

EPA Comments – Pebble Project Preliminary Draft EIS, Section 3.1 – Introduction to Affected Environment

Agency	Comment No.	Section, Paragraph, and Page #	Cooperating Agency Comment (and Purpose of Comment)	Proposed Resolution (Additions or Deletion of Text)	Response
EPA	1	3.1 – General Affected Environment – Introduction	<p>The introduction to the affected environment focuses on the proposed action (e.g., Section 3.1.1 Project Components and Section 3.1.4 Project Physical Setting). It is important that the affected environment characterize the potential area of impact for all alternatives. We recommend revising the text in Section 3.1 such that it does not focus solely on the proposed action. Please also ensure that the information in each resource section of Chapter 3 appropriately characterizes the affected environment for the potential impact area of the full range of alternatives carried forward for analysis.</p> <p>In addition, we recommend that each resource section include a subsection that summarizes the data gap analysis that was performed and clearly identifies any data gaps for the impact area of the proposed action and alternatives.</p>		<p>Use of the terms EIS analysis area and project area has been clarified in the document. Definitions of EIS analysis area and project area have been revised. Providing this framework for description of the affected environment and analysis of impacts (environmental consequences) is appropriate; scope of analysis of an agency's NEPA analysis is determined by the federal action in question, per CEQ guidance for NEPA.</p> <p>A data gap section has been included in Section 3.1, Introduction to Affected Environment. These data gaps are discussed in the identified resources within Chapter 3 and Chapter 4.</p>