

Overview

The Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) has prepared this Initial Study/Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences associated with the Riverside Park Outdoor Development Project (proposed project), located at 1800 West Riverside Drive, in the city of Los Angeles. As part of the permitting process for the Department, and prior to consideration of the project by the Board of Recreation and Parks, the proposed project is required to undergo an environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Authority

The preparation of this IS/MND is governed by two principal sets of documents: CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21000, *et seq.*) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000, *et seq.*).

One of the main objectives of CEQA is to disclose to the public and decision makers the potential environmental effects of proposed activities. CEQA requires that the lead agency determine whether a project is subject to CEQA review, or whether it is exempt under statutory exemptions (CEQA Guidelines, Article 18, Sections 15260 *et seq.*) or categorical exemptions (CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15300 *et seq.*). The Department determined that the project is not exempt from CEQA and therefore prepared an initial study to determine whether an environmental impact report, a negative declaration, or a mitigated negative declaration is needed. The Department is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

The preparation of initial studies is guided by Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Sections 15070–15075 of Article 6 guide the process for the preparation of an MND. Where appropriate and supportive to an understanding of the issues, reference will be made to the statute, the State CEQA Guidelines, or appropriate case law.

This IS/MND meets CEQA requirements by including a project description; a description of the environmental setting, potential environmental impacts, and

mitigation measures for any significant effects; discussion of consistency with plans and policies; and names of preparers.

Scope of the Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration

This IS/MND evaluates the proposed project's effects on the following resource topics:

- aesthetics,
- agricultural resources,
- air quality,
- biological resources,
- cultural resources,
- geology and soils,
- hazards and hazardous materials,
- hydrology and water quality,
- land use planning,
- mineral resources,
- noise,
- population and housing,
- public services,
- recreation,
- transportation/traffic, and
- utilities and service systems.

Impact Terminology

The following terminology is used to describe the level of significance of impacts.

- A finding of *no impact* is appropriate if the analysis concludes that the project would not affect the particular topic area in any way.
- An impact is considered *less than significant* if the analysis concludes that it would cause no substantial adverse change to the environment and requires no mitigation.
- An impact is considered *less than significant with mitigation incorporated* if the analysis concludes that it would cause no substantial adverse change to the environment with the inclusion of environmental commitments that have been agreed to by the applicant.
- An impact is considered *potentially significant* if the analysis concludes that it could have a substantial adverse effect on the environment.

Organization of the Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration

The content and format of this report are designed to meet the requirements of CEQA. The report contains the following sections.

- Chapter 1, Introduction, identifies the purpose and scope of this IS/MND and the terminology used in the report.
- Chapter 2, Environmental Setting and Project Description, identifies the location, background, and planning objectives of the project and describes the proposed project in detail.
- Chapter 3, Initial Study Environmental Checklist, presents the checklist responses for each resource topic. This section includes a brief setting section for each resource topic and identifies the impacts of implementing the proposed project.
- Chapter 4, References, identifies all printed references and individuals cited in this IS/MND.
- Chapter 5, List of Preparers, identifies the individuals who prepared this report and their roles in the project.