

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This program environmental impact report (Program EIR) provides an evaluation of the environmental effects associated with the adoption and implementation of the Moreno Valley General Plan. The General Plan update involves reorganization of the Plan Elements; amendments to the land use plan; amendments to the Circulation Plan; and revisions to the goals, objectives, policies and programs. The adoption and implementation of a General Plan, as well as any amendments to the General Plan, constitutes a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines.

### **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

This Program EIR has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 as amended (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), and the Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA published by the Resources Agency of the State of California (California Administrative Code Section 15000 et seq.).

This EIR was prepared by professional environmental consultants under contract to the City of Moreno Valley (City). The City of Moreno Valley is the lead agency for the preparation of this EIR as defined by CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21067 as amended). The content of the document reflects the independent judgment of the City.

### **PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM EIR**

This Program EIR provides information to public agencies, the general public and decision-makers regarding the potential environmental impacts related to adoption and implementation of the updated Moreno Valley General Plan. The purpose of an EIR, under the provisions of CEQA is, “to identify the significant effects on the environment of a project, to identify alternatives to the project, and to indicate the manner in which those significant effects can be mitigated or avoided.” (Public Resources Code Section 21002.1(a)). This Program EIR will be used by the City of Moreno Valley Planning Commission and City Council in assessing the impacts of General Plan implementation.

### **SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

According to CEQA Guidelines (Section 15168), a Program EIR may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related either geographically or as logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions or in connection with issuance of rules, regulations or plans.

Section 15152 of the CEQA Guidelines indicates that tiering is appropriate when the sequence of analysis is from an EIR prepared for a general plan. Subsequent activities must be examined in light of this Program EIR to determine whether an additional

environmental document must be prepared. If a subsequent project or later activity would have effects that were not examined in this EIR, or not examined at an appropriate level of detail to be used for the subsequent activity, a new initial study would need to be prepared in accordance with CEQA to determine the appropriate environmental document needed. If the City finds that pursuant to Section 15152 and Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines that no new effect could occur or no new mitigation would be required for a subsequent project, the City can approve the activity as being within the scope of the project covered by this Program EIR and no new environmental documentation would be required.

## **BACKGROUND**

In order to define the scope of the investigation of the Program EIR, the City of Moreno Valley distributed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to: city, county and state agencies; other public agencies; and interested private organizations and individuals. The purpose of the NOP was to identify agency and public concerns regarding potential impacts of the project.

A public scoping meeting was held for the project on September 7, 2000. At this meeting members of the public were invited to comment on the scope and content of the EIR. Written comments were accepted by the City for approximately three weeks after the scoping meeting.

Written comments received during the 30-day public review period for the NOP and during the three week period following the scoping meeting are included in Volume II, Appendix A of this EIR.

## **AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS**

This Program EIR is available for public review at the City of Moreno Valley Community and Economic Development Department, 14177 Frederick Street, P.O. Box 88005, Moreno Valley, California 92552-0805. Copies are available to the public upon payment of a reasonable charge for reproduction. The document is also available for public inspection at the Moreno Valley Branch Library located at 25480 Alessandro Blvd., Moreno Valley, CA 92553. Documents may be reviewed during regular business hours.

## **COMMENTS REQUESTED**

Comments of all agencies and individuals were invited regarding the information contained in the Draft Program EIR. Responders were encouraged to provide the information they felt was lacking in the Draft Program EIR, or indicate where the information may be found. All comments on the Draft Program EIR were sent to the following City of Moreno Valley contact:

Cynthia S. Kinser, Principal Planner  
City of Moreno Valley  
Community Development Department  
14177 Frederick Street  
P.O. Box 88005  
Moreno Valley, CA 92552-0805

Following a 45-day period of circulation and review of the Draft EIR, all comments and the City's responses to the comments were incorporated into a Final Program EIR prior to certification of the document by the City of Moreno Valley.

### **STRUCTURE OF THIS EIR**

This EIR is organized into nine sections. Section 1.0 is this introduction. The executive summary provided in Section 2.0 includes a brief project description and summarizes project impacts and mitigation measures. Section 3.0 provides a detailed project description of the General Plan. The general environmental setting is provided in Section 4.0. Sections 5.1 through 5.14 analyze project impacts and identify mitigation measures designed to reduce significant impacts. Section 6.0 provides an analysis of alternatives to the project. An analysis of cumulative impacts, growth inducing impacts, significant irreversible environmental impacts and areas of no significant impact is provided in Section 7.0. Section 8.0 contains reference information. Section 9.0 contains the City's responses to comments received on the Draft EIR.

The appendices, which are provided in Volume II of this EIR, consist of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) and responses to the NOP and technical documents included as supporting information in the EIR. In compliance with Public Resources Section 21081.6, a mitigation monitoring and reporting program has been prepared and is provided as a separately bound document.

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