
4.13 Floodplains

4.13.1 Introduction

The floodplains analysis addresses the potential impacts of the Master Plan alternatives on floodplains, as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Impacts associated with drainage and localized flooding are addressed in Section 4.7, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, of the Draft EIS/EIR and this Supplement to the Draft EIS/EIR.

4.13.2 General Approach and Methodology

The analysis of floodplains presented below is based on the general approach and methodology described in Section 4.13, *Floodplains* (subsection 4.13.2), of the Draft EIS/EIR. In addition, the analysis completed for this Supplement to the Draft EIS/EIR includes consideration of changes to baseline conditions (see Section 4.13.3 below), using the same methodology applied to the 1996 baseline analysis.

4.13.3 Affected Environment/Environmental Baseline

The affected environment/environmental baseline related to floodplains used in this Supplement to the Draft EIS/EIR is the same as described in Section 4.13, *Floodplains* (subsection 4.13.3), of the Draft EIS/EIR, with the following exception identified below that reflects current conditions. The following change to the affected environment/environmental baseline alters the conclusions of the Draft EIS/EIR relative to Alternatives A, B, and C (see subsection 4.13.6.2 below).

- ◆ A review of the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map for the LAX area conducted during preparation of the Draft EIS/EIR indicated that over 99 percent of the area within the Master Plan boundaries was located in Zone C, which is an area of "minimal flooding" outside the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). However, a small, 13-acre area in an undeveloped portion of LAX, located directly north of Imperial Highway, was designated as 100-year floodplain. The 13-acre area was given its designation in the 1970s based on the topographic and drainage conditions at that time. However, conditions of the 13-acre parcel have changed substantially due to grading and placement of fill in this area that occurred after the parcel was designated as a floodplain, and the parcel no longer has the typical characteristics of a floodplain. For these reasons, LAWA submitted an application for a "Letter of Map Revision" to FEMA to remove the 100-year floodplain designation for the 13-acre area. On September 6, 2002, FEMA issued a Letter of Map Revision which revised the applicable National Flood Insurance Program map to remove the 13-acre parcel at LAX from the SFHA (see Appendix S-A, *Agency Consultation Letters*, of this Supplement to the Draft EIS/EIR). The 13-acre parcel is now in Zone C. Therefore, no 100-year floodplain areas are located within the Master Plan boundaries.

4.13.4 Thresholds of Significance

4.13.4.1 CEQA Thresholds of Significance

As stated in Section 4.13, *Floodplains* (subsection 4.13.4.1), of the Draft EIS/EIR, a significant impact to floodplains or floodplains management would occur if the direct and indirect changes in the environment that may be caused by the particular build alternative would potentially result in one or more of the following future conditions:

- ◆ Significant encroachment within a base floodplain, as defined by USDOT Order 5650.2.
- ◆ Placement of structures within a 100-year flood hazard area that would impede or redirect flood flows.
- ◆ Exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding.

These thresholds of significance are utilized because they address the potential adverse impacts normally associated with development within a floodplain, namely increased potential for flooding and the resulting adverse effects on people or property. These thresholds were derived from USDOT Order 5650.2, FAA Order 5050.4A, and the suggested Initial Study Checklist contained in the State CEQA Guidelines. Other CEQA thresholds relative to drainage and localized flooding are included in Section 4.7, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, of this Supplement to the Draft EIS/EIR.

4.13 Floodplains

4.13.4.2 Federal Standards

As stated in Section 4.13, *Floodplains* (subsection 4.13.4.2), of the Draft EIS/EIR, under USDOT Order 5650.2, a significant floodplain encroachment would occur if a proposed action would likely result in one or more of the following conditions:

- ◆ A considerable probability of loss of human life.
- ◆ Likely future damage associated with the encroachment that could be substantial in cost or extent, including interruption of service, or loss of a vital transportation facility.
- ◆ A notable adverse impact on natural and beneficial floodplain values.

4.13.5 Master Plan Commitments

No Master Plan commitments for floodplains are proposed.

4.13.6 Environmental Consequences

4.13.6.1 No Action/No Project Alternative

The environmental impacts to floodplains under the No Action/No Project Alternative have not changed from those described in Section 4.13, *Floodplains* (subsection 4.13.6.1), of the Draft EIS/EIR.

4.13.6.2 Alternatives A, B, and C

The environmental impacts to floodplains under Alternatives A, B, and C have changed from those described in Section 4.13, *Floodplains* (subsection 4.13.6.2), of the Draft EIS/EIR described below.

At the time of the preparation of the Draft EIS/EIR, it was determined that Alternatives A, B, and C would affect the 13-acre parcel then designated as a floodplain (see Section 4.13, *Floodplains* (subsection 4.13.6.2), of the Draft EIS/EIR). However, as discussed above in Section 4.13.3, *Affected Environment/Environmental Baseline*, the 100-year floodplain designation has been removed from the 13-acre parcel at LAX; therefore, similar to the No Action/No Project Alternative, no development would occur within the limits of a base floodplain under Alternatives A, B, and C, and no impacts to floodplains would occur.

4.13.6.3 Alternative D - Enhanced Safety and Security Plan

A complete description of the facilities associated with Alternative D is provided in Chapter 3, *Alternatives* (subsection 3.3.2), of this Supplement to the Draft EIS/EIR. As discussed above in Section 4.13.3, *Affected Environment/Environmental Baseline*, the 100-year floodplain designation has been removed from the 13-acre parcel at LAX; therefore, none of the area within the Master Plan boundaries is considered to be a floodplain. Similar to the No Action/No Project Alternative, under Alternative D, no development would occur within the limits of a base floodplain and no impacts to floodplains would occur.

4.13.7 Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative impacts to floodplains associated with the No Action/No Project Alternative and Alternatives A, B, or C, in combination with other past, present, and probable future projects, have not materially changed from those described in Section 4.13, *Floodplains* (subsection 4.13.7), of the Draft EIS/EIR.

4.13.7.1 Alternative D - Enhanced Safety and Security Plan

As discussed above in Section 4.13.3, *Affected Environment/Environmental Baseline*, there are no floodplains within the Master Plan boundaries; therefore, no individual or cumulative impacts to floodplains would occur under Alternative D.

4.13.8 Mitigation Measures

The build-out of Alternatives A, B, C, or D would not have any impact on floodplains; therefore, no mitigation is required.