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Notice of Availability
Public Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Report for the
Proposed City of Elk Grove Sphere of Influence Amendment
(LAFCo# 09-10/ SCH # 2010092076)

The Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) announces the availability of the proposed City of Elk Grove Sphere of Influence Amendment (SOIA) Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR). The report can be downloaded from the LAFCo website, www.saclafco.org.

The Final EIR is intended to serve as an informational document for public agency decision-makers and the general public regarding the objectives and components of the proposed project. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15088, the LAFCo, as the lead agency, has evaluated the comments received on the Elk Grove SOIA Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) and provided a response to comments in the Final EIR. The Final EIR contains the comments submitted on the RDEIR, LAFCo's response to those comments, and an errata section listing refinements and clarifications on the RDEIR that have been incorporated into the document. The text of the RDEIR is included by reference in the Final EIR.

Project Description

The proposed project consists of a request initiated by the Elk Grove City Council (Resolution #2008-54) to LAFCo to amend the City of Elk Grove's Sphere of Influence (SOI). The current SOI is coterminous with the City boundary. The application to amend the SOI includes approximately 7,869 acres generally described as the areas south of Bilby Road/Kammerer Road and Grant Line Road. Current City of Elk Grove land use projections indicate that future growth may require additional lands outside of the current city boundary. The City's available residential, industrial, and commercial land inventory is in the process of building out and may be unable to accommodate all anticipated urban growth within the city limits. As a result, the City needs to establish a direction to accommodate its future growth by designating an area for long-term planning.

For purposes of analyzing environmental impacts, LAFCo staff, in consultation with City staff, has developed land use assumptions that would allow LAFCo to analyze environmental effects that may result from growth during future annexations. There are no land use entitlements proposed at this time in conjunction with the proposed SOIA. California Government Code Section 65300 provides that a city may comprehensively plan for lands outside of its jurisdiction without the area being within an approved SOI. However, while the Elk Grove City Council has expressed its desire to have the proposed SOIA Area master planned, the City Council has explicitly stated that no comprehensive planning of the area will occur until LAFCo approves a SOIA.

The current City boundaries and coterminous SOI encompass 26,974 acres. The proposed SOIA would expand the existing SOI, not the city limits, by 7,869 acres, or by 29 percent, to a total SOI of 34,843 acres. However, any future growth and expansion through the annexation process would be limited to areas outside of the FEMA 100-year floodplain. This would limit potential growth to 6,882 acres of the proposed 7,869-acre SOIA area, leaving 13 percent of the area for non-urban uses, such as open space.

Significant Impacts on the Environment Anticipated as a Result of the Proposed Project

Significant and unavoidable impacts were identified in the RDEIR. The RDEIR found that the project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts for aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, land use and planning, noise, population and housing, transportation and traffic, and utility and service systems.

Location Where the Final EIR May Be Reviewed

The Final EIR, as well as the RDEIR, may be reviewed online at www.saclafco.org. A hard copy of the Final EIR may be reviewed at the LAFCo offices, Elk Grove City Hall (8400 Laguna Palms Way), the Elk Grove Library (8900 Elk Grove Blvd.), and the Franklin Community Library (10055 Franklin High Rd).

Next Steps

No sooner than 10 days following the public release of the Final EIR, which contains the response to comments, Sacramento LAFCo will hold a public hearing to consider certification of the Final EIR and the related discretionary actions concerning project approval. The matter has been tentatively scheduled for a public hearing before the Commission on November 6, 2013.