

I. Introduction

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In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15089, the City of Los Angeles (city) as the Lead Agency must prepare a Final EIR before approving a project. The purpose of this Final EIR is to provide an opportunity for the Lead Agency to respond to comments made by the general public and public agencies regarding the 222 West 2nd Project (Project) Draft EIR. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15132, this Final EIR includes revisions to the Draft EIR; a list of persons, organizations, and agencies that provided comments on the Draft EIR; and responses to comments received regarding the Draft EIR. In addition, this Final EIR includes a Mitigation Monitoring Program.

This Final EIR constitutes the second part of the EIR for the Project and is intended to be a companion to the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR for the Project, which circulated for public review and comment from March 21, 2019 through May 6, 2019, constitutes the first part of the EIR and is incorporated by reference and bound separately. (Refer to Volumes 1 through 6 of the Draft EIR).

1. Organization of the Final EIR

This Final EIR is organized into four main sections as follows:

Section I. Introduction—This section provides an introduction to the Final EIR.

Section II. Responses to Comments—This section presents a matrix of the parties that commented on the Draft EIR and the issues they raised. The matrix is followed by enumerated verbatim copies of the comments received followed by corresponding responses to each of the written comments made regarding the Draft EIR. Copies of the complete original comment letters are provided in Appendix FEIR-1 of this Final EIR.

Section III. Revisions, Clarifications, and Corrections to the Draft EIR—This section provides a list of revisions that have been made to the Draft EIR for the Project based on comments received from the public and agencies and other items requiring correction or revision.

These changes are minor and do not add significant new information that would affect the analysis or conclusions presented in the Draft EIR. CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(a) specifically states:

New information added to an EIR is not “significant” unless the EIR is changed in a way that deprives the public of a meaningful opportunity to comment upon a substantial adverse environmental effect of the project or a feasible way to mitigate or avoid such an effect (including a feasible project alternative) that the project’s proponents have declined to implement. “Significant new information” requiring recirculation includes, for example, a disclosure showing that:

- *A new significant environmental impact would result from the project or from a new mitigation measure proposed to be implemented.*
- *A substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact would result unless mitigation measures are adopted to reduce the impact to a level of insignificance.*
- *A feasible project alternative or mitigation measure considerably different from others previously analyzed would clearly lessen the significant environmental impacts of the project, but the project’s proponents decline to adopt it.*
- *The draft EIR was so fundamentally and basically inadequate and conclusory in nature that meaningful public review and comment were precluded.*

CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(b) provides that “[r]ecirculation is not required where the new information added to the EIR merely clarifies or amplifies or makes insignificant modifications in an adequate EIR.”

As demonstrated in this Final EIR, neither the comments submitted regarding the Draft EIR, the responses to those comments, nor the corrections and additions presented in Section III of this Final EIR constitute new significant information warranting recirculation of the Draft EIR, as set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5. Rather, the Draft EIR is comprehensive and has been prepared in accordance with CEQA.

Section IV. Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP)—This section sets forth the MMP for the Project. The MMP lists all the Project design features and mitigation measures by environmental topic and identifies for each of the features and measures the applicable enforcement agency, monitoring agency, monitoring phase, monitoring frequency, and action indicating compliance.

This Final EIR also includes the following appendices:

Appendix FEIR-1. Draft EIR Comment Letters—This appendix to the Final EIR includes copies of all written comments received on the Draft EIR.

Appendix FEIR-2. Discussion of Modifications to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines—This appendix to the Final EIR provides a discussion of the revised CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist Form as it relates to the analysis provided in the Draft EIR, since revisions to the CEQA Guidelines were recently adopted and are now effective.

6. Public Review Process

In accordance with CEQA, the environmental review process for the Project commenced with solicitation of comments from identified responsible and trustee agencies, as well as interested parties on the scope of the Draft EIR, through a Notice of Preparation (NOP) process. The City prepared an Initial Study and circulated an NOP for public comment to the State Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research, responsible agencies, and other interested parties on January 25, 2017, for a 30-day review period. In addition, a public scoping meeting was conducted on February 9, 2017. The Initial Study, NOP, and NOP comment letters are included in Appendix A of the Draft EIR.

Consistent with the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Sections 15087 and 15105, the Draft EIR was submitted to the State Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research and was circulated for public review commencing on March 21, 2019. The Draft EIR was also made available for review on the City's website, at the Department of City Planning, and at five public libraries. CEQA requires a 45-day public comment period for Draft EIRs, which ended on May 6, 2019. Following the Draft EIR public comment period, this Final EIR has been prepared and includes responses to the comments raised regarding the Draft EIR.