

L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE

Your Resource for Preparing
CEQA Analyses in Los Angeles

City of Los Angeles
2006

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This Thresholds Guide is intended to provide general information about CEQA. It should not be used as a substitute for professional or legal advice. The reader should refer to the CEQA Statutes and Guidelines and consult with the appropriate City departments, as necessary.

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INTRODUCTION

PREFACE

The *L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide: Your Resource for Preparing CEQA Analyses in Los Angeles (Thresholds Guide)* is a guidance document that draws together practical information useful to City staff, project proponents, and the public involved in the environmental review of projects subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The *Thresholds Guide* is a resource available to provide information to those interested in the CEQA process.

The *Thresholds Guide* provides assistance in evaluating the significance of project impacts on 46 of the most common environmental issues in the City of Los Angeles. This guidance is supplemented by an introduction to each issue area, a recommended analysis method for project impacts, guidance for environmental setting and cumulative impact sections, sample mitigation measures, and references. The *Thresholds Guide* is geared toward readers familiar with the CEQA process. For additional information on the terminology and requirements of CEQA, please refer to the Glossary to the *Thresholds Guide*, The Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines (City CEQA Guidelines), the State Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (State CEQA Guidelines) or the City's Guide to Understanding CEQA in the City of Los Angeles.

The preparation of the *Thresholds Guide* was initiated as part of the City's Development Reform efforts to streamline the City's permit and development processes. It is a tool that compiles information that is useful in the preparation of environmental documents. This information can be used to improve the level of consistency, predictability, and objectivity of the City's environmental documents, while reducing costs and time delays in the environmental review process.

CEQA requires the analysis of discretionary projects to disclose their potential effects on the environment and to allow public participation in the environmental review process. Central to the implementation of CEQA is the identification of "significant" or "potentially significant" impacts that would occur as a result of a proposed project, as this determines the level of review required and the need for mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate project impacts. For projects needing discretionary approval from the City of Los Angeles, the department granting the approval generally acts as the lead agency on behalf of the City and is known as the lead City agency.

The *Thresholds Guide* applies only to those non-exempt projects subject to CEQA that require an Initial Study, negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or EIR. It applies both to public and private projects, including residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, and infrastructure projects. Most screening criteria and significance thresholds also apply to Master planned developments, specific plans, zone changes, and other “plan” level proposals.

The *Thresholds Guide* does not impact the existing discretionary authority of decision-makers, although the guidance contained in it could provide more complete information to these decision-makers. The *Thresholds Guide* does not replace or invalidate the City’s CEQA Guidelines, as it addresses the content of environmental documents as opposed to procedural requirements. It has no effect on the City’s list of projects exempt from the CEQA process (see Article X of the City CEQA Guidelines, which lists project types eligible for categorical exemptions). The *Thresholds Guide* can be used as a complement to existing department procedures for processing CEQA documents, by building on the information in the CEQA Guidelines and providing technical assistance for the environmental analysis and determination of significance. The *Thresholds Guide* does not change the authority of the lead agency, as identified in the State CEQA Guidelines, to determine significance thresholds on a case-by-case basis dependent upon unique environments, evolving regulatory requirements, and the nature of projects encountered by each lead agency.

The guidance in the *Thresholds Guide* does not substitute for the use of independent judgment to determine significance or the evaluation of the evidence in the record, but is intended to provide sufficient flexibility to use the most appropriate criteria for a particular project. CEQA includes additional topics and requirements that are not addressed in the *Thresholds Guide*. The project evaluator and lead agency are still responsible for all CEQA requirements, whether or not they are discussed in the *Thresholds Guide*. The City CEQA Guidelines, the State CEQA Guidelines, and other references describe all of the requirements of the CEQA process and should be consulted if additional assistance is required.

As noted above, the fundamental purpose of CEQA is to publicly disclose and evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with proposed projects. As such, CEQA contains specific public notification and participation requirements. In addition, City policy in the General Plan Framework Element and a similar policy in the Transportation Element is to “assure that (sic) fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, incomes and education levels with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, including affirmative efforts to inform and involve environmental groups, especially environmental justice groups, in early planning stages through notification

and two-way communication.¹ This assurance may involve efforts to identify and reach affected populations, including low-income communities and communities of color.

CONTENT AND USE

The *Thresholds Guide* presents two sets of criteria to evaluate project impacts: the screening and significance criteria. The screening criteria provide assistance in responding to Initial Study Checklist questions, and can help determine when further study is needed to decide whether a significant impact could potentially occur. Additional study (either in the context of an expanded Initial Study, negative declaration, or EIR) will assist project evaluators in determining whether the project impact falls above or below the significance threshold. The significance threshold identifies the level of impact over which mitigation (or a Statement of Overriding Considerations, if mitigation is not feasible) is required.

By defining screening criteria and significance thresholds, the *Thresholds Guide* provides guidance in determining the appropriate environmental document required for a project within the City of Los Angeles – negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report (EIR) – and whether a project’s impacts would be presumed significant under normal circumstances, and therefore, require mitigation. The existence of screening criteria and significance thresholds may also encourage project proponents to incorporate impact-reducing measures into project designs, prior to submitting project applications to the City, to reduce potential impacts below the significance level.

The screening criteria and significance thresholds presented in the *Thresholds Guide* are based on a variety of factors, including existing local, state, and federal regulations, administrative practices of other public agencies, and commonly accepted professional standards (common practice). Each threshold was then reviewed with respect to meeting the following goals: objectivity and applicability, defensibility, practicality, nexus between impacts and mitigation, and legal liability. This document, therefore, represents a compilation of existing information and practices and does not introduce new evaluation methods, nor does it diminish the value of independent judgment on the part of the project evaluator. However, the guidance provided in the *Thresholds Guide* can simplify the CEQA process by providing a consistent set of criteria applicable to most discretionary projects in the City. Because evaluation practices continue to evolve due to changing regulations, scientific methods, and court decisions, the project evaluator and lead City agency should always use the best information and evaluation methods available, including those from sources other than the *Thresholds Guide*.

