

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This chapter of the Final Environmental Impact Report is prepared pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15123. It includes: an overview of the purpose and focus of the EIR being prepared for the proposed Glenarm Power Plant Repowering Project (proposed project); a description of the EIR process being conducted; a description of the contents and organization of the Draft EIR and Final EIR; summary descriptions of existing conditions, the proposed project, and the project alternatives; a discussion of the areas of controversy and issues to be resolved associated with the proposed project; and an updated summary of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

## A. INTRODUCTION

This Final EIR comprises the second and final part of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Glenarm Power Plant Repowering Project (proposed project). The Final EIR, together with the Draft EIR published in November 2012, addresses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq, and the CEQA Guidelines, Title 14 of the Code of California Regulation (CCR), Section 15000 et seq. According to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15132, the Final EIR shall consist of the following items: (a) the Draft EIR or a revision of the Draft, (b) comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR, (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, and (e) any other information added by the Lead Agency.

The purpose of the EIR is to inform decision-makers and the general public of the potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project. The EIR is a Project EIR as defined by Sections 15161 and 15362 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The City of Pasadena (the City) has the principal responsibility for approving the proposed project and, as the Lead Agency, is responsible for the preparation and distribution of this Draft EIR pursuant to CEQA Statute Section 21067. The EIR will be used in connection with all other permits and all other approvals necessary for the construction and operation of the proposed project. The EIR will be used by the City of Pasadena and other responsible public agencies that must approve activities undertaken with respect to the project.

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

An Initial Study was prepared for the proposed project and, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) was distributed for public comment to the State Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research, responsible agencies, and other interested parties, on September 19, 2011, for a 30-day review period ending on October 18, 2011. In addition, a public scoping meeting was held on October 6, 2011. The NOP, Initial Study, and public comments on the NOP are included in Appendix I of the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR was published on November 5, 2012, and was circulated for a 46-day public comment period, in addition to a 41-day extension of the public comment period, for a total of 87 days. The public comment period for the Draft EIR ultimately ended on January 31, 2013. A list of those providing public comment on the Draft EIR, along with a breakdown of individual comments and responses to those comments by the City, is provided in Section 3.0, Comments and Responses on the Draft EIR, in this Final EIR.

## C. CONTENTS OF THE FINAL EIR/EIR ORGANIZATION

### 1. Final EIR

This Final EIR is organized into the following chapters:

- 1.0 Introduction and Executive Summary.** This chapter of the Final EIR provides overview information regarding the purpose and structure of the Draft EIR and Final EIR (collectively, the EIR), as well as a summary of the project characteristics, its impacts and mitigation measures.
- 2.0 Comments and Responses on the Draft EIR.** This chapter includes a list of those providing comments on the Draft EIR that was circulated to the public; a matrix that indicates the environmental issues that were addressed in each of the comment letters and all written comments on the Draft EIR that were presented to the City during the 87-day circulation period; a topical response that describes a new alternative developed by the City, in part, in response to public comments received on the Draft EIR; copies of all comment letters received by the City; and City responses to each of the public comments, including those presented orally during the December 12, 2012 Planning Commission Public Meeting.
- 3.0 Corrections and Additions to the Draft EIR.** This chapter presents a list of revisions that have made to the Draft EIR, based on comments received from the public and agencies, and other items requiring updating and/or corrections.
- 4.0 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP).** This chapter provides the project's MMRP, which is the document used by the enforcement and monitoring agencies responsible for the implementation of the proposed project's mitigation measures. Mitigation measures are listed by environmental topic, and for each mitigation measure, the following is defined: phase of implementation, frequency and/or duration of required monitoring, and the enforcement/reporting agency.

In addition, the Final EIR incorporates the Draft EIR and associated appendices by reference.

### 2. Draft EIR

The Draft EIR is comprised of the following chapters and appendices:

- 1.0 Summary.** This chapter describes the purpose and focus of the Draft EIR, Draft EIR organization, background information regarding the project site, a summary of the project, areas of controversy/issues to be resolved, a description of the public review process, a summary of alternatives evaluated, and a summary of environmental impacts and mitigation measures.
- 2.0 Project Description.** This chapter describes the project location, existing conditions, project objectives, characteristics of the proposed project, and a description of the intended use of the Draft EIR.
- 3.0 General Description of Environmental Setting.** This chapter contains a description of the existing natural and built environments, as well as background information used to evaluate

cumulative impacts, including a list of past, present, and reasonably anticipated future projects to be built in the project vicinity.

**4.0 Environmental Impact Analysis.** This chapter contains the environmental setting, project and cumulative impact analyses, mitigation measures, and conclusions regarding the level of significance after mitigation for each of the following environmental issues: (1) aesthetics/visual resources; (2) air quality; (3) cultural resources (historic); (4) greenhouse gas emissions; (5) hazards and hazardous materials; (6) land use and planning; (7) noise; and (8) water supply.

**5.0 Project Alternatives.** This chapter provides analysis of each of the alternatives to the proposed project, which include the following three alternatives: No Project/No Action, Reduced Operations, and Project Site Reconfiguration.

**6.0 Other Environmental Considerations.** This chapter of the Draft EIR addresses the additional topics required by the State CEQA regulations. First, it provides a discussion of significant unavoidable impacts that would result from the proposed project; the reasons why the project is being proposed notwithstanding the significant unavoidable impacts; and the project's significant irreversible changes in the environment. This section also analyzes growth-inducing impacts of the project to determine whether the project could foster economic or population growth or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Potential secondary effects caused by the implementation of the mitigation measures for the proposed project are also discussed. Finally, this section discusses the effects that were determined within the Initial Study not to be significant.

**7.0 Report Preparers.** This chapter lists the persons, public agencies, and organizations that were consulted or contributed to the preparation of this Draft EIR.

**8.0 References.** This chapter lists the documents, websites, and other technical resources consulted in the course of Draft EIR preparation.

**Appendix A:** NOP/IS; Scoping Meeting Presentation; NOP Comments and Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheet

**Appendix B:** Air Quality Assessment Worksheets

**Appendix C:** Greenhouse Gas Impact Assessment Worksheets

**Appendix D:** Phase II Investigation and Hazardous Materials Survey Reports

**Appendix E:** Noise Assessment Worksheets and Technical Report

**Appendix F:** Water Supply Documentation