

Social Effects Evaluation

OBJECTIVE

Datasets in the EST indicate the natural, cultural and community resources present within the vicinity of the project and how these resources may potentially be affected by the project.

CONSIDERATIONS

Demographics

Potential environmental justice issues or disproportionate effects on populations addressed in Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and other nondiscrimination statutes (e.g., minority, low-income, elderly, disabled, religious affiliation and Limited English Proficiency).

Community Cohesion

Creation/elimination of barriers affecting social relationships or movement/interaction within a community (e.g., walls, limited access roads, wide roads, traffic volume and traffic pattern).

Safety/Emergency Response

Infrastructure and related features providing safe access and connectivity to/from community focal points and other facilities (e.g., sidewalks, crosswalks and trails); changes that would impede/enhance safety or emergency response services/times on designated evacuation routes.

Community Goals

Project consistency with the community vision and potential effects on achievement of the community vision.

Quality of Life

Potential effects on elements of community quality of life (e.g., aesthetics, character, social values and perception of safety).

Special Community Designations

Potential effects on facilities or areas with special designations (e.g., Community Redevelopment Area).

Community History & Character

Note trends/facts/elements that make the community unique.

RECOMMENDED EST DATA AND BUFFER WIDTHS

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| “Census Data” (i.e., demographic characteristics) | → 1,320 Feet |
| “Community Focal Points” (e.g., cultural centers and parks) | → 100 Feet / 500 Feet / 1,320 Feet |
| “Mobility Features” (e.g., sidewalks, bus stops and evacuation routes) | → 100 Feet / 500 Feet / 1,320 Feet |
| “Existing/Future Land Uses | → 100 Feet / 500 Feet |
| “Special Designations” (e.g., historic district and enterprise zone) | → 100 Feet / 500 Feet |

DOCUMENTATION

Develop commentary on conditions and issues pertaining to potential direct effects on the social environment using data/analyses/considerations Enter findings in the appropriate EST input fields (comment boxes) in the SCE module under **“Direct Effects - Social Environment.”**

EST Comment Box: “Identify Resources and Level of Importance”

Minimum Content:

- Identify community resources that contribute to the social environment (e.g., focal points and special designations)
- Indicate buffer area applicable to the resource
- Assign level of importance to identified resources as indicated through public input

Social Effects Evaluation (Continued)

EST Comment Box: “Comment on Effects to Resources”

Minimum Content:

- Describe the project area/community; identify any place names associated with the community (e.g., neighborhood/local names, etc.)
- Insert demographic data table; describe the project area population and differences between the project area and county/municipality population
- Discuss the social conditions/community resources (i.e., people, values, behavior, etc.) in the selected buffer area(s) and the implications for positive or negative effects
- Indicate the basis for the assigned Degree of Effect. Assign level of importance to identified resources as indicated through public input

EST Comment Box: “ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (OPTIONAL)”

Minimum Content:

Provide additional comments as needed

EST Comment Box: “CLC COMMITMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS”

Minimum Content:

As applicable, provide recommended actions for:

- Identifying potential project-related effects on social conditions/resources
- Resolving potential project effects including methods to avoid effects

As appropriate, indicate commitments on behalf of the planning agency such as:

- Targeted community outreach to refine understanding of effects and potential methods for addressing effects/environmental justice issues
- Technical study to help clarify significant issues identified

Tip: Evaluating Social Effects

Local newspapers, field data, public input and interviews with local planners may yield valuable information on the social character and dynamics of a project area. Demographic data for project area versus county/municipality comparisons is available on the U.S. Census American Fact Finder website at www.factfinder.census.gov.