

## 4.0 Environmental Impact Analysis

The following sections analyze the potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of implementation of the proposed Hoop Structures Ordinance Amendment (Project). The environmental issues subject to detailed analysis in the following sections include those identified as potentially significant by the County of Santa Barbara (County) through preliminary review and by commenters responding to the Notice of Preparation or attending scoping meetings. As detailed in Chapter 1, Introduction, there are six subsections that comprise this chapter, in accordance with the County's 2010 Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 as amended (County of Santa Barbara 2010a).

Each issue analysis section is formatted to include a summary of existing setting, regulatory framework, followed by thresholds of significance. An impact analysis section identifies the methodologies used and the significance thresholds, which are those criteria adopted by the County, other agencies, universally recognized, or developed specifically for this analysis to determine whether potential impacts are significant. The analysis addresses the potential impacts of adoption of the Land Use and Development Code amendments, including future use of hoop and shade structures up to 20 feet tall without a permit and future use of hoop and shade structures greater than 20 feet tall that would be authorized with a permit. Where applicable, a theoretical estimate of the potential acreage increase in hoop and shade structures is quantified to analyze potential impacts.

Where applicable, the analysis in each section takes into account existing regulations that would affect installation of hoop structures within the Project area such as applicable setbacks on Agricultural I (AG-I) and Agricultural I (AG-II) zoned lands, setbacks from public roadways, Agricultural Buffer Ordinance requirements, and the Right-to-Farm Ordinance. Where existing requirements minimize potential adverse environmental effects, these are also discussed. To address potentially significant impacts that are not minimized to less than significant by existing regulation, additional mitigation measures are proposed that minimize, reduce, or avoid these adverse environmental effects, where feasible. These measures, if adopted, would become ordinance development standards.

All potential direct and indirect impacts in Chapter 4 are evaluated in relation to applicable County, state, and federal standards, as reflected in the County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (County of Santa Barbara 2015a). Each impact under consideration is listed with an individual header within the impact analysis section, followed by a discussion of the potential impact and its significance. This analysis is focused on the potential increase in the use of hoop and shade structures on agricultural lands and the extent that it would result in an environmental impact. A discussion of cumulative effects is also included, which evaluates the impacts associated with the Project in conjunction with other adopted and pending projects, detailed in Section 3.6 of this EIR.

Following the environmental impact discussions are recommended mitigation measures (if required) and the residual effects or level of significance remaining after the implementation of the measures. In those cases where the mitigation measure for an impact could have a significant environmental impact on another issue area, this impact is discussed as a residual/secondary effect. Each residual impact listing also contains a statement of the significance determination for the environmental impact as follows:

- Class I Impact. Significant unavoidable adverse impacts for which the decision maker must adopt findings, mitigation measures, and/or a statement of overriding considerations.
- Class II Impact. Significant environmental impacts that can be feasibly mitigated or avoided for which the decision maker must adopt findings and recommended mitigation measures.
- Class III Impact. Adverse impacts found not to be significant for which the decision maker does not have to adopt findings under the California Environmental Quality Act.
- Class IV Impact. Impacts beneficial to the environment.