

the sensitive viewers are concentrated, and these viewers are more sensitive to changes to the overall viewshed. Therefore, the reduction and/or elimination of natural areas within an urban visual character area would be considered an adverse effect.

4.14.2.4 Rural and Inland Foothills and Valleys Visual Character Areas

Potential effects within rural and/or inland foothill and valley areas typically would not be as severe. This is due to a reduced amount of development pressure that would result in overall change to the visual character of an area. However, since the areas within the HCLE Corridor study area have been designated by the new County of Riverside General Plan as having a high level of scenic quality, the effect resulting from the implementation of the proposed project would contribute to an adverse cumulative effect on visual resources in the area.

The visual effects of the alternatives within the HCLE Corridor study area can be minimized by locating the facilities at the edges of the urban areas, and adhering to the adopted new County of Riverside General Plan, policies related to Scenic Corridors and Scenic Resources, as described in Section 3.14 of this document.

However, all of the alternatives would introduce new visual elements to sensitive urban land use areas. The above discussion is based on potential foreground views of the alternatives from urban areas within the HCLE Corridor study area, which include sensitive land uses (i.e., residential, recreation areas, trails, churches, schools) where the addition of a new transportation facility would dominate the overall view.

4.14.3 Potential Mitigation Measures to be Considered in Tier 2

The following potential mitigation measures are proposed and shall be implemented for the selected preferred alternative based on the potential impacts identified above. These mitigation measures will be refined based on more detailed impact evaluation in the Tier 2 environmental document.

4.14.3.1 As part of preliminary design of the selected alternative within the HCLE Corridor study area, design elements and features of the preferred alternative shall include measures and standards pertaining to structural bulk, massing and separation, the relationship between horizontal and vertical space and elements, and building materials, and colors such that visual compatibility within the development and consistency with new County of Riverside General Plan polices (as defined earlier), standards, and regulations. These design elements and features shall be incorporated into the preliminary engineering and design of the preferred alternative and evaluated in subsequent Tier 2 environmental studies.

4.14.3.2 As part of the preliminary design of the selected alternative within the HCLE Corridor study area, a conceptual landscape plan will be prepared in accordance with County of Riverside General Plan polices (as defined earlier), standards, and regulations. This plan shall be incorporated into the preliminary engineering and design of the preferred alternative and evaluated in subsequent Tier 2 environmental studies.