

5.1.3 California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA Guidelines provide:

that the lead agency identify reasonably foreseeable projects in the vicinity of the proposed project, summarize their effects, identify the contribution of the proposed project to cumulative impacts in the project region, and recommend feasible options for mitigating or avoiding the project's contribution to any significant cumulative effects (CEQA Guidelines Section 15130 [b][3]).

5.2 Scope and Methodology of the Cumulative Impacts Analysis

In March 2004, as part of an interdisciplinary team, Caltrans, together with FHWA and EPA staff, prepared a preliminary guidance paper entitled *Guidance for Preparers of Indirect and Cumulative Impact Assessment Methods for Analyzing Effects*. The cumulative impacts analysis for the Doyle Drive Project was conducted in a series of steps based on this preliminary guidance.

The following steps were followed for this analysis:

- Identify the environmental and community resources that warrant a cumulative impacts analysis.
- Define the geographic boundaries for each resource area.
- Define the timeframe (temporal boundary) for analysis for each resource area.
- Identify past actions and present and reasonably foreseeable future projects that would affect that resource.
- Identify the impacts (or benefits) to the resource from the other projects.
- Determine: 1) whether there currently is a cumulative impact to the resource area; and, 2) whether the impacts from the Doyle Drive Project would contribute to that impact.

Following preparation of the cumulative impacts analysis for the Doyle Drive Project, Caltrans' *Guidance for Preparers of Cumulative Impacts Analysis* (July 2005) was released. The analysis presented in this chapter is consistent with the eight steps presented in the July 2005 guidance. Since the analysis is consistent with the new guidance the conclusions presented in this cumulative impacts analysis do not change.

5.3 Resources Evaluated

Cumulative effects were evaluated for other projects or activities such as major infrastructure projects, community development improvements, or private developments that are geographically related to the Doyle Drive Project.