

This Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and Napa County's local CEQA Guidelines. The County of Napa (County) is the lead agency for the environmental review of the proposed Napa County General Plan Update (proposed project) evaluated herein and has the principal responsibility for approving the project. This DEIR assesses the expected environmental impacts resulting from adoption and subsequent implementation of the proposed Napa County General Plan.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE EIR

The County, acting as the lead agency, has prepared this Draft EIR to provide the public and responsible/trustee agencies with information about the potential environmental effects of the proposed Napa County General Plan Update. As described in the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15121(a), an EIR is a public informational document that assesses potential environmental effects of the proposed project, as well as identifies alternatives and mitigation measures to the proposed project that could reduce or avoid its adverse environmental impacts. Public agencies are charged with the duty to consider and minimize environmental impacts of proposed development where feasible, and an obligation to balance a variety of public objectives, including economic, environmental, and social factors.

CEQA requires the preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) prior to approving any project, which may have a significant effect on the environment. For the purposes of CEQA, the term "project" refers to the whole of an action, which has the potential for resulting in a direct physical change or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378[a]). With respect to the proposed County of Napa General Plan Update, the County has determined that the proposed plan is a "project" within the definition of CEQA.

1.2 KNOWN RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE AGENCIES

For the purpose of CEQA, the term "Trustee Agency" means a state agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project, which are held in trust for the people of the State of California. Specifically, the following trustee agencies may have an interest in the Napa County General Plan and its implementation:

- California Department of Fish and Game, Region 3
- State Lands Commission
- California Department of Parks and Recreation

In CEQA, the term "Responsible Agency" includes all public agencies other than the Lead Agency that may have discretionary actions associated with the implementation of the Napa County General Plan Update or an aspect of the project. Since potential future implementation decisions may occur many years from now when the General Plan is in common use, they cannot be known with certainty. However the following agencies may have some role in implementing the Napa County General Plan and have been identified as potential Responsible Agencies:

- Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- California Department of Conservation
- California Department of Forestry/ Napa County Fire Department
- California Division of Mines and Geology

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- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Integrated Waste Management Board
- California Public Utilities Commission
- California State Lands Commission
- California Transportation Commission
- Caltrans District 4, Environmental Planning and Engineering
- Caltrans, Division of Aeronautics
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 5
- Circle Oaks County Water District
- City of American Canyon
- City of Calistoga
- City of Napa
- City of St. Helena
- Congress Valley Water District
- Howell Mountain School District
- Lake County
- Local Agency Formation Commission of Napa County
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Napa County Transportation Planning Agency
- Napa River Reclamation District #2109
- Napa Sanitation District (NSD)
- Napa Valley Community College District
- Napa Valley Transportation Authority
- Napa Valley Unified School District
- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service)
- Pope Valley School District
- San Francisco Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 2
- Solano County
- Spanish Flat Water District
- Town of Yountville
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1.3 TYPE OF DOCUMENT

The CEQA Guidelines identify several types of EIRs, each applicable to different project circumstances. This EIR has been prepared as a Program EIR pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15168. Program EIRs are defined by the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15168) as an EIR:

which may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related either:

(1) Geographically,

(2) As logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions,

- (3) *In connection with issuance of rules, regulations, plans or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program, or*
- (4) *As individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority and having generally similar environmental effects which can be mitigated in similar ways.*

The program level analysis considers the broad environmental effects of the overall proposed General Plan Update. This EIR will be used to evaluate subsequent projects (public and private) under the proposed Napa County General Plan Update consistent with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. When individual projects or activities under the General Plan are proposed, the County would be required to examine the projects or activities to determine whether their effects were adequately analyzed in this EIR. If the projects or activities would have no effects beyond those analyzed in this EIR, no further CEQA compliance would be required.

As noted in Section 3.0 (Project Description), the need for up-to-date, well-organized and accessible baseline data for the County was recognized in the late 1990s that subsequently lead to the County's development of a Countywide baseline data report (BDR). The BDR program was formally initiated with approval from the Board of Supervisors in late 2003. The BDR was completed in 2005. The BDR includes Countywide environmental setting data, detailed GIS mapping and watershed hydrology models that can be used to assess for surface water and groundwater conditions. Authors of the BDR anticipate their work will be revised and updated in the future to reflect changing environmental conditions in Napa County.

