
1. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF EIR

INTRODUCTION

This Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) contains public and agency comments received during the public review period for the Clover Valley Large and Small Lot Tentative Maps Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). This document has been prepared by the City of Rocklin in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

BACKGROUND

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) for this DEIR was released September 12, 2005 for a 30-day review (Appendix A). A public scoping meeting was held on October 5, 2005. Comments provided by the public and public agencies in response to the NOP were received by the City of Rocklin and are provided in Appendix B to the DEIR.

The DEIR was circulated to the public for 54 days, exceeding by nine days the 45-day circulation requirement for a DEIR submitted to the State Clearinghouse for review by State agencies (CEQA Guidelines §15105[a]). The public review period began on January 19, 2006 and ended on March 15, 2006. Notice was provided to owners of all property within 500 feet of the project site, and public notice was published in the Placer Herald on January 18, 2006. In addition, a public hearing to receive comments on the DEIR was held on February 23, 2006 at 7 pm in the Sunset Center at 2650 Sunset Boulevard, Rocklin. Verbal comments received during the public hearing numbered 73.

In addition, a total of 195 written comments were received during the open public comment period on the DEIR, and one comment letter on the DEIR was received late, after the close of the DEIR public comment period. These comments were received from state and local agencies, other organizations and interested parties, and residents. Although the City is not required to respond to the late comment letters according to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(a), the City has provided responses to this late comment as a courtesy (see Response to Letter 18 in Chapter 3 of this Final EIR).

SUMMARY OF TEXT CHANGES

Chapter 2, Revisions to the DEIR text, identifies all changes to the DEIR. These changes are in response to both written and verbal comments on the DEIR made by the public during the public review period.

LIST OF COMMENTERS

A list of all written and verbal comments, including the commenter/agency name, as well as the page number on which responses to the letter occur, are presented at the beginning of Chapter 3, Comments and Responses.

RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

During the public comment period comments were received in writing from letters, e-mails, and faxes, as well as orally during the public hearing on the DEIR. Responses to the comments received on the DEIR during the public comment period are presented in Chapter 3, Comments and Responses. The numbering of the responses corresponds to the bracketed letters that precede each response.

Each comment letter received has been numbered at the top and then bracketed to indicate how the letter has been divided into individual comments. Each comment is given a number with the letter number appearing first, followed by the comment number. For example, the first comment in Letter 1 would have the following format: 1-1.

SUPPLEMENTAL ANALYSES

As a result of public comment on the DEIR, the following additional analyses were conducted for inclusion in the Final EIR. The additional analyses do not result in any new significant impacts, which were not previously addressed in the DEIR.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

SWCA Environmental Consultants (see Appendix A) conducted a supplemental analysis of the historic rock walls in the project area to determine the historic significance of the walls. The study determined that the conclusions reached in the DEIR regarding the historical value of the rock walls were accurate and that the rock walls in the project area are not eligible for protection as historic resources. This additional survey did not identify any new significant impacts that were not identified in the DEIR.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Supplemental analyses were conducted in response to comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). The supplemental analyses include:

Special-Status Plant Species Investigation

The special species plant investigation was conducted by Dittes & Guardino Consulting in July, 2006 (see Appendix B). The survey was conducted to update outdated data regarding special-status plant species on the proposed project site. The study determined that no special-status plant species are previously known to exist on the site, nor were any encountered in the 2006 surveys of the project area. Therefore, the supplemental study

determined that there would be no new impacts in regard to special-status species plants as a result of the implementation of the proposed project. This additional survey did not identify any new significant impacts that were not identified in the DEIR.

Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (FYLF) Habitat Assessment

A Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana Boylii*) Habitat Assessment (see Appendix C) for the proposed project area was conducted by ECORP Consulting, Inc. in July 2006. The study included on-site surveys at three sections of the Clover Valley Creek. The assessment determined that, based upon historic records, extant occurrence and the availability of specimens, the project area does not appear to be within the current range of FYLF and no FYLFs were identified during the studies. This additional survey did not identify any new significant impacts that were not identified in the DEIR.

California Black Rail Assessment

Jerry Tecklin prepared a survey for the California Black Rails in July 2006 (see Appendix D). The purpose of the study was to determine the presence of absence of the California Black Rail on the project site. The survey resulted in the location of a single Black Rail on the project site in a single instance. This change resulted in an amendment to the bottom of page 4.8-17 to include the mention of Black Rails found on site (see Chapter 2). The presence of Black Rails and other marsh-occupying birds was anticipated in Impact 4.8I-13 and the impact was found to be potentially significant. Mitigation Measure 4.8MM-13 was found to reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level. This additional survey did not identify any new significant impacts that were not identified in the DEIR.

Aquatic Habitat Survey and Fisheries Assessment

An Aquatic Habitat Survey and Fisheries Assessment (see Appendix E) was prepared by ECORP Consulting, Inc. in July 2006. Four fish species and one aquatic invertebrate were collected from the Clover Valley Creek. The fish species included native minnow, hitch (*Lavina exilicauda*), the native Sacramento sucker (*Catostomus occidentalis*), the non-native Western mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) and the green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*). A non-native crayfish species, (*Pacifasticus* sp.) was also collected. No salmonids were observed during the survey. In addition, the study notes that the Clover Valley Creek is not included in the Unit 5519 designation of critical habitat for Chinook Salmon and Steelhead.

The study did not find any evidence of salmonids or other protected species within the Clover Valley Creek. The findings made in the July 2006 report supported the conclusions reached in the DEIR and no new impacts were found. This additional survey did not identify any new significant impacts that were not identified in the DEIR.

Foresters Report

The Oak Woodland Evaluation for the Clover Valley Large and Small Lot Tentative Subdivision Maps (see Appendix F) was prepared in June 2, 2006 by Cedric D. Twight. The report includes an analysis of project habitats as well as an oak tree inventory for the proposed project site.

HYDROLOGY AND DRAINAGE

Supplemental Drainage Information

Stantec Consulting submitted a supplementary data to provide further details for the proposed project regarding hydrologic and drainage issues related to the proposed project (see Appendix G). The supplement was used in providing responses to comments which raised concerns regarding the adequacy of detention basins and onsite drainage systems.