¹ *City of Los Angeles, General Plan Framework Element, Policy 3.1.9, page 3-8.*

There are three types of significance thresholds identified in the *Thresholds Guide*: quantitative, qualitative, and case-by-case (also called factors for consideration). Quantitative thresholds provide a measurable criterion with which to compare one or more characteristics of the proposed project, such as “the vehicle-to-capacity ratio increase at a study intersection is greater than 0.020.” A qualitative threshold requires comparison to non-numerical criteria, such as “interference with a wildlife movement corridor.” For some issue areas, a definitive threshold could not be established, either because the significance of impacts is specific to site conditions or project operations, or because there is no consistent technical guidance available. For these issues, the case-by-case thresholds provide factors for the project evaluator to consider, in light of specific project circumstances, in the determination of significance.

The *Thresholds Guide* does not identify thresholds for all issues found in the State’s Initial Study Checklist, but focuses on those that are most commonly of concern throughout the City. In addition, the *Thresholds Guide* provides information on the topic of Shading, which is not listed in the Initial Study Checklist. It also provides expanded information on transportation issues, consistent with the City Department of Transportation’s traffic study policies and procedures.

The impact resulting from a particular action depends on the project setting, design, and operational components. Therefore, the use of the *Thresholds Guide* may be appropriate for projects located within City boundaries under “normal” conditions, but there may be circumstances in which another set of criteria better applies to the proposed action or setting, and should be used for the determination of significance. For City-sponsored projects located outside City boundaries, City departments conducting CEQA review must consider the local environmental setting, as well as applicable regulations and policies, and determine if another set of criteria applies or is more appropriate.

Since conditions may vary depending upon the type of project and/or approval that is required, the lead City agency responsible for the implementation of CEQA for a particular project may develop internal departmental direction (e.g., thresholds), not inconsistent with the guidance in the *Thresholds Guide*, to address issues that commonly arise within the jurisdiction of that department. Project applicants should consult with the lead City department regarding any additional or further defined screening criteria or significance thresholds that may apply.

The case study and flowcharts in Exhibits 1-4 illustrate the process of using the screening criteria and significance thresholds, and how their use relates to the Initial Study Checklist and the impact evaluation process. The exhibits all assume that a project is not exempt from CEQA

requirements. The case study (Exhibit 1) assesses operational noise impacts for four project types by posing a series of questions about each “project.” This exercise concludes with an Initial Study evaluation and a determination of the type of CEQA document appropriate for that project. The flowcharts (Exhibits 2-4) describe the steps in conceptual terms, focusing on three phases of the CEQA process: 1) the Initial Study Checklist Process (using the screening and significance criteria to determine which boxes to check on the Checklist); 2) the Initial Study Determination (what type of CEQA document to prepare); and 3) the Impact Evaluation and Mitigation Process. The impact from a particular project may fall (a) below the screening criteria, (b) between the screening criteria and the significance threshold, or (c) above the significance threshold.

Exhibit 1 CASE STUDY: OPERATIONAL NOISE

Initial Study Checklist Questions

X.a): Would the proposal result in increases in existing noise levels?

X.b): Would the proposal result in exposure of people to severe noise levels?

Initial Study Screening Criteria

- Would the proposed project introduce a stationary noise source that is likely to be audible beyond the property line of the project site?
- Would the project include 75 or more dwelling units or 100,000 square feet (sf) or greater of nonresidential development, or have the potential to generate 1,000 or more average daily vehicle trips (ADT)?

Significance Threshold

A project would normally have a significant impact on noise levels from project operation if the project causes the ambient noise level measured at the property line of an affected use to increase by 3 decibels (dBA) or more in community noise equivalency level (CNEL) to or within the "normally unacceptable" or "clearly unacceptable" category of the noise exposure chart prepared by the California Department of Health Services (DHS), or any 5 dBA or greater noise increase.

