

1 INTRODUCTION

Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission (Sacramento LAFCo) has directed the preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Kammerer Road/Highway 99 Sphere of Influence Amendment (SOIA) (proposed project) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.).

1.1 INPUT ON THE SCOPE OF ANALYSIS REPORTED IN THE DRAFT EIR

Pursuant to Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, Sacramento LAFCo prepared an EIR notice of preparation (NOP) and provided copies directly by mail and through the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (State Clearinghouse) to CEQA responsible and natural resource trustee agencies, State agencies, involved federal agencies, local municipalities, interested persons, organizations, agencies, and landowners. The NOP was circulated for a 30-day public review and comment period between March 7, 2016 and April 8, 2016.

During the 30-day comment period, Sacramento LAFCo held public scoping meetings on March 22, 2016 in Elk Grove and April 6, 2016 at the regularly scheduled Commission meeting. Sacramento LAFCo advertised the purpose of the EIR scoping meetings as soliciting the views of interested parties requesting notice, responsible agencies, agencies with jurisdiction by law, trustee agencies, involved federal agencies, and Sacramento LAFCo, as to the appropriate scope and content of the Draft EIR.

The Draft EIR (State Clearinghouse Number 2016032015) was received by the State Clearinghouse and circulated for a 45-day public review period from February 15, 2017 until March 31, 2017. In addition to written comments, Sacramento LAFCo also accepted verbal comments related to the Draft EIR at an open house on March 10, 2017 at the Wackford Community Center, 9014 Bruceville Road, Elk Grove, California. At this open house, Sacramento LAFCo provided an overview of the proposed project, the Draft EIR, and subsequently invited the public to provide verbal comments.

After the release of the Draft EIR, a public review draft of the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP) and Implementing Agreement, accompanying joint draft Environmental Impact Statement/draft Environmental Impact Report, and draft Aquatic Resources Program, were released (Sacramento County 2017a and 2017b) on June 2, 2017. At the time the original Draft EIR was drafted, the SSHCP was still being developed and details of the proposed plan were not available. Also after the release of the Draft EIR, on June 23, 2017, the City of Elk Grove released a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an EIR to address impacts associated with a General Plan update and an update to the City's Climate Action Plan. The City's NOP includes information about the proposed SOIA Area, which is identified as the "South Study Area" (City of Elk Grove 2017), as well as preliminary indications of policy direction for the South Study Area and other policies that will be relevant for the proposed SOIA. Sacramento County Water Agency, in response to the Draft Municipal Services Review for the proposed SOIA, also provided LAFCo with new water supply information after the Draft EIR was published. LAFCo elected to recirculate portions of the EIR to include this and other new information for public review.

Recirculation can include all of a CEQA document or only portions of the document that contain new information (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15088.5[c]). LAFCo prepared a *partially* recirculated EIR because new information has been added or changed in portions of the Draft EIR after it was initially circulated for public comment in

February of 2017. For purposes of clarity, this document is referred to as the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (Recirculated Draft EIR), and the previously circulated Draft Environmental Impact Report is referred to as the Draft EIR.

In accordance with Section 15088 of the CEQA Guidelines, Sacramento LAFCo, as the lead agency, has reviewed the comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) and the Recirculated Draft EIR for the proposed project and has prepared written responses to the comments received.

Sacramento LAFCo has now prepared this Final EIR, which includes:

- ▶ A full list of agencies, organizations, and individuals that provided comments on the Draft EIR;
- ▶ Verbatim comments on the Draft EIR and a summary of comments;
- ▶ Responses to comments on the Draft EIR;
- ▶ A full list of agencies, organizations, and individuals that provided comments on the Recirculated Draft EIR;
- ▶ Verbatim comments on the Recirculated Draft EIR and a summary of comments;
- ▶ Responses to comments on the Recirculated Draft EIR; and
- ▶ An Errata document showing changes made to address comments on the Recirculated Draft EIR.

Chapter 2, “Comments and Responses to Comments on the Draft EIR” of this Final EIR includes Master Responses that address common themes repeated during the open house and in the comment letters received on the Draft EIR. Chapter 2 of this Final EIR also includes the written and verbal comments received on the Draft EIR and responses to these comments (as required by the CEQA Guidelines Section 15132). To assist the reader, each response to a comment also includes a brief summary of the comment. The range of responses include providing clarification on the Draft EIR, making factual corrections, explaining why certain comments may not warrant further response, or simply acknowledging the comment for consideration by decision makers when the comment does not relate to the adequacy of the EIR for addressing potential adverse physical environmental effects of the project.

Chapter 3, “Comments and Responses to Comments on the Recirculated Draft EIR,” includes written comments received on the Recirculated Draft EIR and response to these comments. As in Chapter 2, each response to a comment also includes a brief summary of the comment.

In some instances, responses to comments may warrant modification of the text of the Recirculated Draft EIR. In those cases, the text of the Recirculated Draft EIR is revised and the changes compiled in Chapter 4, “Errata” of this Final EIR. The text deletions are shown in ~~strikeout~~ and additions are shown in underline. The revisions summarized in Chapter 4 of this Final EIR do not change the findings presented in the Recirculated Draft EIR.

This document, the Recirculated Draft EIR, and the Draft EIR together constitute the Final EIR that is being considered by Sacramento LAFCo. Appendix A includes the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

1.2 USE OF THE FINAL EIR

The Final EIR allows the public and Sacramento LAFCo an opportunity to review revisions to the Recirculated Draft EIR, Draft EIR, and the Responses to Comments. The Final EIR serves as the environmental document to

inform the Sacramento LAFCo's consideration of the proposed project, either in whole or in part, or one of the alternatives to the project discussed in the Recirculated Draft EIR and Draft EIR.

As required by Section 15090(a)(1)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency, in certifying a Final EIR, must make the following three determinations:

1. The Final EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA.
2. The Final EIR was presented to the decision-making body of the lead agency, and the decision-making body reviewed and considered the information in the Final EIR prior to approving the project.
3. The Final EIR reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis.

As required by Section 15091 of the CEQA Guidelines, no public agency shall approve or carry out a project for which an EIR has been certified that identifies one or more significant environmental effects of the project unless the public agency makes one or more written findings (Findings of Fact) for each of those significant effects, accompanied by a brief explanation of the rationale for each finding supported by substantial evidence in the record. The possible findings are:

1. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the Final EIR.
2. Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding. Such changes have been adopted by such other agency or can and should be adopted by such other agency.
3. Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the Final EIR.

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