

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE OF THE RESPONSE TO COMMENTS DOCUMENT

This document has been prepared to respond to comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR – State Clearinghouse No. 2008102034) prepared for the 2030 Countywide Draft General Plan for Yolo County (Draft General Plan). Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Draft EIR analyzes the potential adverse environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Draft General Plan and recommends mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts. California State law requires each jurisdiction to adopt a General plan to guide physical development in the unincorporated areas of the County. The General Plan establishes County policy, and identifies planned land uses and infrastructure. This Response to Comments (RTC) Document contains all comments received during the public review period on the Draft EIR for the Draft General Plan; provides responses to comments on the Draft EIR, and identifies revisions to the Draft EIR, as necessary, in response to these comments or to amplify and clarify material in the Draft EIR. This response to comments document, together with the Draft EIR, constitutes the Final EIR for the proposed project.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

According to CEQA, lead agencies are required to consult with public agencies having jurisdiction over a proposed project, and to provide the general public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR.

The County used several methods to solicit public input on the Draft EIR. These methods included the distribution of a Notice of Preparation on October 8, 2008; numerous reports to the Planning Commission and Board; public workshops before various County committees and commissions; distribution of the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIR on April 24, 2009; distribution of the Draft EIR for a comment period of April 28 through June 12, 2009; and a public meeting before the Planning Commission to receive oral comments on the Draft EIR on May 14, 2009. The public had the opportunity to submit both verbal and written comments at this meeting. The public had a second opportunity to submit both verbal and written comments at a Planning Commission workshop held on June 10, 2009 on the revised Draft General Plan (June 10, 2009) and Draft EIR.

The Draft EIR was distributed to various public agencies, responsible agencies, and interested individuals. Copies of the document were made available at the public counter of the Planning Department and at all County libraries. The public was notified of the availability of the Draft EIR through the County's website (www.yolocountygeneralplan.org). Electronic copies of the documents were also made available on the County's website. The report was made available for public review and comment for a total 45-day period. The agency review period established by the State Clearinghouse for the Draft EIR also commenced on April 28, 2009 and expired on June 12, 2009. The Final EIR and Draft General Plan were presented to the Board of Supervisors at public hearings on July 20, 2009 and July 21, 2009 at which there was final direction and a motion of intent to certify

the EIR and adopt the new General Plan. Following the hearings before the Board in July, staff has prepared an approval package of appropriate resolutions, findings of fact, and a Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) to support the final direction given by the Board. On November 10, 2009, the Board will hold a final hearing to take final action to certify and EIR and adopt the General Plan.

C. DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

This Response to Comments document consists of the following chapters:

- *Chapter I: Introduction.* This chapter discusses the purpose and organization of this Response to Comments document.
- *Chapter II: List of Commenters.* This chapter contains a list of all commenters who submitted written comments during the review period.
- *Chapter III: Comments and Responses.* This chapter contains reproductions of all comment letters received on the Draft EIR and notes from the Planning Commission hearings. This chapter contains master responses to certain comments, and a written response for each CEQA-related comment received during the review period is provided. Each response is keyed to the preceding comments.
- *Chapter IV: Draft EIR Text Revisions.* Text Changes to the Draft EIR are presented in this chapter of this Response to Comments document. It contains clarifications, amplifications, and corrections that have been identified since publication of the Draft EIR (including in response to comments). Changes to impacts and mitigation measures are reflected in a Revised Summary Table (Table II-1: Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures starting on page 14 of the Draft EIR) in Appendix A. Text in underline represents language that has been added to the EIR; text with ~~strikeout~~ has been deleted from the EIR. As mentioned previously, the Final EIR consists of this Response to Comments document and the Draft EIR.