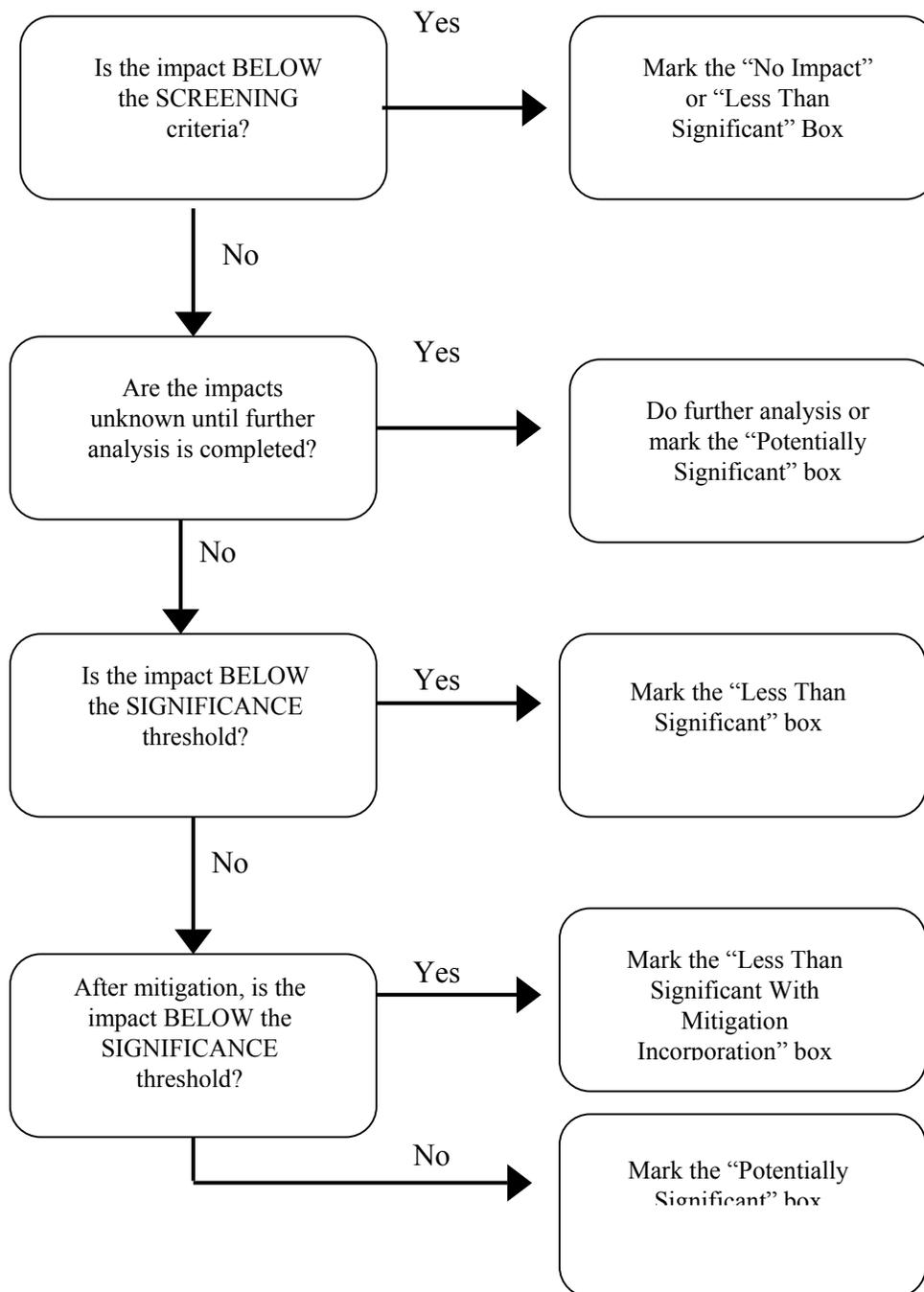
Case	Introduce Stationary Source with Noise Emissions Audible Beyond Property Line?	Include more than 75 du, 100,000 sf nonresidential, or 1,000 ADT?	Increase in Ambient Level?	Increase Remaining After Mitigation	Initial Study Evaluation	Results/ Document Prepared
1	No	No	-	-	No Impact	Neg Dec
2	No	Yes	2 dBA	-	Less Than Significant Impact	Neg Dec
3	Yes	No	5 dBA	2.5 dBA	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Mitigated Neg Dec
4	Yes	Yes	7 dBA	5 dBA	Potentially Significant Impact	EIR

Notes: Assumes project is not exempt under CEQA.

The noise exposure chart prepared by the DHS is reproduced in the *Thresholds Guide*.

If the noise level before and/or after mitigation is not known or cannot be determined, additional analysis could be undertaken prior to completing the Initial Study Evaluation or within an EIR.

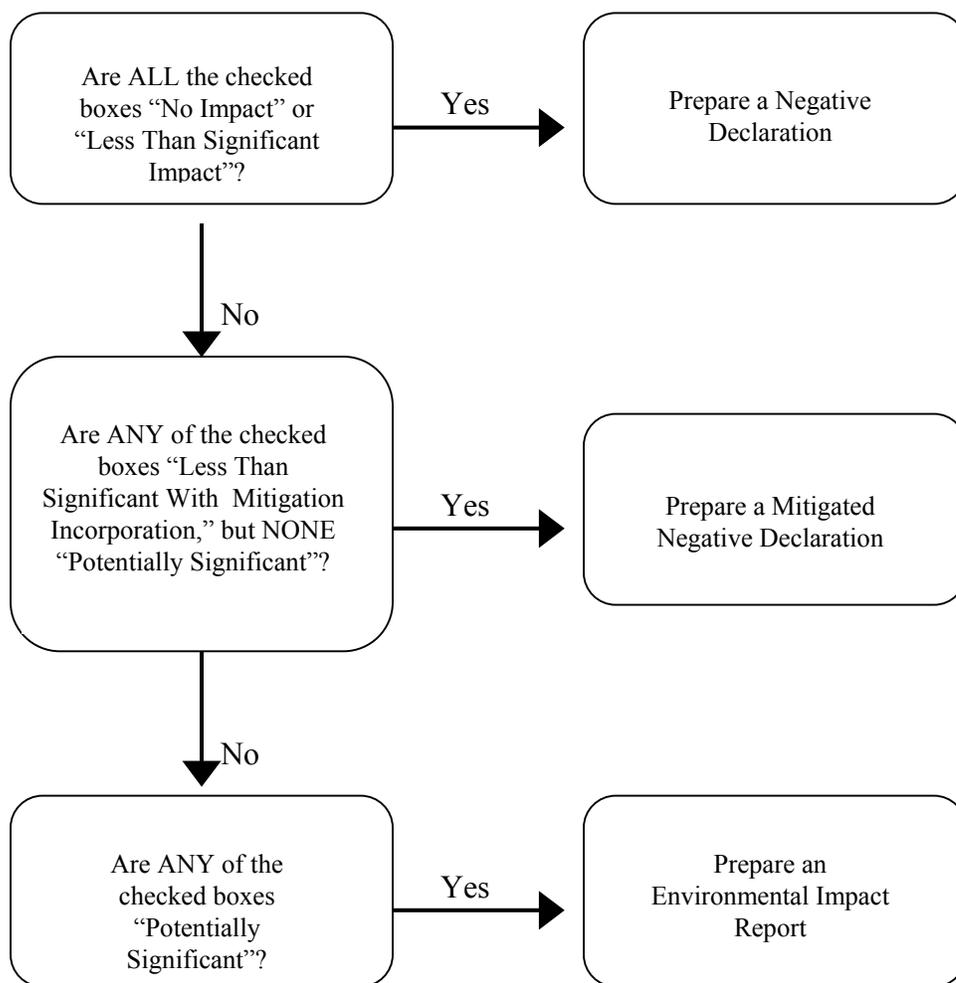
Exhibit 2 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST PROCESS*



*

Assumes the project has had no previous review and is not exempt under CEQA.

