

3. Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Standards

The laws, regulations, and standards applicable to the proposed Project and its alternatives for visual resources have been identified, and are provided in Appendix C of this Report. The applicable laws, regulations, and standards for visual resource analysis that have been identified was completed using the following two methodologies for lands with different jurisdictions: (1) for non-NFS lands, the visual sensitivity/visual change (VS/VC) methodology was used; and, (2) for NFS lands, the Forest Service Scenery Management System (SMS) methodology, including desired condition and scenic integrity objectives (establishing minimum standards for scenic integrity) was used.

3.1 Federal

Appendix C provides the federal laws, regulations, and standards for visual resources. Table C-1 includes the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing NEPA, and Forest Service Land Management Plan (Forest Plan) standards.

3.2 State

Table C-2 of Appendix C provides the State laws, regulations, and standards for visual resources. Table C-2 includes the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines, California Streets and Highway Code for Scenic Highways, and Chino Hills State Park General Plan guidelines (CHSP General Plan, 2009).

3.3 Local

Table C-3 of Appendix C displays local laws, regulations, and standards for visual resources. Table C-3 includes County General Plans and policies for Kern, Los Angeles, and Orange Counties. It also includes Specific Plans and City Plans for the various jurisdictions that would be crossed by the proposed Project and its alternatives. Because the closest unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County are approximately 1.5 miles away from (north of) the proposed Project ROW, and the proposed Project would not be visible from these areas, no General Plan requirements for San Bernardino County would apply.