

SECTION TWO

OVERVIEW OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

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2.1 Public Review and Comment Procedures

CEQA requires public disclosure in an EIR of all project environmental effects and encourages public participation throughout the EIR process. As stated in Section 15200 of the CEQA Guidelines, the purposes of public review of environmental documents are:

- 1) sharing expertise
- 2) disclosing agency analyses
- 3) checking for accuracy
- 4) detecting omissions
- 5) discovering public concerns
- 6) soliciting counter proposals

Section 15201 of the CEQA Guidelines states that “Public participation is an essential part of the CEQA process.” A public review period of no less than 30 days nor longer than 60 days is required for a Draft EIR under Section 15105(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. If a State agency is a lead or responsible agency for the project, the public review period shall be at least 45 days. As required under CEQA, the Draft EIR was published and circulated for review and comment by responsible and trustee agencies and interested members of the public. The public review period ran from August 24, 2010 to October 22, 2010. All written comments received on the Draft EIR are addressed herein.

2.2 Agencies and Individuals Who Commented on the Draft EIR

- Letter 1: Scott Morgan, Director, State Clearinghouse, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research
- Letter 2: Jim Todd, Member, Merced Gateway, LLC
- Letter 3: Dr. Tino Ballesteros, Executive Pastor, Yosemite Church
- Letter 4: Jeffrey R. Single, Ph.D., Regional Manager, California Department of Fish and Game-Central Region
- Letter 5: Jim Brown, Director of Planning and Community Development; Mark Hendrickson, Director of Commerce, Aviation, Economic Development; Paul Fillebrown, Director of Public Works, Merced County Executive Office
- Letter 6: Michael Belluomini, Director of Facilities Planning, Merced Union High School District
- Letter 7: Ed Ketchum, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band Historian

- Letter 8: Tom Dumas, Chief, Office of Metropolitan Planning, California Department of Transportation
- Letter 9: Jesse B. Brown, Executive Director, Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)
- Letter 10: John L. Collins, Manager Airport Policy, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)
- Letter 11: John B. Wilbanks, AICP, CNU-A, Principal, RRM Design Group
- Letter 12: Stanley P. Thurston
- Letter 13: Peter S. Balfour, Vice President, ECORP Consulting, Inc.
- Letter 14: William Nicholson, Merced County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC)
- Letter 15: Amanda Carvajal, Executive Director
- Letter 16: Lisa Kayser-Grant
- Letter 17: Maureen McCorry, President, San Joaquin et al
- Letter 18: Marsha A. Burch, Attorney At Law
- Letter 19: Rick Telegan, 3rd Millennium Investments
- Letter 20: Thomas E. Lollini, FAIA, Campus Architect and Associate Vice Chancellor, Physical Planning, Design and Construction, University of California, Merced
- Letter 21: Sid Lakireddy, Everest Properties
- Letter 22: Thomas E. Lollini, FAIA, Campus Architect and Associate Vice Chancellor, Physical Planning, Design and Construction, University of California, Merced
- Letter 23: Jean Okuye, Valley Land Alliance
- Letter 24: Richard L. Harriman, Law Offices of Richard L. Harriman
- Letter 25: Bill Nicholson, Executive Officer, Merced Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
- Letter 26: Bill Pfanner, Supervisor Local Energy & Land Use Assistance Unit, Special Projects Office, Fuels and Transportation Division, California Energy Commission