



## Environmental Impact Assessment

**Aquilologic** provides services to support environmental approval and permitting, and the development, implementation, and monitoring of environmental mitigation. To construct any project that has the potential to impact the environment, government agency approvals and permits are usually needed. In general, the permits relate to specific issues such as the discharge of substances to the air or water; whereas, approvals relate to the overall impact of the project.

In most jurisdictions, many projects must comply with regulations that assess the project's environmental impact, and where necessary, mitigate any defined impact. In general, an Environmental and Social Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) may be required.

For example, in California, a project must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Depending on the scope, size, and potential impact, a project may satisfy conditions for a negative declaration (no impact) or mitigated negative declaration (minimal impact). However, for others, a complete Environmental Impact Report (EIR) may be needed, requiring significant public participation in the overall project approval process.

Even where local regulations do not require an ESHIA, international financial institutions (IFIs) will likely require the preparation of an ESHIA before project funding is authorized. The preparation of an EIR/ESHIA requires extensive local and international regulatory and scientific knowledge regarding many aspects of the environment: air quality, hydrology, soil science, hydrogeology, botany, zoology, ecology, agronomy, archeology, social science, etc. Few companies have staff with expertise in each of these disciplines. Therefore, a team of local and international experts is usually compiled, which is then managed by the overall ESHIA contractor.

**Aquilologic** can serve as the ESHIA project management consultant (PMC) or as a member of the team providing expertise in hydrology, soil science, geology, and hydrogeology.