

10.0 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

NEPA requires a discussion of “the relationship between local short-term uses of man’s environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity” (40 CFR 1502.16). For example, the Draft EIS for a proposed action to convert agricultural land to urban uses would include a discussion of the loss of long-term crop production. Effects of short-term uses that narrow the range of long-term beneficial uses of the environment are of particular concern. An analysis of the relationship between local short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity is not specifically required under CEQA.

Realignment and construction of the 13.2 km (8.2 mi) segment of Bautista Canyon Road would entail short-term and limited use of the local environment to reconstruct this segment of dirt roadway. Such activities would not preclude the long-term continuance of existing natural resources within the project site. As a result, it is not anticipated that the proposed action would result in any environmental effects that would permanently narrow the range of beneficial uses of the environment or pose long-term risks to health, safety, or the general welfare of the public.

The proposed action is consistent with the long-term planning goals of the County of Riverside General Plan’s REMAP. Implementation of the Bautista Canyon Road Project would accommodate existing and projected traffic volumes in the study area. This would alleviate access problems for emergency vehicles and provide better and faster linkage between the communities of Valle Vista and Anza. Implementation of the project would reduce long-term maintenance needs, dust emissions and soil erosion resulting from the unpaved segment.