1.0 Introduction

Purpose of the EIR

The adoption and implementation of the 2004 Land Use and Mobility Elements, Zoning Code Revisions, and the Central District Specific Plan constitute a project and require analysis of the environmental effects in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines. This Draft-Final Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is a first-tier evaluation of the environmental effects associated with the adoption and implementation of the 2004 Pasadena General Plan Land Use and Mobility Elements, amendments to Title 17 of the Pasadena Municipal Code (Zoning Code), and the Central District Specific Plan. Subsequent development projects proposal pursuant to the proposed land use policies will tier off, or use, this EIR to "ensure that environmental impact reports prepared for later projects which are consistent with a previously approved policy, plan, program, or ordinance concentrate upon environmental effects which may be mitigated or avoided in connection with the decision on each later project" (CEQA Guidelines Section 21093.[a]).

The Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality (Section 15002[a][1]) state that one of the basic purposes of CEQA is to inform governmental decision makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of proposed activities." an "EIR is an informational document which will inform public agencies, decision makers, and the public generally of the significant environmental effects of a project on the environment, identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects, and describe alternatives to the project."

Accordingly, this <u>Draft-Final</u> Program EIR is an informational document to be used by decision makers, public agencies, and the general public. It is not a statement of City policy although required mitigation measures may become essential City policy. The document provides information regarding the potential environmental impacts related to implementation of the 2004 Land Use and Mobility Elements, Zoning Code Revisions, and the Central District Specific Plan.

This Final EIR contains comments and responses to comments received on the Draft EIR, which was circulated for public review from June 4, 2004 to August 23, 2004. The comments and responses to comments are presented in Section 8.0 - Responses to Comments on the Draft EIR. Revisions and clarifications to the EIR made in response to comments and information received on the Draft EIR are indicated by strikeout and underline text, as illustrated in this paragraph. Corrections of typographical errors have been made throughout the document and are not indicated by strikeout or underline text.

Theis Final Program EIR will be used by the City of Pasadena in assessing impacts of the proposed project. During the implementation process, mitigation measures in the Final-EIR will be applied to the project.

1

Legal Requirements

This <u>Draft-Final</u> Program EIR has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) and the *Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act* (CEQA Guidelines) published by the Public Resources Agency of the State of California (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.), and in accordance with the City of Pasadena's CEQA Guidelines. The City of Pasadena is the lead agency for this Program EIR, as defined in Section 21067 of CEQA.

Pursuant to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, an Initial Study was prepared for this project. The Initial Study concluded that the project could potentially have a significant effect on the environment. The Initial Study checklist is included in Appendix A of this EIR. A Notice of Preparation (NOP) for this EIR was issued by the City on March 20, 2003, in accordance with the requirements of the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15082(a), 15103, and 15375. The NOP indicated that an EIR was being prepared and invited comments on the project from public agencies and the general public.

A Notice of Completion and Availability of the Draft EIR was issued on June 4, 2004, and the Draft EIR was circulated for a 75-day public review period. The public review period closed on August 23, 2004. Comments received on the Draft EIR and responses to those comments are contained in Section 8.0 of this Final EIR.

This EIR constitutes a Program EIR under the provisions of Section 15168 of the State CEQA Guidelines. A Program EIR allows for review of a series of contemplated actions. The City and other agencies will be able to use information presented in this Program EIR to determine if additional environmental review is required for subsequent actions linked to the project. Under Section 15168, if an agency determines that a program or action will result in impacts within the scope of impact reported in the EIR and that no further mitigation is required, the agency may deem the subsequent project within the scope of the EIR, and no further environmental review will be required.

Scope of the Project

The project is the adoption and implementation of the:

- 2004 Land Use and Mobility Elements
- Title 17 of the Pasadena Municipal Code (Zoning Code) Revisions
- Central District Specific Plan

The 2004 Land Use and Mobility Elements, together with other already adopted General Plan elements, guide the overall development of Pasadena through horizon year 2015. The 2004 Land Use and Mobility Elements establish goals and policies to guide long-term decision-making regarding land use, mobility, public safety, and related issues. The 2004 General Plan encompasses all properties within the City of Pasadena, as well as lands within the City's sphere of influence.

