

2. Introduction

2.1 PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that all state and local governmental agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority prior to taking action on those projects. This Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) has been prepared to satisfy CEQA, as set forth in the Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations, Section 15000, et seq. The EIR is the public document designed to provide decision makers and the public with an analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed project, to indicate possible ways to reduce or avoid environmental damage, and to identify alternatives to the project. The EIR must also disclose significant environmental impacts that cannot be avoided; growth-inducing impacts; effects not found to be significant; and significant cumulative impacts of all past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.

Pursuant to CEQA Section 21067, the Lead Agency means “the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project which may have a significant effect upon the environment.” The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (LADRP) has the principal responsibility for approval of the 109th Street Pool and Bathhouse Replacement project. For this reason, the LADRP is the CEQA Lead Agency for this project.

The intent of the EIR is to provide sufficient information on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed 109th Street Pool and Bathhouse Replacement project to allow the LADRP to make an informed decision regarding approval of the project. Specific discretionary actions to be reviewed by the LADRP are described later in Section 3.4, *Intended Uses of the EIR*.

This EIR has been prepared in accordance with requirements of the:

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.)
- State Guidelines for the Implementation of the CEQA of 1970 (herein referenced as CEQA Guidelines), as amended (Title 14 Code of Regulations Sections 15000 et seq.)
- City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines, as amended July 31, 2002 (Council File 02-1507)
- Los Angeles CEQA Threshold Guidelines, May 14, 1998

The overall purpose of this EIR is to inform the lead agency, responsible agencies, decision makers, and the general public of the environmental effects of the development and operation of the proposed 109th Street Pool and Bathhouse Replacement project. This DEIR addresses the potential environmental effects of the project, including effects that may be significant and adverse, evaluates a number of alternatives to the project, and identifies mitigation measures to reduce or avoid adverse effects.



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2.2 NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

The LADRP issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Initial Study, which determined that an EIR would be required for the proposed project (See Appendix A). Comments received during the public review period, which extended from November 15, 2007, to December 14, 2007, are contained in Appendix B.

The NOP process is used to help determine the scope of the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR. Based on this process and the Initial Study completed for the project, certain environmental categories were identified as having the potential to result in significant impacts. Issues considered Potentially Significant are addressed in this DEIR. Issues identified as Less Than Significant or No Impact are not addressed beyond the discussion contained in the Initial Study. Refer to the Initial Study in Appendix A for discussion of how these initial determinations have been made.

2.3 SCOPE OF THIS DEIR

Based upon the Initial Study and Environmental Checklist Form, certain environmental categories were identified as having the potential to result in significant impacts. The scope of the EIR was determined based upon the LADRP's Initial Study and comments received in response to the NOP. Pursuant to Sections 15126.2 and 15126.4 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the DEIR should identify any potentially significant adverse impacts and recommend mitigation, as feasible, that would reduce or eliminate these impacts to levels of insignificance.

2.3.1 Impacts Considered Less Than Significant

Ten environmental impact categories are identified here as not being significantly affected by or affecting the proposed 109th Street Pool and Bathhouse Replacement project and therefore are not discussed in detail in this DEIR. This determination was made by the LADRP in its preparation of the Initial Study. The following topical issues are not addressed in the DEIR:

- Agricultural Resources
- Biological Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

2.3.2 Potentially Significant Adverse Impacts

Six environmental factors were identified in the Initial Study as potentially significant impacts if the proposed project is implemented. These factors are:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Noise
- Recreation

2.3.3 Unavoidable Significant Adverse Impacts

Unavoidable adverse impacts may be considered significant on a project-specific basis, cumulatively significant, and/or potentially significant. If the LADRP, as the Lead Agency, determines that unavoidable significant adverse impacts would result from the project, the LADRP must prepare a Statement of Overriding Considerations before it can approve the project. A Statement of Overriding Considerations states that the decision-making body has balanced the benefits of the proposed project against its unavoidable significant environmental effects and has determined that the benefits of the project outweigh the adverse effects and therefore, the adverse effects are considered to be acceptable.

The six factors listed in Section 2.3.2 were further studied in the DEIR, and of these six factors, the below three were found to be significant and unavoidable:

- Aesthetics
- Cultural Resources
- Noise

2.4 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Consistent with Section 15150 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the below documents are incorporated by reference in this DEIR and are available for review at the LADRP.

- 2006 Pool Assessment Report. July 18, 2006. Prepared by Jon Kirk Mukri, Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.
- Condition Reports by Swimming Pool, The State of City Swimming Pools in Los Angeles. 2004, July. Prepared by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.
- The State of City Swimming Pools in Los Angeles. 2004, July. Prepared by Jon Kirk Mukri, Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.



In general, these reports indicate that 67 percent of the 59 pools under the Department of Recreation and Parks are over 40 years old. Additionally, 60 percent of the pools either rated very poorly on or failed inspections by the LADRP; many of them have reached a state that requires replacement, including the 109th Street Pool, which failed inspection.

2.5 FINAL EIR CERTIFICATION

This DEIR is being circulated for public review for a period of 45 days. Interested agencies and members of the public are invited to provide written comments on the DEIR to the LADRP address shown on the title page of this document. Upon completion of the 45-day review period, the LADRP will review all written comments received and prepare written responses for each comment. A Final EIR (FEIR) will then be prepared incorporating all of the comments received, responses to the comments, and any changes to the DEIR that result from the comments received. This FEIR will then be presented to the LADRP Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners for potential certification as the environmental document for the proposed project. All persons who commented on the DEIR will be notified of the availability of the FEIR and the date of the public hearing before the LADRP.

The DEIR is available to the general public for review at the following locations:

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- Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Environmental Management Section: 1200 West 7th Street, Suite 700, Los Angeles 90017
- The 109th Street Recreation Center: 1464 East 109th Street, Los Angeles 90059
- Alma Reaves Wood, Watts Branch Library: 10205 Compton Avenue, Los Angeles, 90002
- <http://www.laparks.org/environmental/environmental.htm>

2.6 MITIGATION MONITORING

Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 requires that agencies adopt a monitoring or reporting program for any project for which it has made findings pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081. Such a program is intended to ensure the implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration.

The Mitigation Monitoring Program for the proposed 109th Street Pool and Bathhouse Replacement project will be completed as part of the Final EIR prior to consideration of the project by the LADRP Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners.