

Section 12.0
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES





12.0 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

12.1 CEQA REQUIREMENTS

Before approving a project, the *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)* requires the Lead Agency to prepare and certify a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

In accordance with Sections 15120 through 15132, and Section 15161 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, the City of Santa Clarita has prepared the September 2008 Revised Draft EIR for the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital Master Plan project (SCH #2004111149). The Response to Comments section, combined with the September 2008 Revised Draft EIR and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, comprise the Final EIR.

The following is an excerpt from the *CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15132, Contents of Final Environmental Impact Report:

The Final EIR shall consist of:

- (a) The Draft EIR or a revision of the draft.
- (b) Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary.
- (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.
- (e) Any other information added by the Lead Agency.

This Response to Comments section includes all of the above-required components and shall be included in the Final EIR. As noted above, the Final EIR will be a revised document that incorporates all of the changes made to the September 2008 Revised Draft EIR following the public review period.

12.2 PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

Two previous Draft EIRs were released for public review, one in November 2005 and one in September 2006, and written comments were received on those two Draft EIRs. The City of Santa Clarita recirculated the entire Draft EIR in June 2008 and September 2008; details of the public review periods are detailed below.

Responses to the 2005 Draft EIR and 2006 Revised Draft EIR comments were prepared and are included as part of the administrative record. No further responses to those comments have been prepared in accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088.5(f). The responses to comments included herein are to the June 2008 and September 2008 Revised Draft EIRs.



The City of Santa Clarita will respond to those comments submitted in response to the June 2008 Revised Draft EIR and the September 2008 Revised Draft EIR in accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088.5(f).

12.2.1 JUNE 2008 REVISED DRAFT EIR

The 2008 Revised Draft EIR was prepared and circulated for review and comment to the public, agencies, and organizations. The 2008 Revised Draft EIR was also circulated to State agencies for review through the State Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research. A notice of availability was placed in *The Signal*. The 45-day public review period ran from June 26, 2008 to August 11, 2008. Comments received during the 45-day public review period have been incorporated into this section.

During the public review period, individuals, groups, and public agencies submitted comments on the June 2008 Revised Draft EIR. Sixty-five written comment letters or emails were received on the Draft EIR to which responses have been prepared.

12.2.2 SEPTEMBER 2008 REVISED DRAFT EIR

The 2008 Revised Draft EIR was prepared and circulated for review and comment to the public, agencies, and organizations. The 2008 Revised Draft EIR was also circulated to State agencies for review through the State Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research. A notice of availability was placed in *The Signal*. The 45-day public review period ran from September 3, 2008 to October 17, 2008. Comments received during the 45-day public review period have been incorporated into this section.

During the public review period, individuals, groups, and public agencies submitted comments on the June 2008 Revised Draft EIR. Eight written comment letters were received during the 45-day public review period on the Draft EIR in which responses have been prepared. Also, one letter was received following the close of the public review period; responses have been prepared for that letter as well. In addition, oral testimony was received from 39 individuals and/or groups and 13 written comment cards were submitted at the September 23, 2008 City Council hearing.

12.3 FINAL EIR

The Final EIR allows the public and City Council an opportunity to review revisions to the September 2008 Revised Draft EIR, the responses to comments, and other components of the EIR, such as the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, prior to approval of the project. The Final EIR serves as the environmental document to support a decision on the proposed project.

As required by Section 15090 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, before approving the project, the City Council must certify that:

- ◆ The Final EIR has been completed in compliance with *CEQA*;



- ◆ The Final EIR was presented to the City Council, and that the City Council reviewed and considered the information in the Final EIR prior to approving the project; and
- ◆ The Final EIR reflects the City Council's independent judgment and analysis.

Additionally, pursuant to Section 15093(b) of the *CEQA Guidelines*, when a Lead Agency approves a project that would result in significant, unavoidable impacts that are disclosed in the Final EIR, the agency must submit in writing its reasons for supporting the approved action. This Statement of Overriding Considerations is supported by substantial information in the record, which includes the Final EIR. Since the proposed project would result in significant, unavoidable impacts, the City Council would be required to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations if it approves the proposed project.

12.4 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE 45-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD ON THE JUNE 2008 REVISED DRAFT EIR

Written comments on the June 2008 Revised Draft EIR were received from the following agencies and/or individuals:

Public Agencies:

- Ruth I. Frazen, Facilities Planning Department, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.
- Dave Singleton, Native American Heritage Commission
- Sandra Hesnard, California Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics
- Terry Roberts, State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit

Individuals and Groups:

- Alex Schmauss
- Martha Willman
- Lynne Plambeck, Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment (SCOPE)
- Robert P. Silverstein, Silverstein Law Firm (representing Smart Growth SCV)

E-mails Received Entitled "Public Deserves Proper Review of G&L Realty/HM Project" (August 6, 2008 to August 12, 2008). The list is alphabetized according to last name of commentator.

