
1. INTRODUCTION

The final environmental impact report (Final EIR) for the proposed Palo Alto Public Safety Building (PSB) project has been prepared by the City of Palo Alto (City) in keeping with state environmental documentation requirements set forth in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City has prepared this Final EIR pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, including sections 15086 (Consultation Concerning Draft EIR), 15088 (Evaluation of and Response to Comments), and 15132 (Contents of Final Environmental Impact Report).

A Draft EIR document, dated July 11, 2007, was prepared by the City pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15084 (Preparing the Draft EIR) and distributed for public review and comment on July 12, 2007. A 45-day public review period was observed pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15087 (Public Review of the Draft EIR), beginning on July 12, 2007 and ending on August 27, 2007. During that period, comments on the Draft EIR were solicited and received in writing (letter, memoranda and e-mails) and in oral testimony during a public hearing on the Draft EIR conducted by the Palo Alto Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC) during its regular meeting of August 22, 2007.

In conformance with the CEQA Guidelines, the Final EIR consists of **two volumes**:

- (1) Volume 1: the July 11, 2007 **Draft EIR**; and
- (2) Volume 2: this **Final EIR document**.

This Final EIR document consists of:

- a **revised summary of EIR findings** section (section 2) that includes all revisions to Draft EIR chapter 2, summary of EIR findings, made in response to comments received during the Draft EIR public review period;
- a **responses to comments on the Draft EIR** section (section 3) that includes an alphabetical listing of all commenters on the Draft EIR, including PTC Commissioners, individuals and organizations, and responsible and public agencies; and a summary of each comment received from these Draft EIR commenters grouped by topic, including comments received at the August 22, 2007 PTC meeting and comments received in writing during and

immediately after the Draft EIR public review period, followed by the EIR authors' responses to each comment;¹ and

- an **other revisions to the Draft EIR** section (section 4) that includes revisions to all other Draft EIR chapters--i.e., in addition to the chapter 2 (summary of EIR findings) revisions--made in response to comments received during the Draft EIR public review period.

Both volumes of the Final EIR are available for public review at the City of Palo Alto Department of Planning and Community Environment's Development Center, Palo Alto City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, California; telephone: (650) 329-2441.

Certification of this Final EIR by the City must occur prior to any final action by the City on the proposed PSB project.

¹In addition to this Final EIR section 3 grouping of comments and responses by topic, the same comments and responses are presented in the following additional groupings in the appendices to this Final EIR document:

- Appendix 5.1 (Responses to PTC Meeting Comments on the Draft EIR) includes the minutes of the August 22, 2007 PTC meeting segment on the Draft EIR followed by a repeat of the EIR authors' responses to each PTC meeting comment pertaining to the EIR; and
- Appendix 5.2 (Responses to Written Comments on the Draft EIR) includes copies of nine letters, memoranda and e-mails received by the City during and immediately after the Draft EIR review period, each followed by a repeat of the EIR authors' responses to each comment therein pertaining to the EIR.