

1 INTRODUCTION

The City of Elk Grove, as the CEQA lead agency, prepared a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) to evaluate the impacts of the Multi-Sport Complex and Southeast Industrial Annexation Area Project (the proposed Project). This SEIR was prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.*) and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR], Title 14, Section 15000 *et seq.*).

1.1 INPUT ON THE SCOPE OF ANALYSIS REPORTED IN THE DRAFT SEIR

Pursuant to Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City prepared a notice of preparation (NOP) of a Supplemental EIR and provided copies directly by mail and through the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (State Clearinghouse) to CEQA responsible and natural resource trustee agencies, local municipalities, interested persons, organizations, agencies, and landowners. As specified by the CEQA Guidelines, the NOP was circulated for a 30-day review period. The comment period ran from July 20, 2020 to August 19, 2020. Responses received during the public scoping period are included in their entirety in Appendix A to this Final SEIR.

In accordance with State and local health orders limiting in-person public meetings during the Coronavirus pandemic, the City provided an alternative method for the scoping meeting. A video presentation by staff, introducing the Project and outlining the CEQA process, was made available for review at <http://www.egplanning.org/environmental> and <http://www.elkgrovecity.org/sportscomplex>. The website also provided a method for directly providing comments. The video and comment opportunity were available throughout the NOP comment period.

1.2 PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE DRAFT SEIR

The Draft SEIR (State Clearinghouse Number 2015102067) was received by the State Clearinghouse and circulated for a public review period from October 9, 2020 through November 24, 2020.

In accordance with Section 15088 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City, as the lead agency, has reviewed the comments received on the Draft SEIR for the proposed Project and has prepared written responses to the comments received as a part of this Final SEIR.

1.3 ORGANIZATION OF THE FINAL SEIR

This Final SEIR includes:

- ▶ A full list of agencies, organizations, and individuals that provided comments on the Draft SEIR;
- ▶ A summary of comments and responses to comments on the Draft SEIR;
- ▶ Minor revisions to the Draft SEIR detailed in Chapter 3 of this Final SEIR;

- ▶ Each written comment received on the Draft SEIR in its entirety.¹

Chapter 2, “Comments and Responses to Comments” of this Final SEIR includes a summary of written comments received on the Draft SEIR and responses to these comments (as required by the CEQA Guidelines Section 15132).

To assist the reader, each response includes a summary of the comment. The range of responses include providing clarification on the Draft SEIR, making factual corrections, explaining why certain comments may not warrant further response, or simply acknowledging the comment for consideration by decision makers when the comment does not relate to the adequacy of the Draft SEIR for addressing potential adverse physical environmental effects of the Project.

In some instances, responses to comments may warrant modification of the text of the Draft SEIR. In those cases, the text of the Draft SEIR has been revised and the changes compiled in Chapter 3, “Corrections and Revisions to the Draft SEIR” of this Final SEIR. The text deletions are shown in ~~strikeout~~ and additions are shown in underline. The revisions summarized in Chapter 3 of this Final SEIR do not change the conclusions presented in the Draft SEIR.

The Final SEIR and the Draft SEIR together with the original Draft EIR and Final EIR constitute the Final EIR the City Council will consider.

1.4 USE OF THE FINAL SEIR

The Final SEIR allows the public, agencies, and the City decision makers an opportunity to review revisions to the Draft SEIR and the Responses to Comments. The Final SEIR serves as the environmental document to inform the Commission’s and City Council’s consideration of the proposed Project, either in whole or in part, or one of the alternatives to the Project discussed in the Draft SEIR.

As required by Section 15090 of the CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency, in certifying a final EIR, must make the following three determinations:

1. The final EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA.
2. The final EIR was presented to the decision-making body of the lead agency, and the decision-making body reviewed and considered the information in the final EIR prior to approving the project.
3. The final EIR reflects the lead agency’s independent judgment and analysis.

As required by Section 15091 of the CEQA Guidelines, no public agency shall approve or carry out a project for which an EIR has been certified that identifies one or more significant environmental effects of the project unless the public agency makes one or more written findings (Findings of Fact) for each of those significant effects, accompanied by a brief explanation of the rationale for each finding supported by substantial evidence in the record. The possible findings are:

¹Chapter 3 includes only portions of the Draft SEIR where revisions have been made, not the entire Draft SEIR.

1. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into the project [that] avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final 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.

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