

Introduction to the Final SEIR

PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (Draft SEIR) was distributed to various public agencies, citizen groups, and interested individuals for a 60-day public review period, which began on December 6, 2007, and ended on February 14, 2008. The Draft SEIR was circulated for review and comment to the public, other interested parties, agencies that commented on the IS/NOP, and surrounding jurisdiction. The Draft EIR was circulated to state agencies for review through the State Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research. Copies of the Draft SEIR were available for review at all libraries within the City of Pasadena, as well as at the City Planning Counter and the City Clerk's Office. During the review period, the public was provided with the opportunity to submit written comments on the Draft EIR. Seven public hearings were held during the review period.

The public was invited to attend all of these hearings through publication of a hearing notice in the appropriate venues and the local newspapers. Oral comments were received at these hearings from commission members as well as the public.

CEQA REQUIREMENTS

The Lead Agency must provide each public agency that commented on the Draft EIR with a copy of the Lead Agency's response at least 10 days before certifying the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (FSEIR). In addition, the Lead Agency may also provide an opportunity for members of the public to review the FSEIR prior to certification, though this is not a requirement of CEQA.

USE OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The FSEIR allows the public and the Lead Agency an opportunity to review revisions to the Draft SEIR, the responses to comments, and other components of the SEIR—such as the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP)—prior to approval of the project. The FSEIR serves as the environmental document used by the City when considering approval of the Rose Bowl Stadium Renovation Project.

After completing the FSEIR, and before approving the project, the Lead Agency must make the following three certifications as required by Section 15090 of the CEQA Guidelines:

- That the FSEIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA
- That the FSEIR was presented to the decision-making body of the Lead Agency, and that the decision-making body reviewed and considered the information in the FEIR prior to approving the project
- That the FSEIR reflects the Lead Agency's independent judgment and analysis

Additionally, pursuant to Section 15091(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, if an EIR that has been certified for a project identifies one or more significant environmental effects, the lead agency must adopt “Findings of Fact.” For each significant impact, the lead agency must make one of the following findings:

- (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 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.

Each finding must be accompanied by a brief explanation of the rationale for the finding. In addition, pursuant to Section 15091(d) of the CEQA Guidelines, the agency must adopt, in conjunction with the findings, a program for reporting or monitoring the changes that it has either required in the project or made a condition of approval to avoid or substantially lessen environmental effects. These measures must be fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures. This program is referred to as the Mitigation Monitoring Program.

Further, pursuant to Section 15093(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, when a Lead Agency approves a project that would result in significant unavoidable impacts that are disclosed in the FSEIR, the agency must state in writing its reasons for supporting the approved action. This Statement of Overriding Considerations shall be supported by substantial information in the record, which includes this FSEIR. Since the proposed project would result in significant unavoidable impacts, the City of Pasadena would be required to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations if it approves the project. This statement is not a substitute for the Findings of Fact described above.

These certifications, the Findings of Fact, and the Statement of Overriding Considerations are included in a separate Findings document that accompanies the City’s staff report. Both the FSEIR and the Findings are submitted to the City for consideration of the proposed project.