

Chapter 8 Environmental Checklist

GENERAL NOTES:

The CEQA guidelines section 15168 describes Program EIRs and section 15168(c)(4) states, “Where the subsequent activities involve site specific operations, the agency should use a written checklist or similar device to document the evaluation of the site and the activity to determine whether the environmental effects of the operation were covered in the program EIR.” The checklist shall be completed by the lead agency for all VTP projects. The completed checklist will indicate whether the proposed project is in compliance with the Minimum Landscape Constraints, Management Requirements, and other requirements noted in the PEIR, thereby indicating whether the environmental effects of the proposed project are consistent with the analysis in the EIR. The Board will adopt a checklist as recommended by section 15168 (c)(4) at the time a determination is made on the Final EIR.

A completed checklist documents whether a particular proposed project’s site-specific effects are less than significant with or without the use of the Mitigation Measures proposed in the EIR. If the project’s site specific impacts might be significant without mitigation, the lead agency will identify application of one or more of the Mitigation Measures described in the EIR, and, using the monitoring procedures in Chapter 7, monitor the impacts to the environment of the proposed project.

In CEQA terms, the VTP environmental checklist is essentially an “Initial Study”. If the checklist reveals no significant adverse impacts resulting from the VTP project, then the proposed project is both within the scope of the VTPEIR and in compliance with CEQA.

If the project, as finally proposed after including results of consultation with trustee and responsible agencies, could create environmental impacts that have not been addressed in the VTPEIR or that cannot be mitigated or avoided using measures from this “checklist”, CEQA requires the Lead Agency to do a supplemental environmental analysis and public review.

The Checklist will contain four sections for most resource areas that could be affected by VTP projects: Chapter Heading, Conditions, Procedure, and Other. Their applicability is briefly described below.

OUTSIDE AGENCY REVIEW/Checklist:

The VTPEIR requires thorough consultation with trustee and responsible agencies where their expertise applies to the proposed project (water, special status species, etc.). This occurs before a checklist is prepared on the proposed project. As a result of the required consultation(s), the

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originally proposed project design or implementation may be changed to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Once necessary modification to project design or implementation is identified during the consultation process and made by the project proponent, a checklist is prepared by the appropriate Lead Agency staff. Where such changes are made they will be identified in the “other” section of the checklist. During the checklist review any additional LC’s, MMR’s, mitigations, and checklist items necessary to assure project impacts will be less than significant, those items will be identified by checking the appropriate items as provided in the checklist.

CHECKLIST HEADING:

The checklist heading will list the section of the VTPEIR that discusses the effects of VTP treatments to a specific resource; for example **5.5.2 - Wildlife**. The entire set of checklist items under each checklist heading are derived from constraints or directions included in the indicated VTPEIR chapter.

CONDITIONS:

Conditions that would avoid significant impacts include physical or biological site characteristics, season, climate, duration or size of project, tools or techniques used in the project or other site or treatment specific factor. Such conditions may negate the necessity of applying mitigation measures or other procedures necessary to reduce impacts from treatments.

PROCEDURE:

In this portion of the checklist, for each specific resource analyzed within the VTPEIR, the applicable Landscape Constraints (LC), Minimum Management Requirements (MMR), and mitigations measures will be listed. The project proponent will check any procedures that will be applied to lessen or avoid impacts for each resource area topic. Procedures are derived from Landscape Constraints (LC), Minimum Management Requirements (MMR), Mitigation Measures, or Checklist Items as referenced in the indicated chapter. Checking boxes to denote adherence to a particular LC, MMR, Mitigation Measure, or Checklist Item will not be done unless the circumstance that generates the need for such a procedure exists on the project site (i.e., all checklist boxes do not have to be checked unless they apply.)

OTHER:

If the condition or procedure that is checked in the checklist is not adequately described by the wording of that portion of the checklist, or if the item directs the project proponent to do so, the proponent must add appropriate information in the “Other” section, or attach documentation/information as necessary to adequately describe a condition or procedure that will be applied to the project.