8.0 EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT

This chapter of the EIR identifies and explains those environmental issues from the CEQA Environmental Checklist (*State CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G) for which no significant environmental impacts are anticipated. Section 15128 of the *State CEQA Guidelines* requires that an EIR contain a brief statement of the reasons that certain issues have been identified during the environmental review process as having no, or no significant, project-related impacts and are, therefore, not addressed in detail in the EIR. These issues are summarized below. Environmental Checklist topics not included in this chapter are addressed in EIR chapters 4.0 through 6.0.

8.1 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

The project site is located within the current SDIA boundaries. The U.S. Navy owned the project site since 1923, and the U.S. Marine Corps operated a municipal landfill on the site between 1950 and 1971. The project site has not been used for agricultural resources, nor has it been planned for agricultural uses. The site is not located within any State designated farmland areas, nor is it located within any Williamson Act Lands. Because the project site is not located within any areas designated for agricultural uses, and the proposed project would not result in the conversion of any agricultural land to non-agricultural uses, no impact associated with agricultural resources would occur.

8.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Prior to 1925, the project site was a tidal mudflat characterized by the deposition of fine-grained sediments (silt and clay) from tidal fluctuations. Between 1925 and 1949, a series of harbor dredging enterprises filled the project site with deposits, bringing the site to its current elevation. The dredged fill material has no potential for the presence of unknown, subsurface archaeological resources. Additionally, the large amount of disturbance resulting from landfill activities at the site further precludes the presence of any undiscovered buried resources. A cultural resources records search conducted in support of the San Diego International Airport Master Plan project did not identify any archaeological resources within the former NTC landfill remediation project site. The project site does not contain any structures; therefore, there are no structures present that could be considered historically significant.

With landfill activities beginning on the project site in the 1950s, there is likely municipal waste on the site that is greater than 50 years old. However, the waste is not identified as a historical resource, and any resource that may have been present is not likely to have been able to maintain integrity during the normal course of landfill operations. As such, impacts associated with cultural resources are considered less than significant.

8.3 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The proposed project would result in the removal of MSW and BA present in the landfill and replacement with new fill that would be required to meet certain specifications. The placement of fill at the project site would result in more stable soil conditions at the project site and would be considered a beneficial geology and soils impact.

Seismic hazards include ground shaking, fault rupture, liquefaction, and tsunamis. No known active faults are located within the project boundaries. Like most of southern California, the project site is located within a seismically active area and, thus, is subject to ground shaking during seismic events. Because the proposed project does not include the construction of any structures that would be affected by ground shaking, impacts would be less than significant. Groundwater levels at the project site are shallow, which amplifies the susceptibility of the project site to liquefaction during a seismic event. As the proposed project does not include the construction of any structures, however, liquefaction impacts would be less than significant. The project site is located approximately 700 feet north of the San Diego Bay and is protected from the effects of tsunamis by the presence of natural obstructions, including Point Loma, Harbor Island, and the Silver Strand. These features make up effective barriers that would dissipate most wave energy associated with a tsunami prior to reaching the project site. As the proposed project does not include the placement of any structures within the project site, impacts associated with ground shaking, fault rupture, liquefaction, and tsunamis would be less than significant.

Non-seismic impacts include impacts that would result from landslides, expansive soils, and other unstable soil conditions. The project site is relatively flat, with no nearby or adjacent slopes. The excavation of MSW and BA at the project site would require the removal and stockpile of overburden material at the project site. The overburden material would be stockpiled near the excavation areas in piles approximately six to eight feet high. The presence of these small soil piles would not constitute a significant impact associated with slope stability or landslide impacts. The proposed project would entail the removal of MSW and BA and replacement with fill. While the content of the fill is not currently known, and thus, the fill's expansion potential and other characteristics are also not known, the project does not include the placement of any structures on the site that could be damaged due to unstable soil conditions or expansive soils. Thus, impacts associated with expansive soils and unstable soil conditions would be less than significant.

The remediation of the landfill could allow for future development of the project site, presumably with airport-related uses. Any future development at the project site would be subject to environmental review, including a site-specific geotechnical analysis prior to construction. For these reasons, impacts associated with geology and soils would be less than significant.

8.4 LAND USE AND PLANNING

The proposed project does not include any changes to existing land use designations for the project site, which is located within the boundaries of the SDIA. The landfill remediation would allow for the future use of the site, including development of the site in accordance with the currently proposed SDIA Master Plan (see Section 1.4.1 for more information on the SDIA Master Plan). Existing land uses surrounding the project site include MCRD to the north, SDIA to the east and south, and a San Diego Fire Department training facility to the west. As the project does not include the construction of any structures, and is limited to the landfill remediation, which is expected to occur over a nine-month period, the project would not result in the introduction of incompatible uses to the area. Land use and planning impacts would be less than significant.

8.5 MINERAL RESOURCES

The proposed project consists of dredged material deposited on tidelands to create land. In the past, the project site has been used as a landfill. No mineral resources are known to be present on the site, and no designated mineral recovery areas are identified within the project boundaries. As such, no impacts associated with mineral resources would occur with implementation of the proposed project.

8.6 PALEONTOLOGICAL (FOSSIL) RESOURCES

Soil extraction would include the removal of soil to a depth of one foot below the limits of MSW and BA materials. As discussed previously, the project site is located on land created by the deposit of dredged material on tidelands. Thus, the potential for undisturbed paleontological resources to be present at the project site is very low. Additionally, the operation of a landfill at the project site further eliminates the potential for any undisturbed paleontological resources to be present on the site. No impacts to paleontological resources would occur from the proposed landfill remediation activities.

8.7 POPULATION AND HOUSING

The proposed project is the remediation of a landfill, which may result in the availability of the site for some other use. The project site is located within the SDIA boundaries and would likely be utilized by the SDIA for airport activities in the future. The proposed project would not result in the construction or removal of any structures. Accordingly, no population and housing impacts would occur.

8.8 RECREATION

The U.S. Navy temporarily used the project site for recreational purposes after the landfill was capped in 1971; however, the site has not been used for recreational purposes in the recent past, nor is it currently used for recreational uses. The project does not include any residential structures or job generating uses that would result in a population growth that would require recreation facilities. Thus, the project would not result in any increased demand for existing or planned recreational facilities in the area. The project site is not designated for or proposed for any recreational uses. No impacts to recreation would occur with implementation of the proposed project.