

# CHAPTER 1 Introduction

The Rose Bowl Stadium Renovation Project as originally proposed was analyzed in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that was certified by the Pasadena City Council on May 9, 2005. The Rose Bowl Stadium Renovation Project was prompted, in part, by discussions with the NFL and the potential to locate an NFL franchise at the Rose Bowl. These discussions have been terminated and the RBOC has been exploring potential renovations to achieve the (listed) objectives. Findings were not made and no Statement of Overriding Considerations was approved. Subsequently, the Rose Bowl Operating Company, the project proponent, has developed a Strategic Plan for the Rose Bowl Stadium to ensure its continued viability and provide for necessary upgrades to bring certain building systems to current Code.

The project as described and analyzed in the certified Final EIR (FEIR) has been revised as described in Chapter 2 (Description of the Revised Project). Section 15163 of the CEQA Guidelines provides that:

- (a) The lead or responsible agency may choose to prepare a supplement to an EIR rather than a subsequent EIR if:
  - 1) Any of the conditions described in Section 15162 would require the preparation of a subsequent EIR, and
  - 2) Only minor additions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the project in the changed situation.
- (b) The supplement to the EIR need contain only the information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project as revised.
- (c) A supplement to an EIR shall be given the same kind of notice and public review as is given to a draft EIR under Section 15087.
- (d) A supplement to an EIR may be circulated by itself without recalculating the previous draft or final EIR.
- (e) When the agency decides whether to approve the project, the decision-making body shall consider the previous EIR as revised by the supplemental EIR. A finding under Section 15091 shall be made for each significant effect shown in the previous EIR as revised.

The impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Rose Bowl Stadium Renovation Project as previously proposed were disclosed in the FEIR. The analysis in this Draft Supplemental EIR (Draft SEIR) is focused on the potential changes in environmental effects that could result from project design changes. Therefore, this Draft SEIR is being prepared to analyze only the changes in the project since certification of the previous FEIR, which are described in Chapter 2 of this Draft SEIR. Each section analyzes whether the proposed revisions to the project would result in new significant effects, a decrease in the severity of previously identified significant effects, or an increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. The cumulative impacts discussions are based on a related projects list as of June 2007, the date of issuance of the Notice of Preparation for the revised project. Baseline conditions are noted to be substantially the same as when the original FEIR was prepared, and any minor changes would not affect the impact analysis or significance conclusions.

Existing parking, traffic, and circulation conditions are considered as the baseline and would not change with the proposed revised project. The Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Comments on the NOP are contained in Appendix A. The revised historical technical report is included as Appendix D. These baseline conditions are essentially the same as when the original FEIR was certified. Changes to the baseline condition, if any, are noted in this Draft SEIR. The concept of a significant effect on the environment focuses on changes to the baseline setting that will arise as a result of the project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(a)). A lead agency's legal authority to impose mitigation measures is limited to those effects that arise from a project, and exceed an adopted threshold of significance (see CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4.) Accordingly, the EIR will not analyze why the existing baseline conditions exist, and will only require mitigation measures that have the legally required "nexus" and "rough proportionality" to the revised project's impacts.

## 1.1 SUMMARY OF PRIOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Rose Bowl Stadium Renovation Project was prompted, in part, by discussions with the NFL and the potential to locate an NFL franchise at the Rose Bowl. These discussions have been terminated and the RBOC has been exploring potential renovations to achieve the listed objectives.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) was distributed to various public agencies, citizen groups, and interested individuals for a 45-day public review period, which began on February 2, 2005, and ended on March 21, 2005. The Draft EIR was circulated to state agencies for review through the State Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research. Copies of the Draft EIR were available for review at all libraries within the City of Pasadena, as well as at the City Planning Counter and the City Clerk's Office. During the review period, the public was provided with the opportunity to submit written comments on the Draft EIR. Seven public hearings were held during the review period. The public was invited to attend all of these hearings through publication of a hearing notice in the appropriate venues and the local newspapers. Oral comments were received at these hearings from commission members as well as the public.

The Final EIR (FEIR) for the Rose Bowl Stadium Renovation Project as originally proposed allowed the public and the Lead Agency an opportunity to review revisions to the Draft EIR, the responses to comments, and other components of the EIR—such as the Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP)—prior to approval of the project. The FEIR serves as the environmental document used by the City when considering approval of the Rose Bowl Stadium Renovation Project.

The Pasadena City Council made the following three certifications as required by Section 15090 of the CEQA Guidelines:

- That the FEIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA
- That the FEIR was presented to the decision-making body of the Lead Agency, and that the decision-making body reviewed and considered the information in the FEIR prior to approving the project
- That the FEIR reflects the Lead Agency's independent judgment and analysis

The FEIR was certified by the Pasadena City Council on May 9, 2005. The project was neither approved nor denied at that time, and the City Council asked the Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC), the project Applicant, to consider further alternatives to the NFL proposal. Findings were not made and no Statement of Overriding Considerations was approved.

The previously certified FEIR is available at the City's Permit Center at 175 North Garfield Avenue, the Pasadena Central Library at 285 East Walnut Street, and the San Rafael Branch Library at 1240 Nithsdale Road, at the Linda Vista Branch Library at 1281 Bryant Street, as well as on the City's website, at the following URL: [www.cityofpasadena.net/planning](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/planning). To view the document, click on "environmental notices."

