CHAPTER 3
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the EA provides an assessment of the potential environmental consequences associated with the project alternatives and the No Action alternative. A separate section is provided for each environmental element. For each environmental element, a discussion of the "Affected Environment" is first presented, which summarizes the relevant regulatory and other background information to establish the context in which the proposed alternatives may be evaluated. This is followed by an evaluation of the "Environmental Consequences" that provides a scientific and analytical basis for the comparison of the proposed alternatives. This analysis includes both direct and indirect environmental effects. Effects are evaluated in terms of context, intensity, and duration.

For environmental consequences that would potentially be significant, mitigation would be required that would reduce the effect to a less-than significant level. For environmental consequences that would not be considered significant, mitigation measures may still be recommended in order to further reduce the potential adverse effect. Many standard measures would be included with either of the proposed action alternatives, as described in Section 2.3.

In order to satisfy the purpose of 40 CFR 1508.9 (a) (1) to determine whether there may be significant impacts, the scope of the EA is focused on issues for which there is a potential for significant effects. This scope was determined based on input received during the scoping period and through initial review and analysis by the Trust. A summary of scoping comments is provided in Chapter 4. The level of analysis is proportional to the relative significance of each environmental issue.

The proposed facilities associated with Alternatives 1 and 2 would either be located within an existing building or underground. No impact on existing views or visual resources would occur and this topic is not evaluated further. (An analysis of the rehabilitation and reuse of existing buildings on historic fabric is provided in Section 3.5, Cultural and Historic Resources). Neither of the action alternatives would alter or otherwise impact recreation or visitor use at the park. The proposed type of recycled water would meet or exceed the highest level of Title 22 standards for recycled water and permitted uses include unrestricted body contact, irrigation of food crops, and irrigation of school playgrounds and public parks. No changes in the type of visitor or recreational use in areas irrigated with the recycled water would occur, and no further analysis of this subject is contained in this EA.

Executive Order 11988 requires that all federal agencies conduct an analysis of their proposed action on floodplains. Pursuant to this Order, floodplains are defined by FEMA as the 100-year floodplain. The Presidio of San Francisco is located entirely outside of the designated 100-year floodplain, and therefore this topic is not addressed further. Executive Order 12898 requires that all federal agencies evaluate the impact of proposed actions on minority and low income populations. This Order is specifically designed to prevent disproportionate environmental impact of federal actions on these groups. The proposed project would not have an adverse impact on surrounding populations, and these populations are not considered minority or low-income. In addition, the reduction in off-site wastewater flows that would occur as a result the proposed project would have an indirect beneficial effect on the neighborhoods surrounding the City's Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant (SEWPCP). As described in Chapter 1 (Introduction and Purpose & Need), the reduction in wastewater flows to the City's SEWPCP is one of the primary objectives of the project. The Presidio's flows represent less than one half of one percent of the dry and wet weather capacity of the SEWPCP. Therefore, although in the context of total flows the project represents a small improvement, the effect would be beneficial. No further analysis of this beneficial effect is warranted.