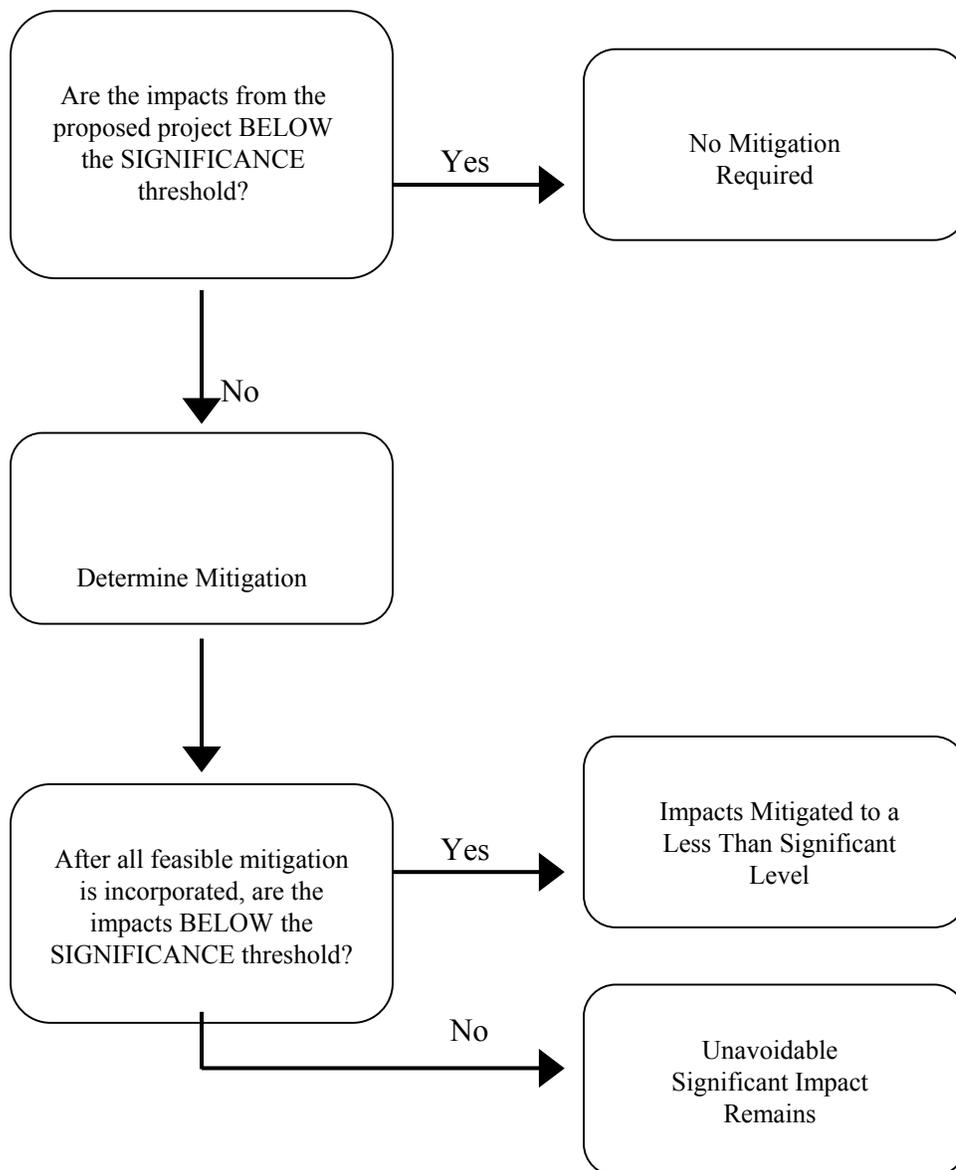
Exhibit 3 INITIAL STUDY DETERMINATION*



*

Assumes the project is not exempt under CEQA.

Exhibit 4 IMPACT EVALUATION AND MITIGATION PROCESS



Note: If a project would result in one or more significant impacts, the lead agency, prior to project approval, must adopt certain findings as stated in CEQA Section 21081. Additional requirements related to mitigation measures are described in Section 21081.6.

DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

The *Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide* is arranged by issue area, generally in the same order in which the issues appear in the State's Initial Study Checklist. The major environmental categories covered in the document are as follows:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology
- Hazards
- Land Use
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Public Utilities
- Transportation
- Visual Resources
- Water Resources

For each environmental issue area, the following information is provided:

1. Initial Study Screening Process

Initial Study Checklist Question: This lists the question(s) from the State's Initial Study Checklist addressed within this issue area.

Introduction: The introduction provides a brief description of the issue area, including what types of project activities could be expected to have an impact, how the resource/issue would be affected, and important regulatory agencies and/or regulations.

Screening Criteria: The screening criteria assist in deciding when further study (additional review) is needed to determine whether a project impact could be significant. It assumes that the project is not exempt from CEQA requirements. Criteria are phrased as yes/no questions. For many issue areas, further study is recommended when one or more questions are answered with a "yes." A "no" response to all questions indicates that further study is not required, and there would normally be no significant impact from the proposed project on the subject issue.

Evaluation of Screening Criteria: This section contains any additional information needed to apply the screening criteria and identifies references that may be used in the evaluation.

2. Determination of Significance

Significance Threshold: The significance threshold provides guidance in determining whether or not a project impact would be significant. The threshold assumes that a project

exceeds the screening criteria. The quantitative and qualitative thresholds are phrased in the positive, so that if the project meets one or more of the criteria listed (a “yes” response), it would normally be considered to have a significant impact on the environment. Where a definitive threshold is not available, the *Thresholds Guide* provides case-by-case thresholds which consist of a list of conditions or criteria to be considered for an individual determination of significance.

Environmental Setting: This section identifies the type of information that is appropriate for a project setting or background section.

Project Impacts: This section provides a recommended methodology with which to analyze the proposed project, including the identification and evaluation of direct and indirect impacts, as appropriate, that may occur during construction or operation. It also identifies sources of relevant information and technical resources, and provides the basic steps to follow in the analysis. Impact methodologies are assumed to apply to both project level and plan level analyses unless otherwise specified. Other analysis methods may be appropriate, depending on project circumstances.

Cumulative Impacts: This section presents a method to evaluate cumulative impacts, based on either a related projects list or a planned development approach (the amount of overall growth expected for the project area, according to planning documents or forecasts, by the time of project completion). The methodology describes only the type of analysis that is appropriate and does not address the size or location of related projects to consider in the analysis. In cases where the methodology is the same as that for project impacts, the project impact section is referenced rather than repeating the information.

Sample Mitigation Measures: This section provides a sample list of measures that may be used to reduce project impacts. It does not address specific mitigation measures for certain project types, nor does it recommend or prioritize mitigation measures. Consideration of alternative projects (e.g., smaller scale, different uses) to reduce impacts is assumed to be part of the project alternatives analysis required in an EIR and is not included in the sample mitigation measures listed in the *Thresholds Guide*.

3. Data, Resources, and References

This section provides additional information related to the environmental issue. It may contain references to agencies or others with expertise in the subject area, reference documents, and selected legislation. For references that do not identify an agency or author, the entry refers to the City of Los Angeles. Several sections also provide exhibits and/or supplemental background information that illustrates or further explains concepts addressed in the section.

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**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE**

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTION	THRESHOLDS GUIDE SECTION
I. AESTHETICS: <i>Would the project:</i>	
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	A.1 Aesthetics A.2 Obstruction of Views
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	A.1 Aesthetics E.3 Landform Alterations
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	A.1 Aesthetics A.3 Shading
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	(Glare Not Addressed) A.4 Nighttime Illumination

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTION	THRESHOLDS GUIDE SECTION
<p>II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES: <i>In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:</i></p>	<p>(Agriculture Not Addressed)</p>
<p>III. AIR QUALITY: <i>Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:</i></p>	
<p>a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?</p>	<p>B.1 Construction Emissions B.2 Operational Emissions B.3 Toxic Air Contaminants</p>
<p>b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?</p>	<p>B.1 Construction Emissions B.2 Operational Emissions B.3 Toxic Air Contaminants</p>

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued

<u>INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTION</u>	<u>THRESHOLDS GUIDE SECTION</u>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	B.1 Construction Emissions B.2 Operational Emissions
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	B.1 Construction Emissions B.2 Operational Emissions B.3 Toxic Air Contaminants
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	B.2 Operational Emissions
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: <i>Would the project:</i>	
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	C. Biological Resources

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

<u>INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTION</u>	<u>THRESHOLDS GUIDE SECTION</u>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	C. Biological Resources
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal	C. Biological Resources
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	C. Biological Resources
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	C. Biological Resources
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	C. Biological Resources

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: *Would the project:*

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----|---------------------------|
| a) | Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in '15064.5? | D.3 | Historical Resources |
| b) | Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to '15064.5? | D.2 | Archaeological Resources |
| c) | Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | D.1 | Paleontological Resources |
| | | E.3 | Landform Alterations |
| d) | Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? | D.2 | Archaeological Resources |

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

VI. GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS: *Would the project:*

a)	Expose people to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:		
i)	Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publications 42.	E.1	Geologic Hazards
ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?	E.1	Geologic Hazards
iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	E.1	Geologic Hazards
iv)	Landslides?	E.1	Geologic Hazards
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	E.2	Sedimentation and Erosion
c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	E.1	Geologic Hazards

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks of life or property?	Not Addressed
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	E.3 Landform Alteration
VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: <i>Would the project:</i>		
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	F.1 Risk of Upset/Emergency Preparedness F.2 Human Health Hazards
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	F.1 Risk of Upset/Emergency Preparedness F.2 Human Health Hazards
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	F.2 Human Health Hazards

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	F.2	Human Health Hazards
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	F.1 K.2	Risk of Upset/Emergency Preparedness Fire Protection & Emergency Medical Services
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working within the project area?	F.1 K.2	Risk of Upset/Emergency Preparedness Fire Protection & Emergency Medical Services
g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	F.1 K.2	Risk of Upset/Emergency Preparedness Fire Protection & Emergency Medical Services
h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	K.2	Fire Protection & Emergency Medical Services

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: *Would the project:*

a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	G.2	Surface Water Quality
b)	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	G.2 G.3	Surface Water Quality Groundwater Level
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	G.1 G.2	Surface Water Hydrology Surface Water Quality
d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	G.1	Surface Water Hydrology

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	G.1	Surface Water Hydrology
f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	G.3	Groundwater Level
g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal flood hazard Boundary or flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	G.1 G.2 G.3 G.4	Surface Water Hydrology Surface Water Quality Groundwater Level Groundwater Quality
h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	G.4	Groundwater Quality
i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	G.1 G.3	Surface Water Hydrology Groundwater Level
j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	E.1 G.3	Geologic Hazards Groundwater Level

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING: <i>Would the project:</i>		
a)	Physically divide an established community?	H.2 Land Use Compatibility
b)	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding mitigating an environmental effect?	H.1 Land Use Consistency H.2 Land Use Compatibility
c)	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	H.1 Land Use Consistency H.2 Land Use Compatibility
X. MINERAL RESOURCES: <i>Would the project:</i>		
a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	E.4 Mineral Resources
b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, general plan, or other land use plan?	E.4 Mineral Resources

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

XI. NOISE: *Would the project result in:*

- | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|--|
| a) | Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? | I.1
I.2
I.3
I.4 | Construction Noise
Operational Noise
Railroad Noise
Airport Noise |
| b) | Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | I.1
I.2
I.3
I.4 | Construction Noise
Operational Noise
Railroad Noise
Airport Noise |
| c) | A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? | I.2
I.3
I.4 | Operational Noise
Railroad Noise
Airport Noise |
| d) | A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above the existing without the project? | I.1
I.2
I.3
I.4 | Construction Noise
Operational Noise
Railroad Noise
Airport Noise |

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	I.1 I.2 I.4	Construction Noise Operational Noise Airport Noise
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	I.1 I.2 I.4	Construction Noise Operational Noise Airport Noise

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING: *Would the project:*

a)	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	J.1	Population and Housing Growth
b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	J.1 J.2	Population and Housing Growth Population and Housing Displacement
c)	Displace substantial numbers of existing people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere	J.2	Population and Housing Displacement

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES: *Would the project:*

a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the above public services:

i) Fire protection?	K.2	Fire Protection & Emergency Medical Services
ii) Police protection	K.1	Police Protection
iii) Schools?	K.3	Public Schools
iv) Parks?	K.4	Recreation and Parks
v) Other public facilities?	K.5	Libraries

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

XIV. RECREATION:

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|----------------------|
| a) | Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the family would occur or be accelerated? | K.4 | Recreation and Parks |
| b) | Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | K.4 | Recreation and Parks |

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC: *Would the project:*

- | | | | |
|----|---|---------------------------------|--|
| a) | Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections?) | L.1
L.2
L.3
L.4
L.8 | Intersection Capacity
Street Segment Capacity
Freeway Capacity
Neighborhood Intrusion Impacts
In-Street Construction Impacts |
| b) | Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? | L.1
L.2
L.3 | Intersection Capacity
Street Segment Capacity
Freeway Capacity |

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued

c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	Not Addressed
d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	Not Addressed
e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	L.5 Project Access
f)	Result in inadequate parking capacity?	L.7 Parking
g)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	L.6 Transit System Capacity
XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: <i>Would the project:</i>		
a)	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	M.2 Wastewater
b)	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	G.1 Surface Water Hydrology M.1 Water M.2 Wastewater

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	G.1	Surface Water Hydrology
d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	M.2	Wastewater
e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	M.1	Water
f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	K.2	Wastewater
g)	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	K.3	Solid Waste
		M.3	Solid Waste

**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS AND
RELATED SECTIONS IN L.A. CEQA THRESHOLDS GUIDE, continued**

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE: *Does the project:*

- a) Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
- b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?
- c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

All sections, particularly:
 C. Biological Resources
 D.1 Paleontological Resources
 D.2 Archaeological Resources
 D.3 Historical Resources

All Sections

Not addressed specifically, each section addresses indirectly

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ACEC	Areas of Critical Concern
ACM	asbestos-containing material
ACOE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
ADT	average daily traffic
AEM	Area Equivalent Method
AEP	Association of Environmental Professionals
AF	acre feet
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
AQ-TAN	Air Quality Technical Analysis Note
ARMR	Archaeological Resource Management Reports
ASTM	American Society of Testing Methods
ATSAC	Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control
AVORS	Additional Valley Outfall Relief Sewer
AVR	average vehicle ridership
BACM	Best Available Control Measures
BACT	Best Available Control Technologies
Basin	South Coast Air Basin
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practices
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments
CAC	California Administrative Code
CAL3QHC	air quality model
California Register	California Register of Historical Resources
CALINE/4	air quality model
CalOSHA	California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAP	Clean Air Program
CAPCOA	California Air Pollution Control Officers Association
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBD	Central Business District
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CCSCE	Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy
CDD	Community Development Department
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDMG	California Division of Mines and Geology
CEQ	Council of Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGC	California Government Code
CHAS	Comprehensive Housing Affordability Study
CHC	Cultural Heritage Commission
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
CIS	Coastal Interceptor Sewer

List of Abbreviations/Acronyms, continued

CiSWMPP	City Solid Waste Management Policy Plan
CIWMB	California Integrated Waste Management Board
CMA	Critical Movement Analysis
CMP	Congestion Management Program
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
COS	Central Outfall Sewer
CRA	Community Redevelopment Agency
CRV	California Redemption Value
cu.yd.	cubic yards
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWC	California Water Code
D/C	demand to capacity
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel scale
DFO	Designated Federal Official
DHS	Department of Health Services
DMV	California Department of Motor Vehicles
DOF	Department of Finance
DOT	United States Department of Transportation
DWP	Department of Water and Power
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EAD	Environmental Affairs Department
EDI	City of Los Angeles Environmental Data Index
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMFAC	emission factors
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERCs	Emission Reduction Credits
EVIS	East Valley Interceptor Sewer
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FAR	Federal Aviation Regulation
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
FLMPA	Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976
gpcd	gallons per capita per day
gpd	gallons per day
gpm	gallons per minute
Gr.sq.ft.	gross square feet
gsf	gross square feet
HABS	Historic American Building Survey
HAPs	Hazardous Air Pollutants
HI	hazard index

List of Abbreviations/Acronyms, continued

HNM	Helicopter Noise Model
HOV	high occupancy vehicles
HPOZ	Historic Preservation Overlay Zone
HRA	health risk assessment
HSC	Health and Safety Code
HTP	Hyperion Treatment Plant
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
HVAC	heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
ICO	interim control ordinance
INM	Integrated Noise Model
ISWM	Integrated Solid Waste Management
ISWMO	Integrated Solid Waste Management Office
ITE	Institute of Transportation Engineers
IWG	Interagency Working Group
L.A.	Los Angeles
LACMTA	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
LADOT	Los Angeles Department of Transportation
LAFD	Los Angeles Fire Department
LAGWRP	Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant
LAMC	Los Angeles Municipal Code
LAPD	Los Angeles Police Department
LAPL	Los Angeles Public Library
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
LAUSD	Los Angeles Unified School District
LAX	Los Angeles International Airport
Ldn	Day-Night Sound Level
LEQV2	noise model
LGC	Local Government Commission
LOS	level of service
LUPAMS	Land Use Planning and Mapping System
LUST	leaking underground storage tank
MAAQI	Mobile Assessment for Air Quality Impacts
MACT	Maximum Achievable Control Technology
MFI	Median Family Income
mgd	million gallons per day
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
mph	miles per hour
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
MUTCD	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
MWD	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standard
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990
National Register	National Register of Historic Places
NCHRP	National Cooperative Highway Research Program
NCOS-NOS	North Central Outfall Sewer-North Outfall Sewer

List of Abbreviations/Acronyms, continued

NEJAC	National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NESHAPs	National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NORS	North Outfall Replacement Sewer
NOS	North Outfall Sewer
NOS-LCSFVRS	North Outfall Sewer-La Cienega, San Fernando Valley Relief Sewer
NO _x	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NSPS	New Source Performance Standard
NSR	New Source Review
OEJ	Office of Environmental Justice
OHP	California Office of Historic Preservation
OPR	Office of Planning and Research
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Pb	lead
PM	particulate matter
PM ₁₀	coarse particulates
PM _{2.5}	fine particulates
POD	Pedestrian Oriented District
PRC	Public Resources Code
RACM	Reasonably Available Control Measures
RCP&G	Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide
RD	Reporting District
RECLAIM	Regional Clean Air Incentives Market
ROG	Reactive Organic Gas
ROW	right-of-way
RTCs	RECLAIM Trading Credits
RTIP	Regional Transportation Improvement Program
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SANDAG	San Diego Association of Governments
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SEA	Significant Ecological Area
sf	square feet
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SMGB	State Mining and Geology Board
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SOCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SOUND32	noise model
SOV	single occupant vehicle
SO _x	sulfur oxides
sq.ft.	square feet

List of Abbreviations/Acronyms, continued

SRRE	Source Reduction and Recycling Element
TDM	Transportation Demand Management
The Gas Company	Southern California Gas Company
TIA	Transportation Impact Assessment
TITP	Terminal Island Treatment Plant
TOD	Transit Oriented District
TRB	Transportation Research Board
TSM	Transportation System Management
TSP	Transportation Specific Plan
TWRP	Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant
U.S.	United States
UCLA	University of California at Los Angeles
ULARA	Upper Los Angeles River Area
ULI	Urban Land Institute
USAF	United States Air Force
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
V/C	Volume to Capacity
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
WDR	Waste Discharge Requirements
ZI	Zoning Information

GLOSSARY

Alternatives - A range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain the project's objectives but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project. The comparative merits of the alternatives are evaluated in an EIR or EIS.

Applicant - A legal entity or person who proposes to carry out a project and needs a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use, or who is requesting financial assistance from one or more public agencies to carry out a project.

Approval - The action by a decision-making body, which commits the City to a definite course of action with regard to a project, intended to be carried out by any person.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) - Statute enacted by the California legislature contained in the California Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq. The *Thresholds Guide* provides guidance on the determination of significant impacts, one provision of CEQA.

California Law – California Law consists of 29 codes, covering various subject areas, the State Constitution and Statutes. Codes included the following: Business and Professions Code, Civil Code, Code of Civil Procedure, Commercial Code, Corporations Code, Education code, Election Code, Evidence Code, Family Code, Financial Code, Fish and Game Code, Food and Agricultural Code, Government Code, Harbors and Navigation Code, Health and

Safety Code, Insurance Code, Labor Code, Military and Veterans Code, Penal Code, Probate Code, Public Contract Code, Public Resources Code, Public Utilities Code, Revenue and Taxation Code, Streets and Highways Code, Unemployment Insurance Code, Vehicle Code, Water Code, and Welfare and Institutions Code.

Categorical Exemption - An exemption from the requirements of CEQA based on a finding by the Secretary For Resources and the Los Angeles City Council that certain types of projects do not have a significant effect on the environment.

CEQA Guidelines - The CEQA Guidelines provide agencies with criteria and procedures for the evaluation of projects and the preparation of environmental documents. The State CEQA Guidelines are contained in Title 14, Division 6 of the California Administrative Code. The Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines are adopted by ordinance of the City Council.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) - is a codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the Executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government. The CFR is divided into 50 titles, which represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. Each title is divided into chapters, which usually bear the name of the issuing agency. Each chapter is further subdivided into parts covering specific regulatory areas. Large parts may be subdivided into subparts.

Community Plan – A portion of the General Plan that focuses on the setting and

needs of a particular area. It supports the policies of the General Plan. Los Angeles has 35 Community Planning Areas. The 35 Community Plans make up the City's Land Use Element.

Decision-Making Body - A group or individual having project approval authority.

Discretionary Project - An activity defined as a project which requires the exercise of judgment, deliberation, or a decision on the part of the public agency or body in the process of approving or disapproving a particular activity, as distinguished from activities where the public agency or body merely has to determine whether there has been compliance with applicable statutes, ordinances, or regulations.

Entitlement - Used to describe discretionary land use approval granted by the Planning Department. Includes Zone Variances, Zone Changes, Conditional Use Permits, General Plan Amendments, Specific Plan Exceptions, Subdivisions, Parcel Maps, and Site Plan Review.

Environment - Environment, for the purposes of implementing CEQA, is the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.

Environmental and Public Facilities Maps - Show the location of and describe various environmental features and public facilities. The City Planning Department Citywide Division prepared the 42 maps in 1996.

Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) - An environmental form submitted to the

Environmental Review Section of the City Planning Department which provides the necessary information to determine the recommended environmental clearance for projects requiring any discretionary action.

Environmental Data Index (EDI) - The EDI is a citywide tabular report describing the geographical distribution of a wide array of environmental characteristics on a census tract basis. Data for 30 environmental elements are included. The City Planning Department prepared the EDI in 1978.

