

## **4.9 ISSUES WITH LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS**

This section of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) discusses those issues that were determined not to be significant during the scoping of the EIR and preparation of the Initial Study. A brief description of these issues, including Aesthetics, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, and Wastewater is included below. Additional information can be found in the Initial Study prepared for the project (refer to Appendix A)

### **4.9.1 Aesthetics**

Developments made in relation to the proposed project would be visible from Halcyon Road, Los Berros Road, Valley Road, Highway 1, and 22nd Street, among others. Much of the proposed routine vegetation and sediment management and maintenance work would occur within the levees at short-term, periodic intervals. Levee construction would be visible from public roads. The proposed improvements would result in a maximum levee raise of approximately five feet, although this would not be necessary along the entire levee. The railroad bridge would be raised approximately five feet as well. The proposed project would not result in glare or night lighting, and will not change the visual character of the area, or block any ridgelines or scenic views.

### **4.9.2 Noise**

The proposed project includes initial sedimentation removal and riparian vegetation management and intermittent future maintenance activities, as well as short-term construction of levees in Alternatives 3a and 3c. However, the project is not within close proximity of loud noise sources. Based on the Noise Element's project future noise generation from known stationary and vehicle-generated noise sources, the project is within an acceptable threshold area. The levee improvements may require construction in close proximity to residences. And the sediment removal would require significant truck activity in proximity to residences. However, the project is not expected to generate loud noises for extended periods of time, and construction would be limited to daytime hours, as required by local ordinance.

### **4.9.3 Population and Housing**

The proposed project includes three main components within the Arroyo Grande Creek and Los Berros Creek channels: (1) riparian vegetation management, (2) sedimentation removal and management, and (3) levee improvements to provide increased flood control. None of the project components will induce population growth in the surrounding areas or create the need for substantial new housing in the area. The project will not displace existing housing or use substantial amounts of fuel or energy.

### **4.9.4 Public Services**

The project is served by the County Sheriff's Department and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) as the primary emergency responders. The project is located within a Moderate Fire Hazard Zone, a Local Fire Protection Responsibility Area (Incorporated), and lies predominantly within the 10 Minute Emergency Response Time Zone. The project area is also within the Lucia Mar Unified School District.

The three main components of the proposed project, (1) riparian vegetation management, (2) sedimentation removal and management, and (3) levee improvements to provide increased flood control, are not expected to cause significant impacts to public services or utilities. None of the project components will induce population growth at the project location or surrounding areas. The proposed project is not expected to create additional demands on local fire, police, or energy resources. In addition, the proposed project will not increase demands on local schools, roads or solid waste collection and disposal facilities.

#### **4.9.5 Recreation**

The County Trails Plan does not show any potential trails going through the proposed project area. The levees are located on private property and are not considered a recreational facility. However, they are used by some residents for horseback riding and walking as they provide an off-road connection between the Cienega Valley and the Pacific Ocean. This existing use will likely continue after completion of the proposed project, although not encouraged or allowed by the County, because of the infeasibility of monitoring use of the levee. The project terminates at the Arroyo Grande Creek lagoon, near the coastal dunes adjacent to the Pacific Ocean. The lagoon is not included in the project area and no development is proposed in this area; however, it lies at the north end of the Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve and Oceano Dunes State Recreation Area. No development is proposed in close proximity to the dunes lying at the west end of the project corridor, and accessibility to the recreation areas will not be obstructed as a result of the project. The proposed project will not create a significant impact on recreational resources as a result of the proposed project, and no mitigation measures are necessary.