This Draft EIR utilizes technical information and analyses from the Napa County Baseline Data Report, which is supported by the State CEQA Guidelines (see Sections 15148 [Citation] and 15150 [Incorporation by Reference]). By utilizing these provisions of the State CEQA Guidelines, the County, in preparing this Draft EIR, has been able to make maximum feasible and appropriate use of this technical information. The Napa County Baseline Data Report and other referenced materials are available for review upon request at the County of Napa Conservation, Development and Planning Department located at 1195 Third Street, Suite 210, Napa, CA 94559.

1.4 INTENDED USES OF THE EIR

This EIR is intended to evaluate the environmental impacts of adoption and implementation of the Napa County General Plan Update. This EIR should be used as the primary environmental document to evaluate all subsequent actions associated with projects in the County. Subsequent projects that may be associated with the project are identified in Section 3.0 (Project Description) of this document and will be evaluated at the time they are considered to determine whether they would result in impacts that fall within those disclosed in this program EIR or whether subsequent environmental review is required. In addition, this EIR may support adoption of CEQA significance thresholds pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7 (b).

1.5 ORGANIZATION AND SCOPE

Sections 15122 through 15132 of the State CEQA Guidelines identify the content requirements for Draft and Final EIRs. An EIR must include a description of the environmental setting, an environmental impact analysis, mitigation measures, alternatives, significant irreversible environmental changes, growth-inducing impacts, and cumulative impacts. The environmental issues addressed in the Draft EIR were established through review of environmental

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documentation developed for the project, environmental documentation for nearby projects, and public and agency responses to the Notice of Preparation (NOP).

This Draft EIR is organized in the following manner:

SECTION 1.0 – INTRODUCTION

Section 1.0 provides an introduction and overview describing the intended use of the EIR and the review and certification process.

SECTION 2.0 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15123) includes a summary of the EIR, a table that summarizes each of the significant impacts of the three principal General Plan Update alternatives, mitigation measures for each significant impact where feasible, and the level of significance of each impact after mitigation. It also includes a summary project description, summary of other alternatives, and a discussion of any unresolved planning issues.

SECTION 3.0 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A project description that provides the appropriate level of information necessary for the evaluation and review of environmental impacts is required under CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15124). The “project” analyzed in this PEIR is the General Plan Update. The project description includes a description of the project location and geographic characteristics of the project area; objectives of the General Plan Update; and a general description of the project’s technical, economic, and environmental characteristics; and the discretionary actions associated with the General Plan Update.

As noted in Section 3.0 (Project Description), a draft of the General Plan Update is being circulated for public review concurrent with the Draft EIR and is incorporated here by reference. Because public comments are expected to result in changes to the draft General Plan Update, the precise content of the plan that will ultimately be presented to the Board of Supervisors for adoption cannot be determined until the planning process is complete. As a result, this EIR analyzes a series of alternatives intended to bracket components of the final plan. Three of these alternatives (Alternatives A, B, and C) are analyzed at an equal-level of detail and described in Section 3.0. Alternatives D and E will be evaluated in a more qualitative manner in Section 6.0, Project Alternatives.

SECTION 4.0 - ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Section 4.0 contains an analysis of environmental topic areas as identified in Section 1.7 below. Each subsection contains a description of the existing setting of the project area, identifies project-related impacts (for each of the three principal alternatives considered), and recommends appropriate General Plan policies and mitigation measures.

This section also describes the general assumptions used to evaluate the direct and indirect impacts of the General Plan Update.

SECTION 5.0 - CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Section 5.0 discusses the cumulative impacts associated with the proposed project (i.e. the General Plan Update) when combined with other past, present, and future projects that are reasonably foreseeable.

SECTION 6.0 – PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

As noted above in Section 4.0, the Draft EIR evaluates three alternatives for the proposed Napa County General Plan Update at an equal level of detail within in the impact analysis contained in Section 4.0. Two additional alternatives, Alternatives D and E, will be analyzed at a lesser level of detail in Section 6.0, along with a “No Project” Alternative. Alternative D is considered the Resource Preservation Alternative and Alternative E is known as the Infrastructure and Development Alternative. This section also includes a description of alternatives that were considered and subsequently eliminated from in depth analysis, along with reasons for their elimination. The purpose of the Project Alternatives section is to provide a summary of the comparative effects of the alternatives, focusing on the significant impacts and on mitigation of such impacts. An “environmentally superior” alternative will be identified pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e)(2).

