

9. Water Resources

Overview

This section provides guidelines for evaluating a project's potential impacts on water resources, including groundwater and surface water. The impact analysis includes evaluating the use and supply of groundwater, the use and supply of surface water, and compliance with water quality objectives and standards.

This topic section is updated from the following section(s) from the existing ISAGs:

2a. Water Resources – Groundwater Quality

2c. Water Resources – Surface Water Quantity

2b. Water Resources – Groundwater Quantity

2d. Water Resources – Surface Water Quality

Thresholds of Significance

Impact analysis guidelines (formerly referred to as “Methodology”) are provided accordingly for the following updated thresholds.

A project may have a significant impact if it would:

WAT-1 Directly or indirectly decrease the net supply of groundwater in an overdrafted groundwater basin by one acre-foot or more per year.

WAT-2 Result in net groundwater extraction in groundwater basins that are not overdrafted, and/or not hydrologically or hydrogeologically continuous with an overdrafted basin, that could cause the basin to become overdrafted.

WAT-3 Result in a net increase in groundwater extraction of one acre-foot or more per year from groundwater basins, hydrologic units, and/or hydrogeologic units that are not well documented or show evidence of overdraft.

WAT-4 Degrade groundwater quality, or cause it to exceed groundwater quality objectives set by the Basin Plans and/or applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

WAT-5 Increase surface water consumptive use (demand) in a fully appropriated stream reach as designated by the State Water Resources Control Board or where unappropriated surface water is unavailable, or by diverting or dewatering downstream reaches that would result in an adverse impact to one or more of the beneficial uses listed in the Basin Plans.

WAT-6 Directly or indirectly impact surface water quality or stormwater quality, causing it to exceed surface water quality objectives, water quality standards, and/or water quality-based effluent limitations of an applicable Basin Plan, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Permit, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, or result in failure to obtain coverage or comply with Waste Discharge Requirements.

Legend:

 Derived from standards specific to the County

 Derived from a combination of specific County standards and Appendix G of CEQA

9. Water Resources (cont.)

Related Technical Terms

The following technical terms related to this topic section have been updated or incorporated:

- Acre-foot
- Basin Plans
- Constituent
- Groundwater basin
- Hydrogeologic unit
- Hydrologic unit
- MS4 Permit
- NPDES Permit
- Overdrafted basin
- Waste Discharge Requirements
- Water quality-based effluent limitations
- Water quality objectives
- Water quality standards