

CHAPTER 8.0 RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

This chapter provides a description of the process to address all comments received on the Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (Draft SEIR).

The focus of the responses to comments is on the disposition of significant environmental issues raised in the comments, as specified by Section 15088(c) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. When a comment is not directed to significant environmental issues, the responses indicate that the comment has been acknowledged and no further response is necessary.

Each comment letter is lettered and the issues within each comment letter are bracketed and numbered. Comment letters are followed by responses, which are numbered to correspond with the bracketed comment letters.

The County's responses to comments on the Draft SEIR represent a good-faith, reasoned effort to address the environmental issues identified by the comments. Under the CEQA Guidelines, the County is not required to respond to all comments on the Draft SEIR, but only those comments that raise environmental issues. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines 15088 and 15204, the County has independently evaluated the comments and prepared the attached written responses describing the disposition of any significant environmental issues raised. CEQA does not require the County to conduct every test or perform all research, study, and experimentation recommended or demanded by commenters.

Rather, CEQA requires the County to provide a good faith, reasoned analysis supported by factual information. To fulfill these requirements, County staff in planning and environmental sciences consulted with and independently reviewed analysis responding to the Draft SEIR comments prepared by Department-approved CEQA consultants which also include professionals in planning and environmental sciences; is familiar with the project and the environmental conditions in the County; and is familiar with the federal, state, and local rules and regulations (including CEQA and the County's General Plan).

Accordingly, the County staff's final analysis provided in this response to comments are backed by substantial evidence. Likewise, the County Counsel's Office prepared and/or independently reviewed legal analysis supplementing the responses to the Draft SEIR comments.

8.1 List of Agencies and Individuals that Commented on the Draft SEIR

A List of Persons, Organizations, and Public Agencies that Commented on the Draft SEIR is provided at the front of this Draft Final SEIR immediately following the Statement of Location and Custodian of Documents or Other Materials that Constitute a Record of Proceedings.

8.2 Summary of Changes to the Draft SEIR

Changes have been made to the Draft SEIR in ~~strikeout~~/underline format in response to comments and to provide updates and clarifications to information provided herein. Please refer to Chapters 1 through 7 of this document.

Revisions to the Draft SEIR, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5 (b), have been made to clarify text for consistency or revise punctuation as appropriate throughout the document and does not result in what constitutes new significant information that would require recirculation of the document. A table listing and describing these revisions is provided at the front of the Draft Final SEIR in the Readers Guide, and in Section VI (No Recirculation Required) of the CEQA Findings for the Draft Final SEIR which are attached to the Planning Commission Hearing Report as Attachment F-1.