

What is in an Environmental Review Document?

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The purpose of an environmental review document is to **identify the social, economic, and environmental impacts of a project**, and determine how to avoid or reduce those impacts. If impacts cannot be avoided, then mitigation needs to be considered.

While there are several state and federal laws and regulations regarding environmental review, all environmental documents address similar key issues.

In almost any environmental document you will find the following items:

- Project Description & Location
- Owner and Operator
- Purpose and Need
- Alternatives Considered
- **Social, Economic, and Environmental Issues**
- Required Permits/Approvals
- Agency & Stakeholder Coordination
 - Citizens
 - Local government
 - Regulatory agencies
 - Interested parties

The environmental document will analyze the project's potential impacts to the following resources:

- land use and zoning
- community
- residences and businesses
- historic properties
- parks and recreation areas
- aesthetics/visual resources
- safety
- transportation
- water resources
- soil and geology
- plants and animals
- threatened and endangered species
- noise and vibration
- contaminated properties
- air quality

The environmental document will also include the **cumulative impacts** of the project when considered together with other past, present, and planned future projects.