- Dottie Anklam
- Patti J. Baker
- LeAnn and Steve Belgau
- James E. Blazer
- Glenda T. Bona



- George and Andja Bozic
- Ben W. Curtis
- Laurel DiGangi
- dzyredhed@aol.com (no name provided)
- Christina Furginson
- Tracy Henderson
- Pauline Harte
- Nancy Halloran
- Thomas M. Harwood
- Hawkbyn78@aol.com (no name provided)
- Carrie and Michael Hutchinson
- Phillip H. Krapf
- Gene Lucas, Annette Lucas & Sheryl Lucas
- Barbara A. McElmeel
- Roxanne McManus
- Richard McNally
- Michael D. Middleton
- Dena Miller
- Stan and Barbara Miller
- Dottie and Roy Nagatoshi
- Anthony Newhall
- Reena Newhall
- Mary L. Parks
- Linda Pedersen
- Katherine D. Perez
- Veronica and Frank Pinckard
- Carl Porter
- John and Adrienne Redstall
- Meg Reynolds
- William L. Reynolds
- Lisa Robertiello
- Joanne T. Rose
- Edwin and Pamela Ross
- Lorena Sands
- Andrea R. Sansone
- Duane Satterfield
- Thomas Surak
- Haim and Natalie Tamsut
- Valerie Thomas
- Carie Wheatley, RN
- Donald E. Wiggins
- Martha L. Willman
- Jeanne S. Wray
- W. Alan Wright, AIA



Written Comments Received through E-mail in Support of Project:

- Anna Lois Kroll
- Nick H. Lewis
- Nichole L. Soto
- Sue Walroth, RN, BSHM
- Chloe Dauncey

Written Comments Received through E-mail in Opposition to Project:

- Martha L. Willman – August 8, 2008
- D. King – July 28, 2008
- valvan@aol.com (no name provided) – August 8, 2008

**COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE 45-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD ON
THE SEPTEMBER 2008 REVISED DRAFT EIR**

Oral Testimony was received during the September 23, 2008 City Council hearing.

Speakers in Support

- Dr. John Barstis
- Jodi Monte Leon
- Steve Colf
- Wayne Crawford
- Glenn Debatos
- Sue Walroth
- Dr. Nicholas Tusso
- Dave Brennan
- Dr. David Henry
- Bob Benjamin
- Dr. Roscoe Marter
- Jonathan Miller
- Dr. Edward Pecter
- Robert Hill
- Teri Sullivan

Speakers in Opposition

- Jeanne Wray
- Todd Hoover
- Martha Willman
- Jerry Noltemeyer
- Cam Noltemeyer (representing SCOPE)
- Dr. Gene Dorio
- Barbara McElmeel
- Lindsay Newhall



- Anthony Newhall (representing Smart Growth SCV)
- Reena Newhall
- Linda Pedersen
- Tony Natoli
- Robin Clough
- TimBen Boydston
- Alan Zeda
- Minerva Williams
- Henry Schultz
- Alan Wright
- Sandra Cattell
- Valerie Thomas
- Robin Stevenson
- Annette Lucas
- Richard North
- Sheryl Lucas

Written Comment Cards submitted during the September 23, 2008 City Council hearing.

In Support

- Greg Amsler
- Cathy Richardson
- Daniel Luthe

In Opposition

- Jim Kiswardy (2 cards)
- Tom McCoy
- Richard Drew
- Linda McCoy
- Christine Emerson
- Wanda L. Brown
- Donald E. Wiggins
- Martha Willman
- Laura Stotler
- Carl D. Porter

Written comments on the September 2008 Revised Draft EIR were received from the following agencies and/or individuals:

Public Agencies:

- John R. Todd, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
- Terry Roberts, State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit
- County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works



Individuals and Groups:

- Michael Middleton
- Robert P. Silverstein, Silverstein Law Firm – September 9, 2008
- Bob Messina
- Lynne Plambeck, Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment (SCOPE)
- Robert P. Silverstein, Silverstein Law Firm (representing Smart Growth SCV) – October 17, 2008
- TimBen Boydston – October 17, 2008
- TimBen Boydston – October 15, 2008

All correspondence from those agencies or individuals commenting on the June 2008 Revised Draft EIR and the September 2008 Revised Draft EIR is reproduced on the following pages. The individual comments on each letter have been consecutively number for ease of reference. Following each comment letter are responses to each numbered comment. A response is provided for each comment raising significant environmental issues. Where opinions have been expressed in comment letters, those opinions are so noted in the response to comments.

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(d), where the response to comments require make changes to information contained in the text of the Draft EIR, those text changes required for the Final EIR will be included at the end of the comment letter under a subheading “Text Changes for Final EIR.”