

I. SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is intended to (1) inform governmental decision-makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of proposed activities, (2) identify the ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced, (3) prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures when the governmental agency finds the changes to be feasible, and (4) disclose to the public the reasons why a governmental agency approved the project in the manner the agency chose if significant environmental effects are involved. (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15002.)

The purpose of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is to allow for informed public participation and decision-making by creating a written record that (1) discloses the potential significant effects of an action, (2) identifies possible ways to minimize the significant effects, and (3) describes reasonable alternatives to the project.

This EIR has been prepared on behalf of the City of Ontario to inform decision-makers and the public of the potential significant environmental effects associated with the Specific Plan, Williamson Act Contract Cancellation, the Development Agreement, and the subdivision maps listed on page I-2-2. Additional subdivision maps will be submitted in the future to implement the Specific Plan. An Initial Study will be prepared (pursuant to CEQA) at the time of submittal of future tract maps to determine the nature and extent of additional environmental analysis necessary. This study has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, known as CEQA, (California Public Resources Code, Sections 21000 et seq.), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 et seq.), and City of Ontario's local guidelines for implementing CEQA.

The EIR process typically consists of three parts – the Notice of Preparation, Draft EIR, and Final EIR. The Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the proposed project was circulated in July/August 2005 (pursuant to CEQA Section 21092.3). The NOP was distributed directly to approximately 55 public agencies and interested public parties. The NOP was posted with the Clerk for the County of San Bernardino on July 28, 2005 and the State Clearinghouse for 30 days beginning on (August 1, 2005). Copies of the NOP, NOP distribution list and NOP comments are presented in Appendix A.