

# I Introduction

## I.1 Background

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This document contains revisions to portions of the draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Carlsbad General Plan Update and a new Climate Action Plan (collectively referred to as the “project”). The project has been prepared on behalf of the City of Carlsbad in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

A draft EIR was prepared to disclose potential environmental effects of the project and included a description of the project, an assessment of its potential environmental effects, a description of feasible mitigation measures to reduce significant effects that were identified in the draft EIR, and consideration of alternatives that could address potential impacts. In accordance with the CEQA, the draft EIR was distributed for a 45-day public review and comment period beginning on April 4, 2014 through May 19, 2014; and on May 14, 2014, the public review and comment period was extended to June 20, 2014. Copies of the draft EIR or notice of availability of the draft EIR were sent to various state, regional, and local agencies, as well as interested organizations and individuals. In total, 291 comment letters were received from public agencies, organizations and individuals.

The draft EIR determined that the project would have significant and unavoidable impacts to air quality standards and transportation levels of service. The draft EIR identified that all other individual and cumulative impacts were mitigated to a level less than significant. However, comments received on the draft EIR questioned the accuracy of the air quality analysis; specifically the conclusion that the proposed General Plan would not conflict with the applicable air quality plan and would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in nonattainment criteria pollutants (draft EIR Air Quality Impacts 3.2-1 and 3.2-3). In addition, other comments identified that the draft EIR did not include an alternative that substantially reduced the significant impacts to air quality and transportation.

The city has revised portions of the draft EIR to address comments concerning Chapter 3.2, Air Quality and Chapter 4.0, Alternatives. The revisions to the draft EIR include a revised air quality analysis, which concludes Impacts 3.2-1, 3.2-2, 3.2-3, and 3.2-4 will be significant and unavoidable, and a revised alternatives analysis which evaluates a reduced density alternative that reduces impacts to air quality and transportation. The other environmental issues raised in public comments on the draft EIR will be addressed in the written responses to comments and other revisions that will be included in the final EIR.

This Recirculated Portions of the Draft EIR was prepared in accordance with Section 15088.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, which states that “A lead agency is required to recirculate an EIR when significant new information is added to the EIR after public notice is given of the availability of

the draft EIR for public review.” Significant new information includes “a new significant environmental impact [that] would result from the project or from a new mitigation measure proposed to be implemented” or “a feasible project alternative or mitigation measure [that is] considerably different from others previously analyzed [that] would clearly lessen the environmental impacts of the project.” Further, because the revisions are limited to a few chapters of the draft EIR, only those chapters are included in this Recirculated Portions of the Draft EIR. These chapters and the associated revisions are discussed below.

## 1.2 Public Review and Comments

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CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5 describes the procedures for recirculation of portions of an EIR; subsection (f)(2) provides that, when an EIR is revised only in part and the lead agency is recirculating only the revised chapters or portions of an EIR, the lead agency may request that reviewers limit their comments to the revised chapters or portions of the recirculated EIR.

**THE CITY OF CARLSBAD REQUESTS THAT REVIEWERS LIMIT THEIR COMMENTS TO THE PORTIONS OF THE DRAFT EIR THAT ARE REVISED AND RECIRCULATED IN THIS DOCUMENT. COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED DRAFT EIR WILL BE RESPONDED TO IN THE FINAL EIR AND NEED NOT BE RE-SUBMITTED.**

This Recirculated Portions of the Draft EIR can be viewed on the City of Carlsbad website at: [www.carlsbadca.gov](http://www.carlsbadca.gov). If you have difficulty accessing the document online or would prefer to review a hardcopy, the document is also on file with the City of Carlsbad Planning Division, located at 1635 Faraday Avenue, Carlsbad CA 92008, and a copy is available at (1) City Clerk’s Office, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive; (2) Carlsbad Main Library, 1775 Dove Lane; and (3) Georgina Cole Library, 1250 Carlsbad Village Drive.