Environmental Documents - Environmental documents, according to CEQA, include Initial Study, Negative Declaration, draft and final EIR, Joint EIR/EIS, Notice of Preparation and General Exemption, Notice of Completion, Notice of Determination, and Notice of Exemption.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) - An Environmental Impact Report is a concise statement setting forth the environmental effects and considerations pertaining to a project as specified in Section 21100 of CEQA.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - An Environmental Impact Statement may be required pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) if a federal agency or funding is involved. Like an EIR, an EIS describes the environmental impacts of a proposed project and its alternatives.

Feasible - Feasible means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, social, and technological factors.

Federal Register – The Federal Register is the official daily publication for Rules, Proposed rules, and Notices of Federal agencies and organizations, as well as Executive Orders and other Presidential Documents.

Framework Element – This strategy for long-term growth sets a citywide context to guide the update of the Community Plans and citywide elements of the General Plan. The Framework Element refines adopted City policy and updates and supersedes Concept Los Angeles, a strategy to preserve residential neighborhoods by focusing growth into centers. Approved by City Council in December 1996.

General Exemption - An exemption from the requirements of CEQA is granted if it can be seen with reasonable certainty that the project in question could not possibly have a significant effect on the environment.

General Plan – A “blueprint” for future development with a long-term outlook. Required by State law to be prepared by each county and city and include seven elements: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety. May also include optional elements. Includes policies, goals, objectives, and programs. Development must not only meet specific zoning requirements, but also the broader policies, goals and objectives set forth in the General Plan. The City’s General Plan is organized into the following Elements: Framework; Land Use; Air Quality; Transportation; Housing; Infrastructure Systems; Open Space and Conservation; Noise; Public Facilities and Services; Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources; Safety; and Urban Form and Neighborhood Design.

Initial Study - A comprehensive analysis of those aspects of the environment, which could potentially affect a project or be affected by a project conducted to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency - The public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project. The Lead Agency will prepare the environmental documents for the project either directly or by contract.

Lead City Agency - A Lead City Agency is the City department, bureau, division, section, office, or agency which has the principal responsibility of carrying out a project which is subject to the provisions of CEQA, or has the principal responsibility for processing the application for a lease, permit, license, or other entitlement for use for a project which is subject to the provisions of CEQA. If more than one City Agency meets the Lead City Agency criteria, the Lead City Agency shall be the City Agency that normally acts first on such projects.

Ministerial Project - Activities undertaken by public agencies pursuant to a statute, ordinance, or regulation that sets forth the conditions upon which the undertaking must or must not be granted. A ministerial decision involves only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without professional judgment.

Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) - When significant impacts may occur as a result of the implementation of a project, but mitigation and/or project modification reduce impacts to a less than significant level, then a Mitigated Negative Declaration

is issued with discussion and conditions attached.

Mitigation - Mitigation includes avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment; reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; or compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - The National Environmental Policy Act is the federal law requiring an environmental assessment for federal actions that involve impacts on the environment. NEPA is set forth in 42 U.S.C.A. 4321 et seq.

Negative Declaration (ND) - A statement by the Lead Agency briefly setting forth the reasons why the project, although not otherwise exempt, will not have a significant effect on the environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an EIR.

Notice of Completion (NOC) - A brief notice filed with the State Clearinghouse in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research by a Lead Agency as soon as it has completed a draft EIR and is prepared to send out copies for review.

Notice of Determination (NOD) - A public notice filed with the City and County Clerk by the Lead City Agency after a project subject to the provisions of CEQA and involving a Negative Declaration, Mitigated

Negative Declaration or an EIR has been approved.

Notice of Exemption (NOE) - A public notice which may be filed with the City and County Clerk by a Lead City Agency after the decision-making body has approved a project and has determined that it is a ministerial, categorically exempt, or emergency project, or is otherwise exempted pursuant to the provisions of Section 21080 (b) of the California Public Resources Code.

Notice of Preparation (NOP) - A brief notice sent by a Lead City Agency to notify Responsible Agencies and interested parties that the Lead City Agency plans to prepare an EIR for a proposed project.

Office of Planning and Research (OPR) - Assists in the understanding and implementation of CEQA by (1) preparing and updating the State CEQA Guidelines; (2) evaluating Categorical Exemptions; (3) distributing documents to state agencies through the State Clearinghouse; (4) coordinating between other public agencies; and (5) preparing and distributing publications related to the understanding and use of CEQA.

Participating City Agency - A City department, bureau, division, section, office, officer, or agency, which is required by Charter or action of the City Council to review a particular class of projects and make comments or recommendations to the Lead City Agency.

Responsible Agency - A public agency, such as a city or county, which proposes to carry out or has approval power over a project, but is not the Lead Agency for the project.

Significant Effect - A substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the proposed activity including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. This *Thresholds Guide* is intended to assist in the determination of significant effects.

Specific Plan – describes the allowable land uses, identifies open space, and details infrastructure availability and financing for a portion of a community. Specific plans implement, but are not technically a part of the General Plan. Los Angeles has various specific plans throughout the City, such as West Los Angeles, Warner Center, etc.

State Clearinghouse - In the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. Responsible for distributing environmental documents to state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions for review and comment. Coordinates the responses to ensure accurate and consistent responses from the state.

Statement of Overriding Considerations - A statement with findings identifying public objectives that, in the opinion of the decision-making body, warrant approval of a project notwithstanding its significant adverse impact(s) on the environment.

Statutory Exemption - Exemption from the requirements of CEQA based on the determination by the California Legislature that a specific type of project should be exempt from CEQA.

Zoning – The purpose of zoning regulations is to implement the policies of the General Plan. Zoning lists the kinds of uses allowed on a parcel and sets standards such as

minimum lot size, maximum building height, and minimum front yard depth. Zoning must comply with the general plan, is adopted by ordinance, and carries the weight of local law. The City's Zoning is found in Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC).