4. Major Potential Environmental and Safety Issues:

- Marine Water Quality

  The EIR will analyze the potential impacts to water quality and to water column chemistry in the Carquinez Strait from oil spills.

  The potential exists for accidental discharge into surface waters as crude oil flows between the refinery and the offshore terminal, and as the crude oil is transported to and from the terminal by marine vessels. The potential for and impacts of such accidents on water quality and marine organisms will be analyzed in the Biological and System Safety and Reliability section of the EIR.

- Marine Biology and Fisheries/Terrestrial Biology

  Plant and animal life, including rare or endangered species and species of concern along the shore, could be impacted by accidental spills. The potential for impacts on these resources by spills of different sizes, types, e.g. crude oil versus refined product, and locations, will be analyzed in the EIR.

  If ballast water loaded onto the tanker at another location is discharged at the terminal, new species could be introduced into the environment. This potential will be analyzed in the EIR.

  Continued tanker traffic serving the terminal and operation could, over time, cause deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitats and affect commercial and recreational fishing. This potential will be analyzed in the EIR.

- Public Health and Safety, e.g. Determination of Hazard Footprint of the Terminal

  Handling petroleum cargoes at a marine terminal carries an inherent risk of accidents which may involve fire, explosions and/or spills. The potential adverse health consequences, e.g. exposure to toxic and hazardous substances, fire, explosions or spills, of the continued operation of the facility will be addressed in the System Safety and Reliability section of the EIR.

- Cumulative Activities