

4.13 Hazardous Waste

The following analysis of potential hazardous materials/waste impacts anticipated with construction of the proposed project is based upon the Hazardous Waste Initial Site Assessment for the Winchester to Temecula Corridor (WT Corridor) (LSA, 2002).

4.13.1 Methodology for Impact Evaluation

Assessment of hazardous waste impacts in a particular geographical location involves determining the source of the hazardous waste and how it was transported to the area. Leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs) may impact local groundwater that migrates off site to contaminate groundwater at the study site. A truck or train carrying hazardous materials/waste may spill materials onto the road or into a waterbody that could transport the materials/waste to the study site. Finally, a historical misuse and disposal of hazardous materials/waste at a particular site has the potential to contaminate the soil and/or groundwater long after the practice has been discontinued.

Impacts related to hazardous materials/waste are generally dependent on the mobility, toxicity, persistency, and quantity of a substance. As such, the impact evaluation for each alternative within the WT Corridor was based on a number of factors:

- C The number of hazardous material/waste sites within a one-mile radius of the alternative
- C The distance of these sites from the alternative
- C The type of listing or concentration of hazardous waste. For example, an NPL site has the potential for a greater impact on the alternative than a site that is permitted for an AST/UST. This is also related to the quantity of release.
- C The method of release. (Releases to groundwater, surface water, or air have a greater potential to impact a larger area than a release to the soil.)
- C The duration of the release. A hazardous waste generator that has been in existence for 30 years may have greater potential to impact the environment than a gasoline station that is only 10 years old.
- C The responsiveness of the site to a known release. A site that has a history of violations or is resistant to implementing cleanup procedures has a greater potential to impact the environment than a responsive site.
- C The type of hazardous materials utilized or wastes generated. Some hazardous materials are more toxic than others and some are more mobile (e.g., soluble, vaporize more quickly) than others.
- C Topography, geology, hydrogeology, wind patterns. These physical features provide transport for releases of hazardous wastes.

4.13.2 Impacts

Hazardous materials/waste impacts are related to the degree of urbanization in a particular geographic area. Because western Riverside County is still fairly rural. All of the build alternatives have relatively low numbers of hazardous material/waste sites