

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) evaluates the potential impacts of a proposed bridge rehabilitation of the Fair Oaks Avenue Overhead Bridge (bridge). The Fair Oaks Avenue Overhead Bridge Rehabilitation Project (project) would rehabilitate the bridge to address several identified structural deficiencies while providing for expanding bicycle and pedestrian amenities in the City of Sunnyvale (City).

The City is the Lead Agency for the environmental review. The City has prepared this Draft EIR in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.); and *the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act* (CEQA Guidelines; California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et seq.).

As further described in **Chapter 3, Project Description**, the City has developed this EIR to evaluate the environmental impacts that would occur if the project were approved, constructed, and put into use.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE DRAFT EIR

The purpose of an environmental impact report (EIR) is “to identify the significant effects on the environment of a project, to identify alternatives to the project, and to indicate the manner in which those significant effects can be mitigated or avoided.” (Public Resources Code Section 21002.1[a]). It is not the purpose of an EIR to recommend approval or denial of any particular project.

CEQA requires that all state and local government agencies consider the consequences to the natural and human environment before carrying out or approving any project. To that end, this Draft EIR informs City decision makers, other responsible agencies, and the public of the environmental consequences that could occur if the project was implemented. This EIR identifies the following:

1. mitigation measures to reduce significant impacts to this end;
2. significant impacts that cannot be avoided;
3. growth-inducing impacts;

4. effects found not to be significant;
5. cumulative impacts of the project in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects; and
6. alternatives to the proposed project.

The City will accept comments on the adequacy of this Draft EIR, and will prepare a Final EIR that will include responses to these comments, as well as any revisions to the Draft EIR.

The Draft EIR documents and responses to comments together comprise the Final EIR. In accordance with CEQA Section 15090, the City must certify the Final EIR before taking any action to approve or deny the proposed project.

1.2 SCOPE OF THIS DRAFT EIR

The focus of this Draft EIR is to evaluate the environmental consequences of the project. The Draft EIR covers the following environmental topics in depth:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Energy
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Noise
- Traffic and Circulation
- Utilities and Service Systems
(Stormwater)

Chapter 7, CEQA Required Discussions, includes analysis of environmental effects of the project found to be not significant. Pertinent topic areas include Agriculture and Forest Resources, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Utilities and Service Systems (Wastewater and Solid Waste), and Public Services and Recreation.

1.3 REPORT ORGANIZATION

The Draft EIR is organized into the following chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction provides an introduction and overview describing the focus of the Draft EIR and the environmental review process.

Chapter 2: Executive Summary summarizes the proposal, the environmental consequences that would result from the project, provides a summary table of significant environmental impacts, identifies mitigation measures, and indicates the levels of significance of impacts after mitigation.

Chapter 3: Project Description describes the proposed project, providing detail on location, objectives, and required approvals.

Chapter 4: Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures describes the environmental setting and provides an analysis of the environmental impacts of the project, identifying mitigation measures for any significant environmental impacts.

Chapter 5: Alternatives provides an evaluation of the alternatives to the project.

Chapter 6: Cumulative Impacts describes the environmental impacts that could occur with implementation of the project in combination with other approved, planned, or on-going projects in the vicinity. When cumulative impacts are identified, the analysis determines whether contribution of the project to these impacts is cumulatively considerable.

Chapter 7: CEQA Required Discussions provides a discussion of impacts found to be not significant and a summary of any significant environmental impacts, including unavoidable and growth-inducing impacts and cumulative impacts.

Chapter 8: List of Preparers identifies the Lead Agency and consultants involved in the preparation of this Draft EIR.

1.4 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS FOR THE DRAFT EIR

SCOPING

Prior to the preparation of a Draft EIR, the lead agency prepares and circulates for public comment a Notice of Preparation (NOP). The purpose of the NOP is to determine the scope of the EIR through consultation with responsible agencies and other interested parties.

The City issued a NOP for the project on April 23, 2013. The NOP solicited comments on the scope and content of the EIR and also announced a public scoping meeting, which the City convened on May 9, 2013.

During the 30-day comment period (ending May 23, 2013), the City received 3 comments at the scoping meeting, and eight comment letters were submitted electronically. All written and oral comments received during the comment period and scoping meeting were considered in the preparation of the Draft EIR.

Appendix A includes a copy of the NOP, comments received in response to the NOP, and other scoping-related materials.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

CEQA requires a minimum 45-day public review and comment period on a Draft EIR. Written comments on this Draft EIR may be submitted to the following address:

ATTN: Richard Chen, Project Design Manager
City of Sunnyvale
Department of Public Works
456 West Olive Avenue / POB 3707
Sunnyvale, CA 94088

While reviewing the Draft EIR, reviewers should focus on the document's adequacy in identifying and analyzing effects on the environment and on the ways in which the significant effects might be avoided or mitigated. CEQA Guidelines Section 15204(c) states that reviewers should explain the basis for their comments, and should submit data or references offering facts, reasonable assumptions based on facts, or expert opinion supported by facts.

FINAL EIR

Following the close of the public comment period, responses to public input will be prepared and published as a separate document. The Draft EIR text and appendices, together with the response to comments document, will constitute the Final EIR.

The Final EIR will be available to the public before the City considers certifying the document. At a public hearing, the City will consider certification of the Final EIR. If the Final EIR is certified, the City will then take action to approve or deny the project. If the project is approved, then the City may move forward on the project, including securing any needed permits. See **Table 3-1** for a list of all permits and approvals associated with the proposal.

1.5 INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE

The documents and other sources that have been used in the preparation of this Draft EIR are identified at the end of each section. The CEQA Guidelines set forth three methods that may be used to incorporate data from other sources:

Use of an EIR Appendix (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15148)

To achieve a balance between the highly technical analysis referenced in an EIR and an EIR's public information function, the CEQA Guidelines allow technical analyses to be presented as appendices to the main body of the EIR. Information in an EIR appendix may include summarized technical data, maps, plot plans, diagrams, and similar information in sufficient detail to permit the public and reviewing agencies to make full assessment of the project's significant environmental effects. The appendices are compiled on a CD-ROM as Volume II to this Draft EIR.

Incorporation by Reference (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15150)

Information incorporated by reference has been summarized in the appropriate section(s) of this Draft EIR, as permitted in Section 15150 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Citation to Technical Information (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15148)

Source documents that are not project-specific have been cited where appropriate in the Draft EIR.

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