

2 Introduction

2.1 The EIR Process

This Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) is an informational document prepared by the City of Union City (City) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that would result from the 2040 Union City General Plan Update, defined as the proposed project or as the 2040 General Plan for purposes of this environmental review. The primary objectives of the EIR process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are to inform decision-makers and the public about a project's potentially significant environmental effects, identify feasible ways to minimize significant effects, and consider a reasonable range of alternatives to the project.

As prescribed by the *CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15088 and 15132, the lead agency, Union City, is required to evaluate comments on environmental issues received during the public comment period from persons who have reviewed the Draft EIR and to prepare written responses to those comments. This document, together with the Draft EIR (incorporated by reference in accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15150), will comprise the Final EIR for this project. Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the City Council must certify the EIR as complete and adequate prior to approval of the project or a project alternative.

This Final EIR contains individual responses to each comment received during the public review period for the Draft EIR, corrections and additions to the Draft EIR text, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). In accordance with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15088(b), the written responses describe the disposition of significant environmental issues raised.

2.2 EIR Certification Process and Project Approval

In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, the EIR must be certified as complete and adequate prior to any action on the proposed project. Once the EIR is certified and all information considered, using its independent judgment, the City Council can take action to go forward with the proposed project, make changes, or select an alternative to the proposed project. While the information in the EIR does not constrain City Council's ultimate decision under its land use authority, the City Council must respond to each significant effect and mitigation measure identified in the EIR by making findings supporting its decision.