## 1.2 PUBLIC COMMENT

The review period for the Draft SEIR began on December 17, 2007, and ends on February 14, 2008. Interested parties may provide comments on the recirculated document in written form, which must be received in the office listed below no later than 5:00 P.M. on February 14, 2008. Comments should be addressed to:

Erin Clark, Assistant Planner  
City of Pasadena, Planning and Development Department  
100 North Garfield Avenue, S116  
Pasadena, CA 91109

While the standard review period for a document of this type is 45 days, the review period for this document has been extended to 60 days. Upon completion of the 60-day public review period, written responses to all significant comments raised with respect to environmental issues discussed in the Draft SEIR will be prepared and incorporated into the Final Supplemental EIR (Final SEIR). Written responses to comments received from any state agencies will be made available to these agencies at least 10 days prior to the public hearing during which the certification of Final SEIR will be considered. Comment letters are included in Appendix A. The previously certified FEIR and the Draft SEIR have been made available at the City's Permit Center at 175 North Garfield Avenue, the Pasadena Central Library at 285 East Walnut Street, at the Linda Vista Branch Library at 1281 Bryant Street, and the San Rafael Branch Library at 1240 Nithsdale Road during the review period of this document. The documents are also available on the City's website. Once completed, the Final SEIR will be presented to the City Council for consideration of certification and approval of the revised project.

## 1.3 INTENDED USE OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL EIR

This document has been prepared to analyze potentially significant environmental impacts associated with the planning, construction, and operation of a modified project. This document is intended to serve as an informational document, as outlined in Section 15121(a) of the CEQA Guidelines:

An EIR is an informational document, which will inform public agency decision-makers and the public generally of the significant environmental effect of a project, identify possible ways to minimize the

significant effects, and describe reasonable alternatives to the project. The public agency shall consider the information in the EIR along with other information, which may be presented to the agency.

Furthermore, this document, when considered with the FEIR previously certified, will provide the primary source of environmental information for consideration by the lead, responsible, and trustee agencies when exercising any permitting authority or approval power directly related to implementation of this project.

As previously mentioned, this Draft SEIR is intended to provide decision-makers and the public with information that enables them to intelligently consider the environmental consequences of the proposed action. This document identifies significant or potentially significant environmental effects of the proposed project revisions.

To gain the most value from this report, certain key points recommended in the CEQA Guidelines should be kept in mind:

- This report should be used as a tool to give the reader an overview of the possible ramifications of the proposed alternative project.
- A specific environmental impact is not necessarily irreversible or permanent. Most impacts, particularly in urban, more developed areas, can be wholly or partially mitigated by incorporating changes recommended in this report during the design and construction phases of project development.
- This report, while a summary of facts, reflects the professional judgment of the author. Therefore, the reader will have to individually weigh the facts that it reports.

## 1.4 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

According to Section 15150 of the CEQA Guidelines:

- (a) An EIR or negative declaration may incorporate by reference all or portions of another document which is a matter of public record or is generally available to the public. Where all or part of another document is incorporated by reference, the incorporated language shall be considered to be set forth in full as part of the text of the EIR or negative declaration.
- (b) Where part of another document is incorporated by reference, such other document shall be made available to the public for inspection at a public place or public building. The EIR or negative declaration shall state where the incorporated documents will be available for inspection. At a minimum, the incorporated documents shall be made available to the public in an office of the lead agency in the county where the project would be carried out or in one or more public buildings such as county offices or public libraries if the lead agency does not have an office in the county.
- (c) Where an EIR or negative declaration uses incorporation by reference, the incorporated part of the referenced document shall be briefly summarized where possible or briefly described if the data or information cannot be summarized. The relationship between the incorporated part of the referenced document and the EIR shall be described.

As such, the certified Final Environmental Impact Report for the Rose Bowl Stadium Renovation Project, SCH No. 2004101073, is hereby incorporated by reference. Incorporation is necessary because

this supplemental document relies on the certified EIR's environmental impact analysis as the foundation for the analysis of the revised project. The previously certified FEIR is available at the City Permit Center, the San Rafael Branch Library and Pasadena Central Library, and on the City's website.

## 1.5 DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The Draft SEIR will contain only the information necessary to evaluate the impacts of the changes in the project description compared to the impacts and thresholds identified and analyzed in the previous EIR. Where potentially significant impacts may occur that are different from those of the proposed project, are new, or more severe, that resource area is analyzed in a separate chapter. Therefore, the Draft SEIR is organized into the following chapters:

- **Executive Summary**—This chapter contains a summary of prior environmental actions, revised project objectives, project characteristics, areas of controversy and issues to be resolved, and a tabular summary of revised project impacts, the impact of the original project as contained in the FEIR, whether the significance conclusion changes with project modifications, the level of significance of the revised project's impact, and any FEIR mitigation measures that are required for the revised project.
- **Chapter 1: Introduction**—This chapter describes the purpose, intended use, and scope of the Draft SEIR and a brief outline of this document's organization.
- **Chapter 2: Description of the Revised Project**—This chapter outlines the components of the project as revised.
- **Chapter 3: Environmental Analysis of the Revised Project**—This chapter includes an analysis of all thresholds that were analyzed in the certified FEIR for impacts that are substantially similar to, or less than, the impacts identified for the original project.
- **Chapter 4: Preparers of the Draft Supplemental EIR**—This chapter contains a list of all persons who participated in preparation of this document.