

I Introduction

This Program Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared by the City of Carlsbad in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City of Carlsbad is the lead agency responsible for ensuring that the proposed City of Carlsbad General Plan and Climate Action Plan comply with CEQA.

I.1 Purpose

The Final EIR includes the Draft EIR, Recirculated Portions of the Draft EIR (Recirculated DEIR) and this document, which includes:

- Comments and responses to comments on the Draft EIR and Recirculated DEIR
- Comments on and responses to comments on the Draft General Plan and Draft Climate Action Plan
- Corrections and clarifications to the Draft EIR and Recirculated DEIR, Draft General Plan, and Draft Climate Action Plan.

It is intended to disclose to City of Carlsbad decision makers, responsible agencies, organizations, and the general public, the potential impacts of implementing the draft General Plan and draft Climate Action Plan (collectively referred to as the “General Plan,” or “proposed Project”). This program level analysis addresses potential impacts of activities associated with implementation of the draft General Plan, which are described in Chapter 2: Project Description, of the Draft EIR.

The primary purpose of the Final EIR is to revise and refine the environmental analysis in the Draft EIR, published April 3, 2014, in response to comments received during the public review period. The extended review period for the Draft EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2011011004) ran over 80 days, from Friday, April 4, 2014 to Monday, June 23, 2014. The review period for the Recirculated DEIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2011011004) ran from Thursday, March 19, 2015 to Friday, May 4, 2015.

This document, combined with the Draft EIR and Recirculated DEIR, constitutes the Final EIR on the project. This Final EIR amends and incorporates by reference the Draft EIR and Recirculated DEIR, which, along with the City of Carlsbad draft General Plan and draft Climate Action Plan are available at the City’s General Plan Update webpage at the following link:

<http://www.carlsbadca.gov/services/depts/planning/update/default.asp>

The Draft EIR and Recirculated DEIR contain some impacts that are significant and unavoidable despite extensive mitigating policies and mitigation measures, specifically impacts to air quality and transportation. Irretrievable commitments of non-renewable resources associated with the proposed Project are identified in the Draft EIR for the resource topics of water consumption,

energy sources, and construction-related impacts. Other potentially significant impacts can be avoided or reduced to levels that are less than significant through implementation of the policies identified in the Draft EIR.

1.2 CEQA Process

Upon publication of the Final EIR, the Planning Commission and City Council will hold public hearings to certify the EIR and to consider adoption of the draft General Plan. Before the City Council may approve the various discretionary actions needed on the proposed Project, it must independently review and consider the information contained in the Final EIR, certifying that the Final EIR adequately discloses the environmental effects of the General Plan, that the Final EIR has been completed in conformance with CEQA, and that the decision-making body of the Lead Agency independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final EIR. Certification of the Final EIR would indicate the city's determination that the Final EIR adequately evaluates the environmental impacts that could be associated with the draft General Plan.

For impacts identified in the EIR that cannot be reduced to a level that is less than significant, the city must make findings and prepare a Statement of Overriding Considerations for approval of the Project if specific social, economic, or other factors justify the proposed Project's unavoidable adverse environmental effects.

If the city decides to approve the proposed Project for which the Final EIR has been prepared, it will issue a Notice of Determination.

The City of Carlsbad has prepared this document pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15132 which specifies that the Final EIR shall consist of:

- The Draft EIR or a revision of the Draft
- A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR
- Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR
- The response of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review process
- Any other information added by the Lead Agency

This Final EIR incorporates comments from public agencies and the general public. It also contains the Lead Agency's responses to those comments. Copies of the Final EIR have been provided to agencies and other parties that commented on the Draft EIR or have requested the Final EIR.

The Final EIR is also available online at:

<http://www.carlsbadca.gov/services/depts/planning/update/default.asp>

1.3 New Information in the Final EIR

If *significant new information* is added to an EIR after notice of public review has been given, but before final certification of the EIR, the Lead Agency must issue a new notice and recirculate the

EIR for further comments and consultation. Significant new information was added to the evaluation of air quality impacts and alternatives after notice given of public review of the Draft EIR; therefore, a new notice was given for public review of the Recirculated Portions of the Draft EIR.

Other corrections or clarifications to the Draft EIR identified in this document, which were not part of the Recirculated DEIR, do not constitute *significant new information* pursuant to Section 15088.5 of the CEQA Guidelines; this new information merely clarifies and makes insignificant changes to an adequate EIR. Specifically, the new information, corrections, or clarifications presented in this document, which were not part of the Recirculated Portions of the Draft EIR, do not disclose that:

- A new significant environmental impact would result from the project or from a new mitigation measure proposed to be implemented;
- A substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact would result unless mitigation measures are adopted that reduce the impact to a level of insignificance;
- A feasible project alternative or mitigation measure considerably different from others previously analyzed would clearly lessen the significant environmental impacts of the project, but the project's proponents decline to adopt it; or
- The Draft EIR or Recirculated DEIR was so fundamentally and basically inadequate and conclusory in nature that meaningful public review and comment were precluded.

Information presented in the Draft EIR, Recirculated DEIR and this document support this determination.

1.4 Organization

This document contains the following components:

- **Chapter 2** lists all of the agencies, organizations and individuals that submitted written comments on the Draft EIR, Recirculated DEIR, Draft General Plan, and draft Climate Action Plan; reproduces all comments, provides a unique number for each comment in the page margin, and provides numbered responses to comments.
- **Chapter 3** lists revisions to the Draft EIR and Recirculated DEIR by chapter and page, in the same order as the revisions would appear in the Draft EIR.
- **Chapter 4** lists revisions to the Draft General Plan.
- **Chapter 5** lists revisions to the Draft Climate Action Plan