

**FINAL PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE**

**CITY OF RIVERSIDE
GENERAL PLAN
And Supporting Documents**
City of Riverside, Riverside County, California

(State Clearinghouse Number 2004021108)

Certified November 2007
Resolution No. 21535

Lead Agency: City of Riverside Planning Division,
Community Development Department
3900 Main Street
Riverside CA 92522
Phone: (951) 826-5625

Contact Person: Diane Jenkins, AICP, Principal Planner

Prepared for the
City by: Albert A. Webb Associates
3788 McCray Street
Riverside, CA 92506-2927
Phone: (951) 686-1070
Fax: (951) 786-0594

Contact Person: Cathy Perring, Principal Planner


Ken Gutierrez, AICP, Planning Director

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Final Program Environmental Impact Report (Final PEIR), as required pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15089 and 15132, must include the Draft PEIR or a revision thereof, comments and recommendations received on the recirculated Draft PEIR, a list of persons, organizations and public agencies commenting on the Draft PEIR and the responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process. A reporting or monitoring program (MMP) must also be prepared and approved to ensure compliance during project implementation (Public Resources Code Section 21081.6, CEQA Guidelines Section 15097).

RELATIONSHIP TO THE DRAFT EIR

The Draft PEIR has been revised and published herein to reflect corrections and responses to comments raised. Together with the MMP, and the Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations, these documents constitute the environmental disclosure record that will serve as the basis for approval of the proposed project.

PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

The EIR process typically consists of three parts – the Notice of Preparation, Draft EIR, and Final EIR. The City of Riverside distributed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) on February 23, 2004, to City, County and State agencies; other public agencies; and interested private organizations and individuals and held a scoping meeting before the City Planning Commission on March 18, 2004. In November 2004, the City of Riverside circulated a Draft PEIR for the General Plan, updates to the Zoning Code and Subdivision Code, the Magnolia Avenue Specific Plan and the Citywide Design and Sign Guidelines. In the process of reviewing the comments received on the previously circulated Draft PEIR, the City determined to recirculate the Draft PEIR pursuant to Section 15088.5 of the CEQA Guidelines. The recirculated EIR included all changes to the documents recommended by the City Council at the February 14, 2006, February 21, 2006, February 28, 2006 and March 21, 2006 City Council hearings and an amendment to the Noise Code for consistency with the proposed Noise Element and State regulations. Copies of both the NOP and NOP distribution list, and comments received on the NOP are presented in Appendix A of the recirculated Draft PEIR.

The City of Riverside recirculated a Draft PEIR for the General Plan, updates to the Zoning Code and Subdivision Code, the Magnolia Avenue Specific Plan, Noise Code, and the Citywide Design and Sign Guidelines from July 24 to September 7, 2007. Notices of Availability of the Draft EIR were distributed directly to more than 198 responsible agencies, trustee agencies, other interested parties, and local libraries. The Draft EIR was distributed on CD to all responsible and trustee agencies. Documents were distributed via U.S. Certified Mail on July 20, 2007.

The required distribution to the State Clearinghouse was completed by overnight service on July 19, 2007. A printout of the Clearinghouse tracking log is included in Section 3.0 of this Final PEIR. The official Clearinghouse review period began July 20, 2007 and ended September 4, 2007.

General public notice of availability of the Draft PEIR was given by publication in the *Press-Enterprise* July 23, 2007. As required by Public Resources Code Section 21092.3, a copy of the public notice was posted with the Riverside County Clerk of the Board on July 20, 2007. Copies of the Draft PEIR distribution list and all required notices are included in Section 8.0 of this Final PEIR.

As provided in the public notice and in accordance with CEQA Section 21091(d), the City of Riverside accepted written comments through September 7, 2007. Subsequent to the close of the public review period, two comment letters were received from: County of Riverside Transportation Land management Agency, and State Department of Housing and Community Development. All other comment letters and phone calls listed below were received during the public review period. The original letters are included in Section 3.0 of this Final EIR and discussed in the Responses to Comments, Section 2.0. Phone comments received are also addressed in Section 2.0, as appropriate. In accordance with the provisions of Public Resources Code Section 21092.5, the City of Riverside has provided a written response to each commenting public agency no less than 10 days prior to the proposed public hearing for certification purposes.

LIST OF PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC AGENCIES THAT COMMENTED ON RECIRCULATED DRAFT PEIR

State Agencies

State of California, Public Utilities Commission
State of California, Board of Forestry & Fire Protection
State of California, Department of Toxic Substances Control
State of California, Department of Housing and Community Development

Regional Agencies

Southern California Association of Governments

Public Districts

R.A. Barnett, Chairman Riverside Co. Service Area 126 E

Local Agencies and Service Providers

Southern California Gas Company
Airport Land Use Commission, County of Riverside
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
City of Moreno Valley Public Works Department
County of Riverside, Transportation and Land Management Agency

Native American Tribes and Related Entities

Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians
Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Heritage Commission
Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians -- GP
Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians -- MASP

Interested Organizations and Individuals

La Sierra Neighborhood
Old Riverside Foundation for Historic Preservation
Richard Block, Friends of Riverside's Hills
Mary Humboldt
Thomas R. Hunt, Hunt Public Relations

Comments Received via Telephone

Brenda Tamaras
Dell Onasch
Candice Hill, California Geologic Survey
Kathleen Browne, County of Riverside Transportation Land Management
Tom Hunt
Edith Moyer
Alex Morales