

SECTION ONE

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Purpose

The Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Merced Vision 2030 General Plan (SCH #2008071069) project was prepared to disclose, analyze, and provide mitigation measures for all potentially significant environmental effects associated with adoption and implementation of the proposed Merced Vision 2030 General Plan. Preparation of an environmental impact report is a requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for all discretionary projects in California that have a potential to result in significant environmental impacts.

Following the preparation of the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR), a public review period was held from August 24, 2010 to October 22, 2010. CEQA requires that a Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) be prepared, certified and considered by public decision makers prior to taking action on a project. The Final EIR provides the Lead Agency (i.e., City of Merced) an opportunity to respond to comments received on the Draft EIR during the public review period and to incorporate any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR necessary to clarify or supplement information contained in the Draft document. This Final EIR includes the responses to comments received during the public review period and any other errata or changes necessitated by comments on the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR and this document constitute the Final EIR for the Merced Vision 2030 General Plan project and include all of the information required by Section 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines.

1.2 Scope and Format

Section One of this document introduces and outlines the purpose, scope, and format of the Final EIR. Section Two explains the public review process and lists all agencies and individuals who commented on the Draft EIR. Section Three consists of the actual letters of comment, reproduced in their entirety, and the responses to each written comment received on the Draft EIR. These responses are intended to supplement or clarify information contained in the Draft EIR, as appropriate, based on the comments and additional research or updated information. Additions to the Draft EIR are shown in underline and deletions shown in ~~strikeout~~ format. Each response follows the associated letter or document. Each letter and document has been numbered (e.g., Letter 1, Letter 2). Within each letter or document, individual comments are assigned an alphanumeric identification. For example, the first comment of Letter 1 is Comment 1A, and the second is Comment 1B. Section Four contains the corrections that have been made to the Draft EIR based on comments received on the Draft EIR and updated information that has become available. Section Five contains a Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program (MMRP).