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## 5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes the affected environment and potential environmental consequences associated with the Watson Cogeneration Steam and Electric Reliability Project (Project). This section also discusses measures to mitigate or avoid any adverse impacts, as appropriate. Supporting information to determine compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) is provided in the discussion for each resource area.

The analyses presented in this section are based certain criteria.

- Details of the proposed Project, as presented in Section 3.0, Project Description, and Section 4.0, Alternatives.
- Consideration of California Energy Commission (CEC) regulations, including regulations applicable to the expedited processing of projects.
- Consideration of input from CEC staff.

The environmental assessments presented in this section are meant to comply with CEC requirements, including those of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970. In general, the discussion for each resource area (Sections 5.2 through 5.17) follows the same format: the affected environment and the existing site conditions are discussed first, the environmental consequences of the Project and the measures proposed to mitigate significant adverse impacts are discussed next, and compliance with relevant LORS is discussed last.

Sections 5.2 through 5.17, listed below, provide the environmental information required for this Application for Certification.

- Section 5.2, Air Quality
- Section 5.3, Geologic Hazards and Resources
- Section 5.4, Agriculture/Soils
- Section 5.5, Water Resources
- Section 5.6, Biological Resources
- Section 5.7, Cultural Resources
- Section 5.8, Paleontological Resources
- Section 5.9, Land Use
- Section 5.10, Socioeconomics
- Section 5.11, Traffic/Transportation
- Section 5.12, Noise
- Section 5.13, Visual Resources
- Section 5.14, Waste Management
- Section 5.15, Hazardous Materials Handling

- Section 5.16, Public Health and Safety
- Section 5.17, Worker Safety