

6 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Section 15126.2(b) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines requires a description of any significant adverse impacts resulting from a project, including impacts that cannot be mitigated to below a level of significance. The Beacon's Beach Access Project (project) was evaluated with respect to specific resource areas to determine whether implementation would result in significant adverse impacts.

Specific significance thresholds were defined for each potential impact associated with the resource areas of geology and soils, visual quality/aesthetics, water quality, recreation, public safety, and paleontological resources. Where feasible, mitigation measures were developed to reduce impacts to below a level of significance. Significant unavoidable impacts that would result from the project are identified below.

6.1 GEOLOGY/SOILS

Bluff protection wall projects located along the Encinitas coastline would result in beach erosion impacts similar to those described for the proposed project, including passive erosion and erosion of the tidal terrace. The incremental effects of the proposed project in combination with the other projects evaluated in the study area, is cumulatively considerable. Although the sand replenishment program that would be implemented by the project would mitigate the direct effects at the project site, there are no project-specific mitigation measures that would fully mitigate the cumulative effects in the local region. Therefore, the project would result in significant and unmitigated cumulative impacts related to geology/soils.

6.2 VISUAL QUALITY/AESTHETICS

With respect to visual quality/aesthetics, the other bluff protection wall projects located along the Encinitas coastline have a significant cumulative impact. This impact is related to their adverse contrast with the natural bluff topography, form, and character, and the resulting increase in the manufactured appearance of the local coastline. The incremental effect of the proposed project, in conjunction with the other cumulative projects, is cumulatively considerable. Project-specific mitigation measures would mitigate the direct visual quality impacts of the project. However, there are no measures that would reduce the cumulative impact to below a level of significance.

6.3 RECREATION

Bluff protection wall projects located along the Encinitas coastline would cause impacts to beach erosion similar to those described for the proposed project, including passive erosion and erosion of the tidal terrace. The project's incremental effect on the recreational resource value of the beach areas in the local region is cumulatively considerable. Although the sand replenishment program that would be implemented by the project would mitigate the direct recreational effects at the project site, there are no project-specific mitigation measures that would fully mitigate the cumulative effects in the local region. Therefore, the project would result in significant and unmitigated cumulative impacts on recreation.

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