

As described in Section 2.1, the WTA completed and circulated a Draft EIR (DEIR) in August 2002 for review and comments. The DEIR evaluated three project alternatives for expanding ferry service in the Bay Area as well as a fourth alternative representing the No Project Alternative. The alternatives were analyzed at the same level of detail in the initial DEIR. Each consisted of a set of ferry transit routes and terminals. Together, the alternatives represent a broad range of investment in water transit service expansion. The initial DEIR did not contain a Proposed Project or Preferred Alternative. The alternatives are described in detail in Section 2.2.2.

The Draft Implementation and Operations Plan (IOP) was also circulated for review, describing expansion of service and the additional new routes. Based partially on the technical information included in the environmental document, the Draft IOP made recommendations for phased implementation. All of the routes and terminals identified in the IOP were included as elements of the various alternatives evaluated in the DEIR.

Partly as a result of public comment and review, the Program DEIR was revised to specifically address the expansion of existing service and the new routes as described in the IOP. This recirculated EIR investigated the potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the IOP. This Revised DEIR was circulated in April 2003. It addressed only the Proposed Project as described in the IOP. The background and analysis for the Proposed Alternative are presented in Section 3.0.

The following sections present the analysis of three ferry alternatives (Alternatives 1 through 3) and the No Project Alternative (Alternative 4) that were presented in the DEIR, but are not being considered for implementation. While public comments were considered and changes have been made to much of the text in Section 3.0, the analyses presented in this section have not been substantially changed from those presented in the DEIR. These analyses are presented here for completeness.