

This Revised Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA) as amended and the CEQA Guidelines. The City of Elk Grove is the lead agency for the environmental review of the Laguna Ridge Specific Plan Area (proposed project) evaluated herein and has the principal responsibility for approving the project.

1.1 OVERVIEW

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) was prepared and circulated by the City of Elk Grove on August 31, 2000 for the required 30-day review period. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was then prepared and circulated for a 45-day public review period as required by state law beginning in October 31 of 2001. The 45-day public review period for the DEIR ended on December 17, 2001. The Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) was then prepared and circulated for a public review period as required by state law beginning in July 2, 2003. The 45-day review period for the RDEIR ended on August 18, 2003. A Final EIR was released on October 7, 2003 that responded to the comments received. Since release of the Final EIR, minor modifications to the project design have occurred and the Final EIR has been revised to note these changes. In addition, the City has included additional and revised mitigation measures associated with the loss of agricultural lands (new Mitigation Measure 4.1.1) and Swainson's hawk (revised Mitigation Measure MM 4.8.7a). Section 3.0 of this document includes the comment letters received on the RDEIR as well as response to those comments.

This document along with the RDEIR represents the Revised Final EIR for the Laguna Ridge Specific Plan project. It has been prepared in accordance with Section 15132 of the State of California CEQA Guidelines. This document is an informational document that must be considered by the City of Elk Grove (the lead agency) before it approves or rejects the proposed project.

CEQA-required findings, and any statement of overriding considerations, are made after the City has considered the Revised FEIR and are included in the public record. Likewise, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) are adopted at the same time as the findings and are also included in the public record. Section 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines states:

The Final EIR shall consist of the following:

- *The Draft EIR or a revision of the Draft EIR.*
- *Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary.*
- *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.*
- *Other information deemed necessary by the Lead Agency.*

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

1. The opportunity to review and comment on the methods of analysis contained within the RDEIR;

1.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE REVISED FINAL EIR

2. The ability to detect any omissions, which may have occurred during preparation of the RDEIR;
3. The ability to check for accuracy of the analysis contained within the RDEIR;
4. The ability to share expertise and the ability to discover public concerns.

1.2 ORGANIZATION OF THE DOCUMENT

The Revised FEIR is organized into the following four sections:

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

Section 2.0, Executive Summary, provides a brief project description, including minor modifications to the project description, and presents a summary of probable environmental effects edited as a result of the comments received on the RDEIR and minor staff edits.

Section 3.0, Comments and Responses, on the RDEIR, provides a list of commentors, topical responses, copies of written comments (coded for reference), a transcript of verbal comments (also coded for reference) and the responses to those written and verbal comments.

Section 4.0, Minor Edits to the RDEIR, consists of minor text changes made to the RDEIR as a result of comments raised during the public review process.

Appendices include technical data used in the preparation of this document.