This Recirculated Portions of the Draft EIR will be available for a 45-day period for review and comment by the public and public agencies from March 20, 2015 to May 4, 2015. Pursuant to Section 15204 of the CEQA Guidelines, in reviewing the Recirculated Portions of the Draft EIR, persons and public agencies should focus on the sufficiency of the recirculated portions of the document in identifying and analyzing the possible impacts on the environment and ways in which the significant effects might be avoided or mitigated. Comments are most helpful when they suggest additional specific alternatives or mitigation measures that would provide better ways to avoid or mitigate the significant environmental effects.

Please submit all comments in writing to the following City of Carlsbad contact:

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## **I.3 Revised Portions of the Draft EIR**

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CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5 requires a summary of the revisions made to the previously circulated draft EIR to be included in the Recirculated Portions of the Draft EIR. The revised portions of the draft EIR consist of the following chapters. The revisions are shown in strike-out (deletions)/underline (additions) format.

### **CHAPTER 0: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This chapter contains revisions to the text of the draft EIR, as follows:

- Page ES-5, revised footnote 1
- Page ES-6, revised summary of Alternatives to the Proposed General Plan
- Pages ES-7 and ES-8, revised summary of Areas of Controversy
- Page ES-9 and ES-10, revised summary of Identification of Environmentally Superior Alternative
- Table ES-3 – revised Summary of Significant Impacts and Proposed General Plan Policies and Mitigation Measures that Reduce the Impact for Air Quality Impacts 3.2-1, 3.2-2, 3.2-3 and 3.2-4.

Although there are no other changes in this chapter, the remainder of the Executive Summary is included to provide context for the revisions.

### **CHAPTER 3.2: AIR QUALITY**

This chapter contains revisions to the draft EIR, as follows:

- Pages 3.2-2 – 3.2-8, revised text and tables for Environmental Setting
- Pages 3.2-18 – 3.2-20, revised text for Methodology and Assumptions, and Summary of Impacts
- Pages 3.2-20 – 3.2-49, revised impact analysis for Impacts 3.2-1, 3.2-2, 3.2-3, and 3.2-4

These revisions were made in response to comments received on the draft EIR which questioned the accuracy of the air quality analysis; specifically, the conclusion that the proposed General Plan would not conflict with the applicable air quality plan, would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, and would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in nonattainment criteria pollutants. The revised analysis resulted in a change from “less than significant” impact to “significant and unavoidable” impact for Impacts 3.2-1, 3.2-3 and 3.2-4. Although there are no other changes in this chapter, the remainder of Chapter 3.2 is included to provide context for the revisions.

### **CHAPTER 4: ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES**

This chapter contains revisions to the text of the draft EIR, as follows:

- Section 4.1, revised Background on Development of Alternatives

- Section 4.2, addition of Reduced Density Alternative and revised Comparative Impact Analysis of Alternatives
- Section 4.3, revised Environmentally Superior Alternative

These revisions were made to include a reduced density alternative that could substantially reduce the significant impacts to air quality and transportation. However, the reduced density alternative may not be feasible for the reasons described in the revisions to Section 4.3. Although there are no other changes in this chapter, the remainder of Chapter 4 is included to provide context for the revisions.

## **CHAPTER 5: CEQA REQUIRED CONCLUSIONS**

This chapter contains revisions to the text of the draft EIR, as follows:

- Section 5.3, revised Air Quality discussion in Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

Although there are no other changes in this chapter, the remainder of the Executive Summary is included to provide context for the revisions.

## **CHAPTER 6: BIBLIOGRAPHY**

This chapter contains revisions to the draft EIR that updates references to source materials.

## **APPENDIX B: AIR QUALITY MODELING INFORMATION**

This appendix contains updated modeling information on construction emissions and baseline operations emissions.

## **1.4 Portions of the Draft EIR with No Revisions**

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All other chapters and sections of the draft EIR have not been revised and, therefore, are not included in this Recirculated Portions of the Draft EIR.