
4.8 Other Issue Areas

This section addresses the issue area that would have no impact or less than significant impacts. These issue areas include aesthetics, agricultural resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, population and housing, and recreation. The analysis presented in this section is based upon the information contained in the application and other document used in generating this EIR.

4.8.1 Aesthetics

No changes would be made to the Santa Maria Refinery that would change its appearance from public areas or would introduce additional use, glare or night lighting or impact geological features of the area. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

4.8.2 Agricultural Resources

The Proposed Project would not convert existing agricultural land to other uses, or impair agricultural use of nearby lands, or conflict with existing zoning. Impacts would, therefore, be considered less than significant.

4.8.3 Cultural Resources

The Proposed Project would not disturb pre-historic, historic, or paleontological resources as no excavation or grading would be expected. Therefore, impacts are considered to be less than significant.

4.8.4 Geology and Soils

The Proposed Project would not involve soil movement or grading, and therefore would not result in exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions, result in soil erosion, topographic changes, loss of topsoil or unstable soil conditions. The Proposed Project would also not change rates of soil absorption, or the amount or direction of surface runoff or change the drainage patterns. The Santa Maria Refinery is not located in a flood hazard zone, as per County maps, and is not located in a California Department of Mines & Geology Earthquake Fault Zone. Impacts to geology would, therefore, be less than significant.

4.8.5 Population and Housing

The Proposed Project would not introduce any additional employees or substantial construction to the area and would, therefore, not induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g., through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure), would not displace existing housing or people, requiring construction of replacement housing elsewhere or create the need for substantial new housing in the area. The Proposed Project would

also not use substantial amounts of fuel or energy as modifications to the Refinery would not be substantial. Therefore, impacts would be considered less than significant.

4.8.6 Recreation

The Proposed Project would not increase the demand for parks or trails or affect the access to recreational area, including the Pismo Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. Therefore, impacts would be considered less than significant.

4.8.7 Biological Resources

The Proposed Project does not include any construction, renovation or development and, therefore, would not increase impacts to biological resources compared to the current operations at the Santa Maria Facility. Therefore, impacts of the Proposed Project would be less than significant.