

Reporting

The reporting of a project's environmental effect is documented in the form of an [Environmental Assessment \(EA\)](#) or an [Environmental Impact Statement \(EIS\)](#), depending on the project's impacts. These documents are meant to disclose the direct, secondary, cumulative, long-range, and short-term impacts of a proposed project.

An EA is prepared if the project is not anticipated to produce significant adverse environmental impacts, if the impacts can be mitigated to a non-significant level, or if the magnitude of impacts is uncertain. Often, reviewers use the extent of secondary and cumulative impacts as a measure of whether an EIS will be required. If it is known initially, or should an EA conclude that a project's impacts will be significant and not able to be fully mitigated, an EIS should be prepared. A determination that an EIS is required can be made at any time during the review of an EA. An EIS will provide a more extensive evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of project alternatives and is written in greater detail than an EA.

To enable faster agency review, environmental documents must follow the [EA Guidelines](#) or [EIS Guidelines](#) when DWQ is the lead agency. Please feel free to contact [Jackie Roddy](#) ((919) 807-6442) with any questions about document content and formatting.