**Impact Codes for Environmental Assessment Factors**

Once determinations about the project effects have been made for each Environmental Assessment Factor, the appropriate impact code must be entered in the Impact Code column provided in the Environmental Assessment format[[1]](#footnote-1):

1. No impact anticipate (Impact Code “1”) - Entering this impact code indicates no more analysis or mitigation effort is needed. Clear and specific documentation is essential, referencing the factual conditions or specific circumstances that support the finding. Mere conclusions are not sufficient.
2. Potentially beneficial (Impact code “2”) - Beneficial impacts should be indicated with code “2”. Notations supporting that finding can be attached. A more detailed analysis is not necessary.
3. Potentially adverse (Impact code “3”) - In some cases, potentially adverse impacts may only require documentation because that is all that is needed to evaluate such impacts. They may be too small to require more study; they may be construction effects only for which standard mitigation procedures have been established; or they may have been analyzed for previous environmental reviews in a fully comparable situation. Documentation here is particularly important and will require attached notes outlining sources explaining factual basis of the impact finding and describing any mitigation efforts.

In other situations, potentially adverse impacts will be subject to further review (site visits, detailed review data, consultations with experts, etc.). The points to remember are that: a) only those environmental categories on the EA Checklist with impact code “3” are subject to a detailed review, and b) this is not a decision about preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) but only a decision to investigate further.

1. Requires mitigation (Impact code “4”) - This code should be used in combination with impact code “3” indicating some type of potential adverse impact. In some cases, specific measures to reduce adverse effects on a community cannot be discussed in full detail right away. Instead, such measures are subject to review and development, along with identification as to who will be responsible for implementing such measures. All are a part of a more detailed analysis that follows identification of there being an adverse impact. In other cases, appropriate mitigation measures to alleviate the adverse impact may already be known, and recorded. Mitigation measures or safeguards should be listed within the relevant impact categories, and repeated again on the Environmental Assessment form under both “Mitigation Measures Recommended” (last page) and “Conditions for Approval” (second page); and
2. Requires project modification (Impact code “5”) - Completing the Environmental Assessment early in the project planning and development process affords a special opportunity to identify needed changes in the project itself before either project plans or site selection are finalized. Often such changes can eliminate the need for further analysis by eliminating the source of the problem. It is also possible that changes (such as moving a project to a different site outside a high noise zone, or combining it with a new project to provide needed sewer or water lines) could be identified at this time.
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The RE must note names, dates of contact, telephone numbers and page references as well as any mitigation measures required. Attach additional source documentation to the EA Format as appropriate.

1. Descriptions of the impact codes are adapted from “Environmental Review Guide for Community Development Block Grant Programs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD-CPD-782, January 1985, page 25. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)