

1.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE FINAL EIR

PURPOSE

This document, along with the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) represents the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the Verdugo Gardens Project. It has been prepared in accordance with Section 15132 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, as amended. The Glendale Redevelopment Agency (Lead Agency) will consider this Final EIR in its capacity as Lead Agency before it approves, denies, or recommends changes to the proposed project. The Findings of Fact and any Statement of Overriding Consideration would be made after the Glendale Redevelopment Agency has considered the information contained in this Final EIR. Likewise, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) is adopted at the time the findings are adopted and would also be included in the public record.

As required by Section 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines, a Final EIR shall consist of the following:

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

The evaluation and response to public comments is an important part of the CEQA process as it allows the following: (1) the opportunity to review and comment on the methods of analysis contained within the Draft EIR; (2) the ability to detect any omissions which may have occurred during preparation of the Draft EIR; (3) the ability to check for accuracy of the analysis contained within the Draft EIR; (4) the ability to share expertise; and (5) the ability to discover public concerns.

PROCESS

As defined by Section 15050 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, the Glendale Redevelopment Agency (Agency) is serving as Lead Agency, and is responsible for preparing the EIR for this project.

The Agency determined that an EIR should be prepared for the Verdugo Gardens Project and a Notice of Preparation (NOP) was prepared and circulated between February 21, 2006, and March 22, 2006, for the required 30-day review period. The purpose of the NOP was to solicit early comments from public agencies with expertise in subjects that would be discussed in the Draft EIR. The NOP and Initial Study

are contained in Appendix 1.0(a) of the Draft EIR. In addition, to facilitate local participation, the Agency held a scoping meeting on the project to solicit oral and written comments from the public and public agencies. The public scoping meeting was held on March 8, 2006. Comments received at the meeting are contained in Appendix 1.0(b) of the Draft EIR. Topics evaluated in this Draft EIR were identified based upon the responses to the NOP, comments received at the scoping meeting, and review of the project by Agency staff. The Agency determined through this initial review process that impacts related to the following topics were potentially significant and required assessment in the Draft EIR:

- Land Use and Planning
- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Services Systems
- Population and Housing
- Traffic and Circulation
- Noise
- Public Services
- Recreation

The Draft EIR was then prepared and circulated for a 45-day public review period, as required by state law, beginning on August 10, 2007, and ending on September 24, 2007.

CONTENTS OF THE FINAL EIR

As discussed above, the primary intent of the Final EIR is to provide a forum to raise and address comments pertaining to the analysis contained within the Draft EIR. Pursuant to Section 15088 of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, the City of Glendale, as the Lead Agency for this project, has reviewed and addressed all comments received on the Draft EIR prepared for the Verdugo Gardens Project. Included within the Final EIR are written comments that were submitted during the required public review period. These comments are included in the interest of providing a complete public record for this project.

In order to adequately address the comments provided by interested agencies and the public in an organized manner, this Final EIR has been prepared in four parts.

Section 2.0, Executive Summary, which summarizes the project-level and cumulative impacts associated with the project, and alternatives to the project.

Section 3.0, Comments and Response to Comments, on the Draft Environmental Impact Report, provides a list of commenters, topical responses, copies of written comments (coded for reference), and the responses to those written comments.

Section 4.0, Minor Edits to the Draft EIR, consists of minor text changes made to the Draft EIR as a result of comments raised during the public review process.

Appendices to the Final EIR include technical data used in the preparation of the Final EIR.

