

## **2.0 Introduction and Purpose**

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## **2.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE**

### **2.1 PURPOSE OF THE EIR**

The City of Long Beach (City) is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and has determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required for the 2810 East 1st Street Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2013041004). This EIR has been prepared in conformance with CEQA (California Public Resources Code [PRC] § 21000 et seq.); *CEQA Guidelines* (California Code of Regulations [CCR], Title 14, § 15000 et seq.); and the rules, regulations, and procedures for implementation of CEQA, as adopted by the City of Long Beach. The principal *CEQA Guidelines* sections governing content of this document are §§ 15120 through 15132, *Contents of Environmental Impact Reports*.

The purpose of this EIR is to review the existing conditions, analyze potential environmental impacts, and identify feasible mitigation measures to avoid or lessen the Project's potentially significant effects. This EIR addresses the Project's environmental effects, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines § 15161. As referenced in CEQA Guidelines § 15121(a), the primary purposes of this EIR are to:

- Inform decision-makers and the public generally of the significant environmental effects of a project;
- Identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects of a project; and
- Describe reasonable alternatives to a project.

The mitigation measures that are specified may be adopted as conditions of approval to minimize the significance of impacts resulting from the Project. In addition, this EIR is the primary reference document in the formulation and implementation of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project.

The City of Long Beach (which has the principal responsibility of processing and approving the Project) and other public (i.e., responsible and trustee) agencies that may use this EIR in the decision-making or permit process will consider the information in this EIR, along with other information that may be presented during the CEQA process. Environmental impacts are not always mitigatable to a level considered less than significant; in those cases, impacts are considered significant unavoidable impacts. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15093(b), if a public agency approves a project that has significant impacts that are not substantially mitigated (i.e., significant unavoidable impacts), the agency shall state in writing the specific reasons for approving the Project, based on the Final EIR and any other information in the public record for the Project. This is termed, per CEQA Guidelines § 15093, a "statement of overriding considerations."

This document analyzes the Project's environmental effects to the degree of specificity appropriate to the current proposed actions, as required by CEQA Guidelines § 15146. The analysis considers the activities associated with the Project to determine the short- and long-term effects associated with their implementation. This EIR discusses the Project's direct and indirect impacts, as well as the cumulative impacts associated with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.



## 2.2 EIR SCOPING PROCESS

In compliance with the *CEQA Guidelines*, the City of Long Beach has provided opportunities for various agencies and the public to participate in the environmental review process. During preparation of the Draft EIR, efforts were made to contact various Federal, State, regional, and local government agencies and other interested parties to solicit comments on the scope of review in this document. This included the distribution of a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to various responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and interested parties.

### 2.2.1 INITIAL STUDY

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15082, as amended, the City of Long Beach circulated the NOP directly to public agencies (including the State Clearinghouse Office of Planning and Research), special districts, and members of the public who had requested such notice. The NOP was distributed on April 2, 2013, with the 30-day public review period concluding on May 1, 2013.

The purpose of the NOP was to formally announce the preparation of a Draft EIR for the proposed Project, and that, as the Lead Agency, the City was soliciting input regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. The NOP provided preliminary information regarding the anticipated impacts to be analyzed within the EIR. It was determined that Project implementation may result in significant environmental effects involving Cultural (Historical) Resources.

Based on the Initial Study, issues for which no significant impacts are anticipated to occur are described in detail in the Initial Study (Appendix A, *Initial Study/Notice of Preparation*) and addressed in Section 8.0, *Effects Found Not To Be Significant*, in this EIR.

### 2.2.2 NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* § 15082, the City circulated a NOP to public agencies, special districts, and members of the public requesting such notice for a 30-day period commencing on April 2, 2013 and concluding on May 1, 2013. The purpose of the NOP was to formally convey that the City is preparing a Draft EIR for the proposed Project and that, as Lead Agency, it was soliciting input regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. The Initial Study was circulated with the NOP. The NOP, Initial Study, and responses to the NOP are provided, respectively, in Appendix A and Appendix B, *NOP Comments*.

### 2.2.3 NOP SCOPING RESULTS

The NOP comments included, but were not limited to, the following issues of controversy/issues to be resolved:

- Identify previously surveyed cultural resources; refer to Section 5.1, *Cultural Resources*.
- Address accidentally discovered archaeological resources; refer to Section 8.0, *Effects Found not to be Significant*.



## **2.3 COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA**

### **2.3.1 PUBLIC REVIEW OF DRAFT EIR**

In accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* §§ 15087 and 15105, this Draft EIR will be circulated for a 45-day public review period. The public will be invited to comment in writing on the information contained in this document. Persons and agencies commenting are encouraged to provide information that they believe is missing from the Draft EIR and to identify where the information can be obtained. All comment letters received before the close of the public review period will be responded to in writing, and the comment letters, together with the responses to those comments, will be included in the Final EIR.

Comment letters should be sent to:

City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, California 90802  
Attn: Mr. Steve Gerhardt, AICP, Senior Planner  
Steve.Gerhardt@longbeach.gov

### **2.3.2 FINAL EIR**

The Final EIR will consist of the Draft EIR, revisions to the Draft EIR (if any), and responses to all written comments addressing concerns raised in the comments of responsible agencies, the public, and any other reviewing parties. After the Final EIR is completed, and at least ten days prior to the certification hearing, a copy of the response to comments made by public agencies on the Draft EIR will be provided to the commenting agencies.

