

# CHAPTER 3 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

## 3.1 INTRODUCTION

### 3.1.1 ORGANIZATION OF CHAPTER 3

This section provides an overview of the organization and content of the environmental analysis for the K Line Northern Extension (KNE) project.

Sections 3.2 through 3.19 of Chapter 3 discuss the environmental impacts as defined under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that may result from implementation of KNE, as well as proposed mitigation measures that would reduce significant impacts to less than significant levels to the extent feasible. Significant impacts that cannot be reduced to a less than significant level with mitigation are identified as significant and unavoidable impacts of the project.

Chapter 3 includes evaluation of the following environmental resources:

- Section 3.2, Aesthetics
- Section 3.3, Air Quality
- Section 3.4, Biological Resources
- Section 3.5, Communities, Population and Housing
- Section 3.6, Cultural and Paleontological Resources
- Section 3.7, Energy
- Section 3.8, Geology and Soils
- Section 3.9, Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Section 3.10, Growth Inducing Impacts
- Section 3.11, Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Section 3.12, Hydrology and Water Quality
- Section 3.13, Land Use and Planning
- Section 3.14, Noise and Vibration
- Section 3.15, Public Services and Recreation
- Section 3.16, Transportation
- Section 3.17, Tribal Cultural Resources
- Section 3.18, Utilities and Service Systems
- Section 3.19, Cumulative Impacts

### 3.1.2 CHAPTER 3 FORMAT AND CONTENT

For the environmental resources where it was determined that no impact would occur (i.e., Agriculture and Forestry Resources and Wildfire), a brief evaluation of the impact determination is provided in Chapter 4, Other CEQA Required Topics. For each resource evaluated in detail in Chapter 3, the format and content are as follows:

- **Regulatory Framework:** This section provides an overview of the relevant federal, state, regional, and local laws and regulations that apply to the project.
- **Methodology:** This section describes the methods and tools that were used to assess existing conditions and identify how potential impacts for each resource were determined.
  - ▶ **Significance Thresholds:** This section lists the CEQA thresholds used to determine the significance of each project impact.

- **Resource Study Area:** This section defines the resource study areas in which all existing conditions investigations and environmental impact assessments are conducted.
- **Existing Setting:** This section describes the existing conditions for each environmental resource. As per Section 15125(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, the environmental setting is used to establish the baseline physical conditions by which the impacts associated with the project are evaluated. The environmental setting is generally based on the environmental conditions that existed when the Notice of Preparation for the project was published on April 15, 2021, with exceptions as noted in the individual resource analyses.
- **Project Measures:** This section lists the project measures relevant to the resource that would be implemented as part of all proposed alignments, the design option, and the maintenance and storage facility, where available. Project measures are design features, best management practices, or other commitments that the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority would implement to reduce or avoid environmental effects associated with project construction and operation. See Appendix 3.1-A for a full list of project measures.
- **Impact Evaluation and Mitigation Measures:** This section provides an evaluation of impacts associated with the project and identifies whether the impacts would exceed relevant thresholds of significance. Impact significance is determined without consideration of mitigation measures, and if mitigation measures are identified as required for significant impacts, impact significance conclusions are also provided following application of mitigation measures.