The revised Zoning Code is the primary tool for implementing land use plans and policies contained in the 2004 General Plan and Central District Specific Plan, as well as for implementing specific plans applicable to other areas of the City. The revised Zoning Code divides the City into areas called zoning districts and establishes regulations for each district with respect to permitted uses, allowable density, building height, development character, etc. The Zoning Code Revisions serve as the mechanism to achieve the goals, policies, and development expectations established in the General Plan and each of the specific plans. Under California law, the Zoning Code must be consistent with the General Plan. Although Section 65803 provides an exemption for charter cities, such as Pasadena, it is the policy of the City generally to achieve such consistency.

Within the framework of the 2004 General Plan, the Central District Specific Plan sets forth development policy for all properties within the City's Central District. Consistent with the City's land use policy set forth in the 2004 General Plan, the majority of development within Pasadena through horizon year 2015 is focused within the Central District. Thus, the Specific Plan establishes district-wide planning concepts to ensure that future development is both balanced and of high quality to maintain and enhance the unique characteristics of Pasadena's urban core. The Specific Plan identifies maximum land use intensities for all uses within the District, establishes design principles, and outlines specific mobility goals regarding the Metro Gold Line light rail service and other regional and local transit services.

Scope of the Environmental Analysis

Pursuant to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, an Initial Study was prepared for this project. The Initial Study concluded that adoption and implementation of the 2004 Land Use and Mobility Elements, Zoning Code Revisions, and the Central District Specific Plan might have a significant effect on the environment with respect to the following:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Geology/Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning

- Noise
- Population/Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities

Appendix A contains the Initial Study and NOP for the project. Appendix B contains the Traffic Study. Appendix C contains the air quality worksheets. Appendix D contains the solid waste calculations. All other reference documents cited in the EIR are on file with the City of Pasadena Planning and Development Department, 175 North Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91109.

Intended Use of the EIR

This Program EIR will be used by the City and other responsible agencies to provide information necessary for environmental review of discretionary actions related to adoption of the 2004 Land Use and Mobility Elements, Zoning Code Revisions and the Central District Specific Plan. The EIR may be used by the following agencies for the following discretionary actions:

Responsible Agency Pasadena City Council	Action Adoption of the 2004 General Plan Land Use
	and Mobility Elements
	Adoption of amendments to Title 17 (Zoning) of the Pasadena Municipal Code
	Adoption of the Central District Specific Plan
Pasadena Planning Commission	Recommendation to City Council to adopt the 2004 General Plan Land Use and Mobility Elements
	Recommendation to City Council to adopt amendments to Title 17 (Zoning) of the Pasadena Municipal Code
	Recommendation to City Council to adopt the Central District Specific Plan
	Recommendation to City Council to adopt any ordinances, guidelines, programs, or other mechanisms that implement the 2004 General Plan Land Use and Mobility Elements
Other City Commissions and Boards	Recommendation to City Council to adopt specific ordinances, guidelines, programs, or other mechanisms that implement the 2004 General Plan Land Use and Mobility Elements, amendments to Title 17 (Zoning) of the Pasadena Municipal Code, and the Central District Specific Plan
Others as necessary	Adoption of plans and programs tangential to the Pasadena General Plan and Central District Specific Plan

Public Review and Comment

Theis Draft EIR is—was available for public inspection for 75 days at the City Planning and Development Department, Planning Division, located at 175 North Garfield Avenue in Pasadena. Organizations and individuals are—were invited to comment on the Draft EIR. Where possible, respondents are—were asked to provide additional information which they feel isfelt was not contained in the Draft EIR, or to indicate where information may—could be found. All comment letters received on or before August 23, 2004 were responded to in writing, and the comment letters, together with the responses to those comments, are included in Section 8.0 – Responses to Comments on the Draft EIR of this Final EIR.

Following a 45 day public review period for the Draft EIR, all comments and the City's responses to those comments will be incorporated into the Final EIR prior to certification of the Final EIR by the City.

Contact Person

The primary contact person regarding information presented in this EIR is Laura Dahl, Senior Planner, Community Planning Section, Planning and Development Department. Ms. Dahl can be reached at (626) 744-6767, or via email at ldahl@cityofpasadena.net.

Introduction

This page is intentionally left blank.