

### 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND CHECKLIST

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2 This section contains the Initial Study (IS) that was completed for the proposed  
3 ExxonMobil Production Company (ExxonMobil or Applicant) Santa Ynez Unit (SYU)  
4 Offshore Power System Reliability-B Phase 2 Project (OPSR-B or Project) in  
5 accordance with the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The  
6 IS identifies site-specific conditions and impacts, evaluates their potential significance,  
7 and discusses ways to avoid or lessen impacts that are potentially significant. The  
8 information, analysis and conclusions included in the IS provide the basis for  
9 determining the appropriate document needed to comply with CEQA. For the Project,  
10 based on the analysis and information contained herein, California State Lands  
11 Commission (CSLC) staff have found that the IS shows that there is substantial  
12 evidence that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment but revisions  
13 to the Project would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no  
14 significant effect on the environment would occur. As a result, the CSLC staff has  
15 concluded that a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is the appropriate CEQA  
16 document for the Project.

17 The evaluation of environmental impacts provided in this IS is based in part on the  
18 impact questions contained in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines; these  
19 questions, which are included in an impact assessment matrix for each environmental  
20 category (Aesthetics, Agriculture/Forest Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources,  
21 etc.), are “intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of impacts.” Each question is  
22 followed by a check-marked box with column headings that are defined below.

- 23 • **Potentially Significant Impact.** This column is checked if there is substantial  
24 evidence that a Project-related environmental effect may be significant. If there  
25 are one or more “Potentially Significant Impacts,” a Project Environmental Impact  
26 Report (EIR) would be prepared.
- 27 • **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** This column is checked when the  
28 Project may result in a significant environmental impact, but the incorporation of  
29 identified Project revisions or mitigation measures would reduce the identified  
30 effect(s) to a less than significant level.
- 31 • **Less than Significant Impact.** This column is checked when the Project would  
32 not result in any significant effects. The Project’s impact is less than significant  
33 even without the incorporation of Project-specific mitigation measures.
- 34 • **No Impact.** This column is checked when the Project would not result in any  
35 impact in the category or the category does not apply.

36 The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this Project;  
37 a checked box indicates that at least one impact would be a “Potentially Significant  
38 Impact” except that ExxonMobil has agreed to Project revisions, including the

1 implementation of mitigation measures, that reduce the impact to “Less than Significant  
2 with Mitigation.”

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forest Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources (Terrestrial and Marine)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise
<input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Major Areas of Concern: Commercial Fishing and Environmental Justice		

3 Detailed descriptions and analyses of impacts from Project activities and the basis for  
4 their significance determinations are provided for each environmental factor on the  
5 following pages, beginning with Section 3.1, Aesthetics. Relevant laws, regulations, and  
6 policies potentially applicable to the Project are listed in the Regulatory Setting for each  
7 environmental factor analyzed in this IS/MND.

8 **AGENCY DETERMINATION**

9 Based on the environmental impact analysis provided by this Initial Study:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

  
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Signature

May 30, 2014  
Date

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California State Lands Commission