

Purpose

The City of Lake Forest (City), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared this final environmental impact report (final EIR) for the proposed Sports Park and Recreation Center Project (proposed project). This final EIR contains all of the required contents as outlined in Section 15132 of the State CEQA Guidelines, including:

- the draft environmental impact report or a revision to the draft;
- comments and recommendations received on the draft EIR;
- 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; and
- any other information added by the lead agency.

This final EIR for the project consists of comments and responses to comments and a mitigation monitoring plan for the project. This final EIR is intended to be used along with the draft EIR, which is incorporated by reference and bound separately.

This final EIR assembles all the environmental data and analyses that have been prepared for the proposed project. It also includes public and agency comments on the draft EIR and responses by the City to those comments. The intent of the final EIR is to provide a forum to air and address comments pertaining to the analysis contained in the draft EIR and to provide an opportunity for clarification, corrections, or minor revisions to the draft EIR as needed.

The evaluation and response to comments is an important part of the CEQA process because it allows the following:

- the opportunity to review and comment on the methods of analysis contained in the draft EIR,
- the ability to detect any omissions that may have occurred during the preparation of the draft EIR,
- the ability to check for accuracy of the analysis contained within the draft EIR,
- the ability to share expertise, and
- the ability to discover public concerns.

Process

A draft EIR was prepared for the project and circulated for a 45-day public review period from December 20, 2010, through February 2, 2011, through the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the State Clearinghouse, and the Orange County Clerk.

The City used several methods to elicit comments on the draft EIR. The notice of availability (NOA) was mailed to various agencies and organizations and to individuals that had previously requested such notice. Additionally, the NOA was posted at the Orange County Clerk's office and was published in the Saddleback Valley News on December 31, 2010. The draft EIR was available for review at the at Lake Forest City Hall, the Foothill Ranch and El Toro libraries, and on the City's website (www.lakeforestca.gov/sportsparkeir).

Written comments were received during and after the public review period. Pursuant to Section 15088 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the City, as the lead agency for the project, has reviewed all comments received on the draft EIR. Responses to these comments are contained within Chapter 2, "Comments Received and Responses to Comments," of this final EIR.