SECTION 7.0 - LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROJECT

This section contains discussions and analysis of various topical issues mandated by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2. These include significant environmental effects that cannot be avoided if the project is implemented, significant irreversible environmental changes and growth-inducing impacts.

SECTION 8.0 - REPORT PREPARERS

This section lists all authors and agencies that assisted in the preparation of the report by name, title, and company or agency affiliation.

SECTION 9.0 – ACRONYMS

Provides a list of terms used in this EIR.

VOLUME II - APPENDICES

This volume includes all notices and other procedural documents pertinent to the EIR, as well as technical material prepared to support the analysis.

1.6 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

The review and certification process for the EIR will involve the following general procedural steps:

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the County prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR for the project on October 21, 2005. The County was identified as the Lead Agency for the proposed project. This notice was circulated to the public, local, state, and federal agencies, and other interested parties to solicit comments on the proposed project. Two scoping meetings were held on November 9, 2005 in the City of St. Helena and one additional meeting was held on November 10, 2005 in the City of Napa, to receive comments. Concerns raised in response to the NOP were considered during preparation of the Draft EIR. The NOP and responses by interested parties are presented in **Appendix A**.

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DRAFT EIR AND PUBLIC NOTICE/PUBLIC REVIEW

This document constitutes the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR contains a description of the project, description of the environmental setting, identification of project impacts, and mitigation measures for impacts found to be significant, as well as an analysis of project alternatives. Upon completion of the Draft EIR, the County will file the Notice of Completion (NOC) with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to begin the public review period (Public Resources Code, Section 21161).

Concurrent with the NOC, the County will provide public notice of the availability of the DEIR for public review, and invite comment from the general public, agencies, organizations, and other interested parties. The public review and comment period should be no less than forty-five (45) days. Public comment on the DEIR will be accepted both in written form and orally at public hearings. Although no public hearings to accept comments on the EIR are required by CEQA, the County expects to hold one or more public comment meeting(s) during the review period. Notice of the time and location of the hearing will be published prior to the hearing. Comments will also be accepted via an online comment form at the website listed below. All comments or questions regarding the Draft EIR should be addressed to:

Patrick Lowe, Deputy Planning Director
Napa County Office of Conservation, Development & Planning
1195 Third Street, Suite # 210
Napa, CA 94559
<http://www.napacountygeneralplan.com/>
Email: rlowe@co.napa.ca.us

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS/FINAL EIR

Following the public review period, a Final EIR will be prepared. The Final EIR will respond to written comments received during the public review period and to oral comments made at any public hearing (s). Commenters will be provided with copies of the responses to their comments at least 10 days prior to EIR certification.

CERTIFICATION OF THE EIR/PROJECT CONSIDERATION

As the final decision maker regarding the General Plan Update, the County Board of Supervisors will review and consider the Final EIR. If the Board finds that the Final EIR is "adequate and complete", the Board will certify the Final EIR.

Following certification of the Final EIR and following a recommendation on the proposed General Plan Update by the County Planning Commission, County Board of Supervisors may take action to adopt, revise, or reject the General Plan Update. A decision to approve the project would be accompanied by written findings in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 and Section 15093 and would explain the General Plan Update's relationship to alternatives considered in this EIR. A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), as described below, would also be adopted for mitigation measures that have been incorporated into or imposed upon the project to reduce or avoid significant effects on the environment. This MMRP will be designed to ensure that these measures are carried out during General Plan implementation.

MITIGATION MONITORING

Public Resources Code Section 21081.6(a) requires lead agencies to adopt a reporting and mitigation monitoring program to describe measures that have been adopted or made a condition of project approval in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. The specific "reporting or monitoring" program required by CEQA is not required to be included in the PEIR; however it will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for adoption. Throughout the PEIR, however, mitigation measures have been clearly identified and presented in language that will facilitate establishment of a monitoring and reporting program.

1.7 SCOPE OF THE EIR

Pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines, the scope of this DEIR includes specific issues and concerns identified as potentially significant physical effects on the environment. Based on both CEQA Guidelines Appendix G and the NOP comments, this DEIR addresses the following topics in depth:

- Agricultural Resources
- Land Use
- Population, Employment, and Housing
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Transportation and Circulation
- Noise
- Air Quality
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Geology and Soils
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Paleontological Resources
- Historic Resources
- Public Services and Utilities
- Visual Resources
- Growth Inducement