

# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

This Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as amended (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (California Administrative Code Section 15000 et seq.).

According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15132, the FEIR shall consist of:

- (a) The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) or a revision of the Draft;
- (b) Comments and recommendations received on the DEIR, either verbatim or in summary;
- (c) A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies comments on the DEIR;
- (d) The responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process; and
- (e) Any other information added by the Lead Agency.

In accordance with these requirements, the Puente Hills Intermodal Facility EIR is comprised of the following:

- 1) Circulated DEIR, City of Industry, Puente Hills Intermodal Facility, State Clearinghouse No. 2006021097, December 2007.
- 2) This Final EIR document, May 2008, that incorporates requirements (b)–(e) as listed above.

### Distribution of the Draft EIR

The DEIR was made available for public review and comment pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Section 15087 [c]). Per a request made on June 22, 2006, by Los Angeles County Supervisor, First District, Gloria Molina, the public review period for the DEIR was extended from 45 days to 60 days. The public review period for the DEIR commenced on Friday, December 7, 2007, and closed on Monday February 4, 2008. Copies of the DEIR were made available for public review at the City of Industry Planning Department, the main office of County of Sanitation District No. 2 of Los Angeles County (LACSD), La Puente Public Library, and Sunkist Public Library. At the request of a commenter, a copy of the DEIR was also placed at the Hacienda Heights Public Library. A Notice of Availability (NOA) was delivered to the County Clerk's office on December 7, 2007, and filed on December 27, 2008. Copies of the NOA and DEIR were distributed to public agencies and interested parties on a mailing list (see Appendix A), posted at the City of Industry City Hall, made available at the LACSD website, and circulated in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune on December 7, 2007. A Public Meeting was held at the Swiss Park Restaurant and Banquet Center in unincorporated Los Angeles County on January 16, 2008 to receive oral comments on the DEIR. The Public Meeting began and 6:00 PM and concluded at 10:00 PM. All proceedings at the Public Meeting were transcribed by a court reporter. Notice for the Public Meeting was included in the Notice of Availability.



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This document contains responses to oral testimony received at the Public Meeting on January 16, 2008 and written comments received on the DEIR for the Puente Hills Intermodal Facility during the public review period. This document has been prepared in accordance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines and represents the independent judgment of the Lead Agency. This document and the circulated DEIR comprise the FEIR, in accordance with the requirements as defined in the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15132.

## **1.2    FORMAT OF THE FEIR**

This document is organized as follows:

**Section 1 Introduction.** This section describes CEQA requirements and content of this FEIR.

**Section 2 Summary of General Responses.** This section provides a summary of general responses to reoccurring comments raised by responding agencies and the public.

**Section 3 Response to Comments.** This section provides a list of agencies and interested persons commenting on the DEIR; copies of these comment letters received during the public review period, and individual responses to written comments. This section also includes responses to oral comments received at a Public Meeting held by the City on Wednesday January 16, 2008, regarding the DEIR. To facilitate review of the responses, each comment letter has been reproduced and assigned a number (A, for letters received from federal agencies [however, no comments were received from federal agencies], B-1 through B-7 for letters received from state agencies, C-1 through C-5 for letters received from local agencies, D-1 through D-11 for letters received from organizations, and E-1 through E-53 for letters received from the public and during the Public Meeting). Individual comments have been numbered for each letter and the letter is followed by responses to the letter with references to the corresponding comment number.

**Section 4 Revisions to the Draft EIR.** This section contains revisions to the DEIR text and figures as a result of the comments received by agencies and interested persons, as described in Sections 2 and 3, and/or errors and omissions discovered subsequent to release of the DEIR for public review.

The responses to comments contained in this package contain material and revisions that will be added to the text of the FEIR. City staff has reviewed this material and determined that none of this material constitutes the type of significant new information that requires recirculation of the DEIR for further public comment under CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5. None of this new material indicates that the project will result in a significant new environmental impact not previously disclosed in the DEIR. Additionally, none of this material indicates that there would be a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified environmental impact that will not be mitigated, or that there would be any of the other circumstances requiring recirculation described in Section 15088.5.

## **1.3    CEQA REQUIREMENTS REGARDING COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15204 (a) outlines parameters for submitting comments, and reminds persons and public agencies that the focus of review and comment of DEIRs should be, “on the sufficiency of the document in identifying and analyzing possible impacts on the environment and ways in which significant effects of the project might be avoided or mitigated. Comments are most helpful when they suggest additional specific alternatives or mitigation measures that would provide better ways to avoid or mitigate the significant environmental effects. At the same time, reviewers should be aware that the adequacy of an EIR is determined in terms of what is reasonably feasible. ...CEQA does not require a

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lead agency to conduct every test or perform all research, study, and experimentation recommended or demanded by commenters. When responding to comments, lead agencies need only respond to significant environmental issues and do not need to provide all information requested by reviewers, as long as a good faith effort at full disclosure is made in the EIR.”

CEQA Guidelines Section 15204 (c) further advises, “Reviewers should explain the basis for their comments, and should submit data or references offering facts, reasonable assumptions based on facts, or expert opinion supported by facts in support of the comments. Pursuant to Section 15064, an effect shall not be considered significant in the absence of substantial evidence.” Section 15204 (d) also states, “Each responsible agency and trustee agency shall focus its comments on environmental information germane to that agency’s statutory responsibility.” Section 15204 (e) states, “This section shall not be used to restrict the ability of reviewers to comment on the general adequacy of a document or of the lead agency to reject comments not focused as recommended by this section.”

In accordance with the CEQA, Public Resources Code Section 21092.5, copies of the written responses to public agencies will be forwarded to commenting agencies at least 10 days prior to certifying the environmental impact report. The responses will be forwarded with copies of this FEIR, as permitted by CEQA, and will conform to the legal standards established for response to comments on DEIRs.



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