

2. *Introduction*

2.1 **PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that all state and local governmental agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority prior to taking action on those projects. This Subsequent Draft Environmental Impact Report (SDEIR) has been prepared to satisfy CEQA, as set forth in the Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR), Sections 15000 et seq. The EIR is the public document designed to provide decision makers and the public with an analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed project, indicate possible ways to reduce or avoid environmental damage, and identify alternatives to the project. The EIR must also disclose significant environmental impacts that cannot be avoided; growth-inducing impacts; effects not found to be significant; and significant cumulative impacts of all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.

According to PRC Section 21067, the lead agency means “the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project which may have a significant effect upon the environment.” The City of Pasadena has the principal responsibility for approval of the Crown City Medical Center project, and therefore is the lead agency.

The intent of the SDEIR is to provide sufficient information on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Crown City Medical Center to allow the City of Pasadena to make an informed decision regarding approval of the project. Specific discretionary actions to be reviewed by the City are described later in Section 3.4, *Intended Uses of the EIR*.



2.2 **NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND INITIAL STUDY**

The City of Pasadena determined that an EIR would be required for this project and issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Initial Study on September 12, 2011 (see Appendix A). Comments received during the public review period, which extended from September 12, 2011 to October 12, 2011, are contained in Appendix B.

The NOP process is used to help determine the scope of the environmental issues to be addressed in the SDEIR. Based on this process and the Initial Study for the project, certain environmental categories were identified as having the potential to result in significant impacts. Issues considered Potentially Significant are addressed in this SDEIR. Issues identified as Less Than Significant or No Impact are not addressed beyond the discussion in the Initial Study. Refer to the Initial Study in Appendix A for discussion of how these initial determinations were made.

2.3 **SCOPE OF THIS SDEIR**

The scope of the SDEIR was determined based upon the City of Pasadena’s Initial Study, comments received in response to the NOP, and comments received at the scoping meeting conducted by the City on October 12, 2011. The information contained in the Project Description establishes the basis for analyzing future project-related environmental impacts.

2. Introduction

2.3.1 *Impacts Considered Less Than Significant*

Thirteen environmental impact categories were identified in the Initial Study as not being significantly affected by impacts of the proposed Crown City Medical Center project and, as such, are not discussed in detail in this SDEIR. Although the initial study determined that impacts related to cultural resources would not be significantly affected by the project, comments received during the public review period presented a fair argument that historical resources should be analyzed in more detail. As a result, potential impacts to historical resources are analyzed in this SDEIR, as discussed in Section 2.3.2. The following topical issues are not addressed in the SDEIR:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Biological Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Utilities and Service Systems

2.3.2 *Potentially Significant Adverse Impacts*

Five environmental impact categories have been identified as having potentially significant impacts if the proposed project is developed. The potential environmental impacts have been addressed in this SDEIR.

- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources (Historic Resources)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Noise
- Transportation and Traffic

2.3.3 *Unavoidable Significant Adverse Impacts*

This SDEIR identifies one significant and unavoidable adverse impact, as defined by CEQA, that would result from implementation of the proposed project. Unavoidable adverse impacts may be considered significant on a project-specific or cumulative basis. If the City, as the lead agency, determines that unavoidable significant adverse impacts will result from the project, the City must prepare a "Statement of Overriding Considerations" before it can approve the project. A Statement of Overriding Considerations states that the decision-making body has balanced the benefits of the proposed project against its unavoidable significant environmental effects, and has determined that the benefits of the project outweigh the adverse effects and, therefore, the adverse effects are considered to be acceptable. The impact that was found in the SDEIR to be significant and unavoidable even after mitigation are:

- Transportation and Traffic: Project traffic is anticipated to increase the ADT by more than 2.5 percent at eight roadway segments and 5 percent on eight study roadway segments.

2.4 FINAL EIR CERTIFICATION

This SDEIR is being circulated for public review for 45 days. Interested agencies and members of the public are invited to provide written comments on the SDEIR to the City at the address shown on the title page of this document. Upon completion of the 45-day review period, the City of Pasadena will review all written comments received and prepare written responses for each comment. A Final EIR (FEIR) will be prepared incorporating all of the comments received, responses to the comments, and any changes to the SDEIR that result from the comments. This FEIR will be presented to the City of Pasadena for potential certification as the environmental document for the project. All persons who commented on the SDEIR will be notified of the availability of the FEIR and the date of the public hearing before the City.

The SDEIR is available to the general public for review at the following locations:

- City of Pasadena Planning and Community Development Department Public Counter, 175 North Garfield Avenue, Pasadena
- Central Library, 285 East Walnut Street, Pasadena
- City of Pasadena Planning and Community Development Department website, http://www.cityofpasadena.net/planning/environmental/Environmental_Home.asp.

2.5 MITIGATION MONITORING

Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 requires that agencies adopt a monitoring or reporting program for any project for which they have made findings pursuant to Public Resources Code 21081. Such a program is intended to ensure the implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the preparation of an EIR.

The Mitigation Monitoring Program for the Crown City Medical Center will be completed as part of the Final EIR and prior to consideration of the project by the Pasadena Planning Commission.



2. Introduction

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