## **2.4 FORMAT OF THE EIR**

The Draft EIR is organized into 11 sections, as follows:

- Section 1.0, *Executive Summary*, provides summaries of the Project description, environmental impacts, and mitigation measures.
- Section 2.0, *Introduction and Purpose*, provides CEQA compliance information.
- Section 3.0, *Project Description*, provides a detailed Project Description indicating the Project location and setting, background and history, characteristics, objectives, phasing, and associated discretionary actions required.
- Section 4.0, *Basis for the Cumulative Analysis*, describes the approach and methodology for the cumulative analysis.
- Section 5.0, *Environmental Analysis*, contains a detailed environmental analysis of the existing conditions, potential Project impacts, recommended mitigation measures, and possible unavoidable adverse impacts for the following environmental topic area:
  - Cultural Resources.



- Section 6.0, *Other CEQA Considerations*, discusses the long-term implications of the proposed action. Irreversible environmental changes that would be involved in the proposed action, should it be implemented, are considered. The Project's growth-inducing impacts, including the potential for population growth, and energy conservation impacts are also discussed.
- Section 7.0, *Alternatives to the Proposed Action*, describes a reasonable range of alternatives to the Project or its location that could avoid or substantially lessen the Project's significant impacts and still feasibly attain the Project's basic objectives.
- Section 8.0, *Effects Found Not to be Significant*, provides an explanation of potential impacts that have been determined not to be significant.
- Section 9.0, *Organizations and Persons Consulted*, identifies all Federal, State, and local agencies, other organizations, and individuals consulted.
- Section 10.0, *References*, contains the Project's reference documentation.
- Appendices, contains the Project's technical documentation.

## 2.5 RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE AGENCIES

Certain projects or actions undertaken by a Lead Agency require subsequent oversight, approvals, or permits from other public agencies in order to be implemented. Such other agencies are referred to as Responsible Agencies and Trustee Agencies. Pursuant to *CEQA Guidelines* §§ 15381 and 15386, as amended, Responsible Agencies and Trustee Agencies are respectively defined as follows:

*“Responsible Agency” means a public agency, which proposes to carry out or approve a project, for which [a] Lead Agency is preparing or has prepared an EIR or Negative Declaration. For the purposes of CEQA, the term “responsible agency” includes all public agencies other than the Lead Agency, which have discretionary approval power over the project. (CEQA Guidelines §15381)*

*“Trustee Agency” means a state agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project, which are held in trust for the people of the State of California. Trustee Agencies include; The California Department of Fish and Game, The State Lands Commission; The State Department of Parks and Recreation and The University of California with regard to sites within the Natural Land and Water Reserves System. (CEQA Guidelines §15386)*

There are no known Responsible and Trustee Agencies or other entities that may use this EIR in their decision-making process or for informational purposes.

## 2.6 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Pertinent documents relating to this EIR have been cited in accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* § 15148, which encourages “incorporation by reference” as a means of reducing redundancy and



length of environmental reports. The following documents, which are available for public review at the City of Long Beach Community Development Department, located at 333 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, California, 90802, are hereby incorporated by reference into this EIR. Information contained within these documents has been utilized within this EIR. A brief synopsis of the scope and content of these documents is provided below.

City of Long Beach General Plan. The *City of Long Beach General Plan (General Plan)* is the long-range planning guide for growth and development for the City. The *General Plan* sets forth the goals, policies, and directions the City will take in managing its future. The *General Plan* is the citizens' blueprint for development; the guide to achieving the City's vision. It is a comprehensive document that addresses the following seven mandatory elements/issues in accordance with State law: Land Use; Housing; Circulation; Conservation; Open Space; Noise; and Safety. Other optional issues that affect the City, including Air Quality, Scenic Routes, Seismic Safety, and a Local Coastal Program, have also been addressed in the *General Plan*. Each General Plan Element was adopted as follows:

- Land Use Element (1989);
- Historic Preservation Element (2010);
- Transportation Element (1991);
- Open Space and Recreation Element (2002);
- Public Safety Element (1975);
- Housing Element (2009);
- Noise Element (1975);
- Seismic Safety Element (1988);
- Conservation Element (1973);
- Air Quality Element (1996);
- Scenic Routes Element (1975); and
- Local Coastal Program (1980).

The *General Plan* was utilized throughout this document as the fundamental planning document governing development on the Project site. Background and policy information from the *General Plan* are cited in several sections of this document.

City of Long Beach Municipal Code (enacted August 17, 2010). The *City of Long Beach Municipal Code (Municipal Code)*, enacted August 17, 2010, consists of the City's regulatory, penal, and administrative ordinances. It is the method the City uses to implement control of land uses, in accordance with *General Plan* goals and policies. The City's *Zoning Code (Municipal Code Title 21)* identifies land uses permitted and prohibited according to the zoning category of particular parcels. The *Buildings and Construction Code (Municipal Code Title 18)* specifies regulations for construction, alteration, and building or uses for human habitation.



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