

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

This section provides information on existing conditions, evaluates the potential environmental consequences of the Tule Wind Project, and, where applicable, recommends mitigation measures for each environmental category. This environmental document addresses all environmental issue areas considered under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The potential for cumulative impacts is also addressed. Subchapters are organized as follows:

- Affected Environment /Environmental Setting
- Regulatory Setting
- Environmental Consequences / Impact Analysis
- Cumulative Impacts
- CEQA Level of Significance Before Mitigation
- Mitigation Measures
- CEQA Level of Significance After Mitigation
- Comparison of Alternatives

The focus of the environmental analysis in each of the following sections is to address the proposed action and the alternatives to the project as described in Section 2.0, Proposed Action and Alternatives. For the purpose of analysis the project was broken down into three phases: Construction, Operation and Maintenance, and Decommissioning. To reduce the complexity during analysis and to present the information more clearly to the reader, where two or more phases were determined to result in a similar level of impact, a combined discussion is presented. Additionally, where the three phases were determined to result in a different level or type of impact, each one is individually analyzed. All discussions of impacts are identified first by threshold, then by phase.

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