

## Level of Detail in Impact Assessments



Advisory Committee  
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## Level of Detail in Impact Assessments

- ◆ **Assumptions for Level of Detail**
- ◆ **Assumptions for Description of Alternatives**
- ◆ **Defining Significance Criteria**

## Assumptions for Level of Detail



### Programmatic vs. Site-Specific Impact Analyses

#### ◆ **Programmatic:**

- Adequate detail to compare programmatic alternatives but not preclude further analyses

#### ◆ **Site-specific:**

- Identify range of facility locations, material sources, and construction methods

#### ◆ **Example**

- Programmatic: North Sea vs. South Sea
- Site-Specific:
  - ❖ North Sea Barrier at Locations #1, #2, or #3
  - ❖ North Sea Shoreline at Elevation #1, #2, or #3

## Level of Detail to Allow Comparison of Programmatic Alternatives

### ◆ **Quantitative analyses for resource areas that differentiate programmatic alternatives**

- Surface Water - inflows, water quality, temperature
- Air Quality - range of emissions during construction and operations
- Ecorisk and Human Health Risk - programmatic analyses associated with selenium
- Traffic - range during construction and operations

### ◆ **Qualitative analyses for project specific resource areas**

- Such as Public Services and Cultural Resources

## PEIR will Identify Future Environmental Documentation Items

### ◆ **List of assumptions included in the final range of alternatives, such as:**

- Operations assumptions that will be further defined and analyzed in tiered documents

### ◆ **Items to be identified in tiered documents**

### ◆ **List of permitting agencies and the related analyses to be considered in tiered documents**

## Assumptions for Description of Alternatives



Analyses of Programmatic Alternatives includes Several Assumptions

- ◆ **Facilities configurations are based on a "risk-adverse" approach for inflows, water quality, and habitat**
- ◆ **Rock and aggregate available from "existing" quarries**
  - Will discuss issues associated with new quarries
- ◆ **Air Quality State Implementation Plans to be modified to accommodate construction**
  - Will discuss construction period if State Implementation Plans are not modified

## Additional Assumptions - continued

- ◆ **Deeds or easements to be acquired along the shoreline and in the Sea Bed**
- ◆ **Materials excavated from Sea Bed placed in deeper areas of Sea - not hauled off-site**
- ◆ **Construction materials to be available from commercial sources**
  - Concrete, steel, pumps, gates, valves, pipe, treatment plants, geotubes, and other materials
  - If "batch" local manufacturing plants need to be constructed - separate environmental document

## Direct versus Indirect Impacts

- ◆ **Direct, or primary, impacts**
  - Caused by actual actions, such as:
    - ❖ Construction traffic or noise
    - ❖ Improvements in fisheries during operations
- ◆ **Indirect, or secondary, impacts**
  - Occur due to construction or operations activities - but not specifically as part of the project
    - ❖ Increased number of construction employees in an area may increase sales at local stores
    - ❖ Increased recreational opportunities may increase weekend traffic
  - Must be reasonably foreseeable

## Analysis of Indirect Growth Impacts

### ◆ **No Action Alternative**

- Assumes Build-Out Conditions for Imperial and Riverside Counties

### ◆ **Action Alternatives**

- Assumes no growth above Build-Out Conditions
- Assumes construction and operations workers will be provided by local work force

## Impacts during Construction

### ◆ **Direct Impacts/Benefits**

- Traffic (deliveries and commute)
- Aesthetics/Noise
- Air Quality - Dust
- Public Health
- Land Use
- Power
- Soils
- Biological Resources
- Air Quality - Emissions
- Water Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Paleontological Resources
- Socioeconomics

### ◆ **Indirect Impacts/Benefits**

- Socioeconomics
- Environmental Justice

## Impacts during Operations

### ◆ **Direct Impacts/Benefits**

- Biological Resources
- Air Quality - Dust      ■ Air Quality - Emissions
- Public Health          ■ Water Resources
- Power                      ■ Traffic (maintenance)
- Aesthetics/Noise

