

# CHAPTER 15: ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

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## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century requires the transportation planning process to consider projects and strategies that protect and enhance the environment. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires agencies to evaluate the environmental consequences of their proposed actions.

## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

Environmental analysis and development of alternatives to minimize adverse environmental impacts is fundamental to the transportation planning process. Typically a Program or Master Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared for the RTP. An EIR shall be prepared if the action will have a significant effect on the environment. An EIR is required to consider alternatives that would avoid or reduce significant environmental effects. The RTP environmental document must address all CEQA requirements in the detail commensurate with the actions being proposed.

In accordance with CEQA, EDCTC has prepared a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report as a separate document. The CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000-15389) are the implementing regulations for CEQA and provide detailed information on CEQA compliance.

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