

3. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

This chapter provides a programmatic analysis of the potential environmental impacts of implementing the proposed Lower Putah Creek Restoration Project, Upper Reach Program (Project). As described in Chapter 1, *Introduction*, of this Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), the approach to analyzing the Project's environmental impacts is programmatic because the program presents a program of proposed activities over a period from approximately 2015 to 2030. The proposed Project consists of the implementation of a combination of stream restoration and habitat enhancement activities along approximately 24 miles of Lower Putah Creek.

The programmatic analysis of Project impacts addresses potential impacts related to all aspects of the restoration program, as described in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, of this EIR. Much of the project description is presented at a programmatic level of detail, meaning that the project description lacks the detail that will be available when each of the specific restoration projects are proposed. Thus, to conduct this California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis, assumptions were made about the results of implementing the proposed project. These assumptions are discussed in Chapter 2, *Project Description*.

The structure of the analysis is similar for each environmental issue. The analysis starts with a discussion of the existing environmental setting, and is followed by a programmatic discussion of potentially significant adverse effects resulting from implementation of the proposed Project. A table summarizing potential impacts and applicable mitigation measures for each reach follows the text discussion.

Each issue analysis includes the following sub-sections:

- **Environmental Setting:** This section describes the existing conditions of the environmental issue being analyzed, and includes a general setting and reach-specific settings for each of the 15 project reaches.
- **Regulatory Setting:** This section describes the applicable federal, state, regional, and local regulations related to the environmental issue being analyzed.

- **Thresholds of Significance:** Thresholds for analysis are independently determined by considering the regional context and the setting. This section presents the guidelines used to determine significance for each issue area.
- **Impacts and Mitigation Measures:** This section presents the evaluation methodology and the analysis of each specific environmental issue area. It then identifies any potentially significant environmental impacts or explains why an impact would not occur. Mitigation measures are identified for any potentially significant impacts that were identified. This section first identified general impacts and mitigation measures for the entire program then identifies impacts and mitigation measures applicable to each of the specific reaches.