living.[5]

As identified in Chapter 3, Project Description, one of the main purposes of the proposed project is to restore and enhance the ecological conditions of the lagoon, and one of the objectives is to increase circulation of water during open and closed conditions of the lagoon. Recognizing that the lagoon currently has substantial areas of stagnant water and is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, the proposed project would aid abatement of this condition by increasing tidal flushing and improving water circulation. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a beneficial impact on public health, as it would reduce areas of potential breeding ground for mosquitoes. However, these breeding grounds would not be eliminated due to the wetland nature of the lagoon.

[5] Los Angeles County West Vector & Vector Borne Disease Control District, Vector Control, http://www.lawestvector. org/vectorcontrol.htm, accessed November 17, 2005.

Public Services

The proposed project is a restoration and enhancement plan for Malibu Lagoon and does not include housing or any other component that could reasonably be expected to generate a population increase. As a result, there would be no corresponding increase in demand for public services or facilities. Therefore, no impact to public services would occur.

Recreation

The proposed project would not result in an increased demand for recreational resources. Rather, as part of the proposed project, a staging area with interpretive displays and panels (located in the new parking lot area), as well as multiple interpretive nodes/loops, would serve to enhance the educational and recreational uses of the site. Visitor access improvements to encourage the use of this State park would also be included as part of the project. Therefore, a beneficial impact to recreation is anticipated.

Traffic and Circulation (Post-Construction)

Operation of the proposed project is not anticipated to generate any new vehicle trips since the existing use of the lagoon would remain the same. The relocated parking lot would have about the same number of parking spaces as the existing parking lot, and access to the relocated parking lot would be the same as existing off of PCH, opposite Cross Creek Road. As such, no changes to traffic movement and circulation on PCH, local streets, and beach access would occur (particularly on the residential streets immediately west and south of the project site and the access road from the site entrance to the beach along the western boundary of the project site). Therefore, daily vehicle trips would remain the same as existing conditions, and no traffic or circulation impacts would occur. Please refer to Chapter 8 for the discussion of potential traffic effects during construction.

Utilities and Service Systems

The proposed project is a restoration and enhancement plan for Malibu Lagoon and does not involve housing or any other component that could reasonably be expected to generate a population increase. As a result, there would be no increase in demand for utilities or service systems, including water supply, wastewater (septic/sewer), and solid waste.

Notably, the proposed project would include a Water Management Plan for the management of drainage from the parking lot and public use areas to restored habitat areas. This plan would provide suggestions for storm water management that would result in increased percolation of storm drainage and, possibly, more efficient conveyance to a drainage system to the future City treatment plant. No significant impact to utilities or service systems would occur.