

This Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines (Section 15132). The City of Elk Grove is the Lead Agency for the environmental review of the proposed Bond Road Widening Project (from Bradshaw Road to Grant Line Road) (project) and has the principal responsibility for approving the Project. This FEIR assesses the expected environmental impacts resulting from approval of the Bond Road Widening Project and associated impacts from subsequent development under the project, as well as responds to comments received on the Draft EIR.

### 1.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

#### OVERVIEW OF CEQA REQUIREMENTS FOR PREPARATION OF AN EIR

The City of Elk Grove (City), acting as the Lead Agency, has prepared this FEIR to provide the public and responsible and trustee agencies with information about the potential environmental effects of the proposed Bond Road Widening project. As described in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15121(a), an EIR is a public informational document that assesses potential environmental effects of the proposed project, as well as identifies mitigation measures and alternatives to the proposed project that could reduce or avoid its adverse environmental impacts. Public agencies are charged with the duty to consider and minimize environmental impacts of proposed development where feasible, and obligated to balance a variety of public objectives including economic, environmental, and social factors.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15121(a) states that an EIR is an informational document for decision-makers and the general public that analyzes the significant environmental effects of a project, identifies possible ways to minimize significant effects, and describes reasonable alternatives to the project that could reduce or avoid its adverse environmental impacts. Public agencies with discretionary authority are required to consider the information in the EIR, along with any other relevant information, in making decisions on the project.

CEQA requires the preparation of an environmental impact report prior to approving any project which may have a significant effect on the environment. For the purposes of CEQA, the term "project" refers to the whole of an action, which has the potential for resulting in a direct physical change or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378[a]). The City has determined that the proposed Bond Road Widening Project is a "project" within the definition of CEQA.

#### CEQA REQUIREMENTS FOR A FINAL EIR

CEQA required findings, and any statement of overriding considerations, would be made after the City has considered the FEIR and would be included in the public record of the project approval. Likewise, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) would be adopted at the same time as the findings and also included in the public record.

Section 15132 of the State CEQA Guidelines states:

*"The final EIR shall consist of:*

*(a) The Draft EIR or a revision of the draft.*

*(b) Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary.*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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(c) *A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR.*

(d) *The responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process.*

(e) *Any other information added by the Lead Agency."*

### BACKGROUND OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS OF THE PROJECT

The following is an overview of the environmental review process for the Bond Road Widening Project that has led to the preparation of this FEIR:

#### **Notice of Preparation and Initial Study**

In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft EIR for the project on July 6, 2005. The City was identified as the Lead Agency for the proposed project. This notice was circulated to the public, local, state, and federal agencies, and other interested parties to solicit comments on the proposed project. Concerns raised in response to the NOP were considered during preparation of the Draft EIR. The NOP and responses by interested parties are presented in Appendix A of the Draft EIR. Also, an Initial Study for the project was prepared and released for public review along with the NOP. Its conclusions supported preparation of an EIR for the project. The Initial Study is also included in Appendix A of the Draft EIR.

#### **Notice of Availability and Draft EIR**

The Notice of Availability for the Draft EIR was published on January 25, 2006. The Draft EIR contains a description of the project, description of the environmental setting, identification of project impacts, and mitigation measures for impacts found to be significant, as well as an analysis of project alternatives.

The Draft EIR was released for a 45-day public and agency review on January 25, 2006 with the review period ending March 10, 2006. The public was also provided with an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR during the February 28, 2006 Public Testimony Meeting held at Elk Grove City Hall.

#### **Final EIR**

Following the close of the public review period, the City received thirteen (13) written comment letters and twelve (12) oral comments during the February 28 meeting from agencies, interest groups and the public regarding the Draft EIR. This document responds to the written and oral comments received as required by CEQA. This document also contains minor edits to the Draft EIR and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project. This document and the Draft EIR constitute the complete FEIR.

#### **Certification of the Final EIR/Project Consideration**

The City of Elk Grove will review and consider the FEIR. If the City finds that the FEIR is "adequate and complete", the City may certify the FEIR at a public hearing. The rule of adequacy generally holds that the EIR can be certified if: 1) it shows a good faith effort at full disclosure of environmental information; and 2) provides sufficient analysis to allow decisions to be made regarding the project in contemplation of its environmental consequences.

Upon review and consideration of the FEIR, the City may take action to approve, revise, or reject the project. A decision to approve the project would be accompanied by written findings and overriding considerations (if necessary) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 and Section 15093. Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 also requires lead agencies to adopt a mitigation monitoring and reporting program to describe measures that have been adopted or made a condition of project approval in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. The final mitigation monitoring and reporting program for the project is provided in Section 5 of this document.

### 1.2 ORGANIZATION AND SCOPE OF THE FINAL EIR

This document is organized in the following manner:

#### SECTION 1.0—INTRODUCTION

Section 1.0 provides an overview of the EIR process to date and what the FEIR is required to contain.

#### SECTION 2.0—EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 2.0 contains the executive summary of the Final EIR, and a table of the impacts and mitigation measures.

#### SECTION 3.0—COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TO COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIR

Section 3.0 provides a list of commenters, both written comment letters and oral testimony. Copies of written comments and the responses to those comments are provided in this section. Summaries of the oral testimony and responses to the testimony are also provided in this section, with a copy of the public testimony transcript provided in **Appendix A** of this Final EIR.

#### SECTION 4.0—ERRATA

Section 4.0 consists of minor changes made to the Draft EIR as a result of comments on the Draft EIR.

#### SECTION 5.0—MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (MMRP)

Section 5.0 consists of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, which includes the mitigation measures, the agency with monitoring responsibility, and timing of the mitigation measures.