

1.0 Introduction

On December 19, 2006, the City of Ontario approved The Avenue Specific Plan and certified a project specific EIR for one of the 30 planning Subareas of the New Model Colony (NMC), known as Subarea 18. The Final EIR (FEIR) identified several potentially significant environmental impacts that were mitigated to levels considered less than significant. The FEIR also identified several significant impacts that could not be mitigated to less than significant levels, but the benefits of the project outweighed the potential environmental impacts. As a consequence, a Statement of Overriding Considerations was concurrently adopted by the City Council.

Subsequently, the project proponent of The Avenue Specific Plan has modified the plan to include a larger number of residences and commercial space as a result of a rearrangement of some roadways and land uses within the Avenue Specific Plan area. The City of Ontario (City) coordinated the preparation of Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for The Avenue Specific Plan Amendment (Project) to address the potential environmental impacts associated with proposed modifications resulting in construction of 2,606 residences, 250,000 square feet of commercial space, and two schools on 569.4 acres within the NMC General Plan area of the City. The Project includes a Specific Plan Amendment. The proposed land use changes of the Amendment are consistent with the recently adopted General Plan Update, The Ontario Plan.

The Draft SEIR was circulated for public review and comment beginning on December 22, 2008 and ending on February 4, 2009. In accordance with Sections 15088 and 15088.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, this document responds to comments received on the Draft SEIR and is organized into four sections:

1. Introduction

2. List of Commenters: Provides a list of the agencies, organizations, and individuals that commented on the Draft SEIR.

3. Responses to Comments: Includes a copy of all the letters received on the Draft SEIR and provides responses to the comments in all the letters. Each comment letter has been assigned an alphabetical designation and individual comments area assigned a number for easy cross reference to the response. The responses explain the Draft SEIR analysis, support Draft SEIR conclusions, or provide information, corrections, or clarifications, as appropriate. Unless otherwise noted, references herein are related to the Draft SEIR. For reading ease, this section is organized with the responses immediately following the commenter's letter.

4. Clarifications to the Draft EIR: Includes a listing of refinements and clarifications that have been incorporated in the text of the Draft SEIR.

5. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program: Includes the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the mitigation measures outlined in the Draft SEIR.

1.1 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

This Response to Comments document is part of the Final SEIR, which includes the Draft SEIR and technical appendices pursuant to Section 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines.

1.2 NEW INFORMATION AND CHANGES TO THE EIR

Information contained within this document clarifies or supplements information presented in the Draft SEIR. This information does not constitute substantial new information as defined in Section 15088.5 of the CEQA Guidelines; nor does this information change the findings made in the Draft SEIR. Therefore, recirculation of the Draft SEIR is not required as defined in Section 15088.5 of the CEQA Guidelines.