

1 **3.18 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

2 The lead agency shall find that a project may have a significant effect on the
 3 environment and thereby require an EIR to be prepared for the project where there is
 4 substantial evidence, in light of the whole record, that any of the following conditions
 5 may occur. Where prior to commencement of the environmental analysis a project
 6 proponent agrees to MMs or project modifications that would avoid any significant effect
 7 on the environment or would mitigate the significant environmental effect, a lead agency
 8 need not prepare an EIR solely because without mitigation the environmental effects
 9 would have been significant (per State CEQA Guidelines, § 15065).

| MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE – | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of past, present and probable future projects)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

10 **3.18.1 Discussion of Impacts**

11 **a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the**
 12 **environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species,**
 13 **cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels,**
 14 **threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or**
 15 **restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate**
 16 **important examples of the major periods of California history or**
 17 **prehistory?**

18 **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** Based on the analysis contained in this
 19 EA/MND, impacts to the following environmental issue areas are considered as
 20 having a less than significant or no impact on the environment.

- 1 ▪ Aesthetics/Visual Resources
- 2 ▪ Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- 3 ▪ Air Quality
- 4 ▪ Geology and Soils
- 5 ▪ Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change
- 6 ▪ Land Use and Planning
- 7 ▪ Mineral Resources
- 8 ▪ Noise
- 9 ▪ Population and Housing
- 10 ▪ Public Services
- 11 ▪ Recreation
- 12 ▪ Utilities and Service Systems

13 The results of the EA/MND show that there are less than significant impacts with
14 mitigation measures to the following resources:

15 • **Biological Resources (Desert Wash/Riparian habitat and nesting**
16 **birds).** These impacts will be reduced to less than significant after
17 incorporation of **MM BIO-1, MM BIO-2, MM BIO-3, MM BIO-4, and MM**
18 **BIO-5.** Therefore, the Project would not degrade the quality of the
19 environment and no habitat, wildlife populations, or plant and animal
20 communities would be impacted.

21 • **Cultural and Paleontological Resources/Traditional Cultural**
22 **Properties/Sacred Sites.** Although within the known conditions of the
23 Project area, no impacts are anticipated to Cultural Resources. However,
24 in the event of discovery of cultural and paleontological resources/cultural
25 properties/sacred sites, human remains, and/or historic places, impacts
26 can potentially become significant. To provide assurance that impacts to
27 cultural and paleontological resources/traditional cultural properties/sacred
28 sites would remain less than significant, in the event of discovery, **MM**
29 **CUL-1** and **MM CUL-2** would be implemented.

30 • **Hazards and Hazardous Materials/Human Health and Safety.** Within
31 the known conditions of the Project area, no hazardous materials/human
32 health and safety/contaminants have been identified and no impacts are
33 anticipated. However, in the event of discovery of hazardous
34 materials/contaminants, impacts could potentially become significant. To
35 provide assurance that impacts related to hazards and hazardous
36 materials would remain less than significant, in the event of discovery, **MM**
37 **HHM-1** would be implemented.

38 In addition, the use of fuel based equipment and application of herbicides
39 can pose the potential for spills or overspray. These impacts will be
40 reduced to less than significant after incorporation of **MM HHM-2.**

41 • **Hydrology and Water Quality.** The Project includes activities that could
42 result in toxics being released into the water during dredging, cutting, and

1 grading to create the backwater. This impact would be reduced to less
2 than significant through compliance with **MM HHM-2** and implementation
3 of measures required by other regulatory permits.

4 • **Transportation/Traffic.** The Project may impact transportation/traffic with
5 the implementation of Phase 1 through Phase 2. These impacts will be
6 reduced to less than significant after incorporation of **MM TT-1** and **MM**
7 **TT-2**. Therefore the Project area would not prevent access for Park users
8 and emergency responders to the Project area.

9 **b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but**
10 **cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the**
11 **incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in**
12 **connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current**
13 **projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?**

14 **Less than Significant Impact.** The analysis in this EA/MND demonstrated that
15 the Project would be in compliance with all applicable regional plans including,
16 but not limited to, water quality control plan, air quality maintenance plan, and
17 plans or regulations for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Compliance
18 with these regional plans serves to reduce impacts on a regional basis so that
19 the Project would not result in impacts that considered with the effects of other
20 past, present, and probable foreseeable future projects, would be cumulatively
21 considerable.

22 **c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial**
23 **adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?**

24 **Less than Significant Impact.** As discussed in this EA/MND, the Project would
25 not expose persons to adverse impacts related to Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas
26 Emissions, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Population and Housing, Public
27 Services, Recreation, Transportation/Traffic hazards, or Environmental Justice
28 and Indian Trust Assets or Tribal Lands. These impacts were identified to have
29 no impact or a less than significant impact. Thus, there would be no substantial
30 adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.