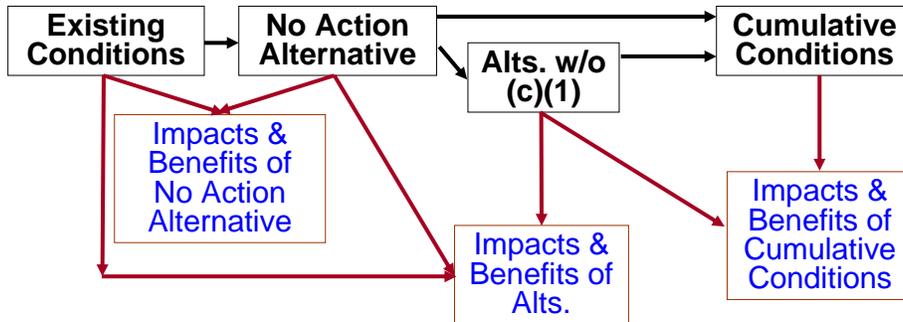
### ◆ **Indirect Impacts/Benefits**

- Socioeconomics      ■ Recreation
- Land Use                ■ Population/Housing
- Cultural Resources    ■ Paleontological Resources
- Traffic                    ■ Environmental Justice

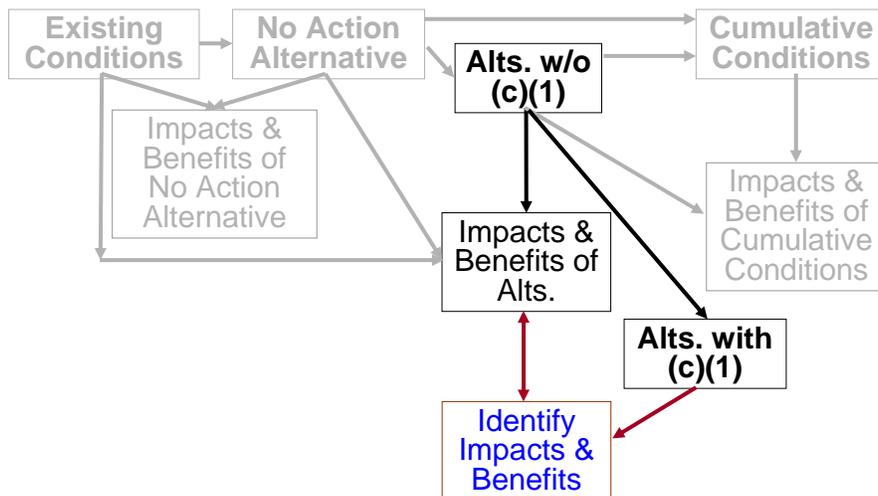
## Defining Significance Criteria



Alternatives will be Compared to Existing Conditions, No Action Alternative, & Cumulative Conditions



Then..Alternatives "without (c)(1) Water" will be Compared to Alternatives "with (c)(1) Water"



## Determination of Significance

- ◆ **Impacts will be compared with "Significance Criteria" to determine mitigation**
- ◆ **Based on CEQA Guidelines (Appendix G)**
  - Eliminate criteria that do not apply, such as:
    - ❖ "soils incapable of ...supporting the use of septic tanks"
  - Add criteria specific to the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Alternatives, such as:
    - ❖ "substantially decreases opportunities for sport fishing, bird watching, or waterfowl hunting"
    - ❖ "exposure of the public to new hazardous situations"
- ◆ **Mitigation measures will be programmatic**

Development of "Next Steps"  
Chapter in PEIR



## "Next Steps" Chapter in PEIR

- ◆ **Will define items to be evaluated in tiered environmental documents after selection of preferred alternative**
- ◆ **List of issues and items that will require more analyses**
  - Items identified in the PEIR as "potentially significant"
  - Items that may need further research or pilot studies
  - Items that cannot be evaluated until facilities and operational details are more specifically defined

## List of Permits and Approvals

- ◆ **PEIR does not provide sufficient details for review by permitting/approval agencies**
- ◆ **PEIR will include a list of possible permitting/approval agencies and utilities and their area of focus**
  - List will describe permits/approvals required for different alternatives
  - Critical factors - such as typical review periods or level of detail for applications - will be included