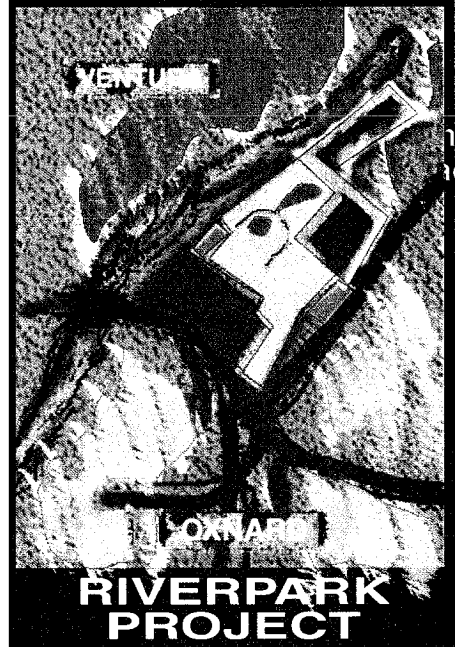


**CITY OF OXNARD**  
Environmental Impact Report



**RIVERPARK  
PROJECT**

SCH #2000051046

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**SECTION 1.0**  
**Introduction**

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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## **PURPOSE**

*This introduction provides information on the contents of this Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the proposed RiverPark project. This information is provided to assist the reader in understanding the relationship of this document to the environmental review process being conducted by the City of Oxnard for this proposed project.*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

As defined by Section 15050 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) *Guidelines*, the City of Oxnard is serving as "Lead Agency," responsible for preparing the EIR for the proposed RiverPark project.

### **Environmental Processing**

In accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Oxnard conducted a preliminary review of the application for the proposed RiverPark Specific Plan Project and determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be prepared to analyze the potential impacts associated with the approval and implementation of the proposed project.

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) was prepared by the City of Oxnard in May 2000 and sent to public agencies and other parties stating that an EIR was going to be prepared by the City. In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, a 30-day period was provided for responses to the NOP. This review period ended in June 2000. In June 2001 the City sent out a revised NOP to reflect changes in the project description and provide additional opportunity for comment.

Based on the City's review of the project and consideration of the responses to the NOPs, the Draft EIR addressed all environmental topics identified in CEQA *Guidelines* Appendix G (Environmental Checklist Form) including:

- Land Use Planning, Programs & Policies
- Aesthetics
- Earth Resources

- Biological Resources
- Water Resources
- Agricultural Resources
- Transportation & Circulation
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Public Services
- Public Utilities
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards

This Draft EIR was circulated for a 45-day public review period as required by state law on December 7, 2001. During this 45-day period, the City of Oxnard Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Draft EIR on December 20, 2001 and accepted oral testimony on the Draft EIR from the public. The public review period ended on January 21, 2002.

Section 15088 of the *CEQA Guidelines* requires that the Lead Agency evaluate comments on environmental issues received from parties who reviewed the Draft EIR and prepare a written response to each comment. The responses to comments may take the form of a separate section in the FEIR. In conformance with the requirements of Section 15088 of the State *CEQA Guidelines*, the City of Oxnard, as the Lead Agency for the project, prepared written responses to all written and oral comments on the Draft EIR.

Section 15088.5 of the *CEQA Guidelines* requires the recirculation of a Draft EIR prior to certification under certain circumstances when significant new information is added to the EIR after it is circulated for public review. Recirculation is not required when the new information added to the EIR merely clarifies or amplifies an adequate EIR. Recirculation of an EIR for additional public review is required when a feasible alternative considerably different than those previously analyzed is identified and the project's proponent declines to adopt it. Recirculation is also required if the Final EIR includes information showing that a new significant impact not identified in the Draft EIR will result from the project or there is a substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact identified in the Draft EIR, or there is a new feasible mitigation measure considerably different from others previously analyzed exists, but the project's proponents decline to adopt it.

The information included in the responses to comments on the Draft EIR does not identify any new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of any of the significant impacts identified

in the Draft EIR. In addition, no new mitigation measures have been identified that the project proponent will not adopt as part of the project. Minor revisions and correction to the text of the Draft EIR are included in the response to comments. None of these minor revisions change the conclusions of the analysis of significant impacts in the Draft EIR.

The proposed Draft Specific Plan has been revised to reflect review by the City of Oxnard. The current Draft Specific Plan, dated February 26, 2002, allows the same amounts of residential units and commercial space assessed in the Draft EIR. The majority of the revisions are minor changes to land use and development standards. The size of the neighborhood parks were increased and other minor adjustments were made to the proposed land plan. None of the refinements and revisions made are substantial enough to change the conclusions of the analysis of significant impacts in the Draft EIR.

For these reasons, recirculation of the EIR for additional public review is not required by CEQA as a result of the information included in this Final EIR.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE FINAL EIR**

This FEIR contains all the elements required by Section 15132 of the *CEQA Guidelines*. This section states that an FEIR shall consist of the Draft EIR; comments received on the Draft EIR, either verbatim or in summary; a list of persons, organizations and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR; and the written responses of the Lead Agency to the comments received on the Draft EIR.

This FEIR incorporates the Draft EIR, dated December 2001, including all appendices, by reference. The complete Draft EIR is available for review at the City of Oxnard Community Development Department, 305 West Third Street, Oxnard, California. A complete listing of the parties commenting on the Draft EIR is provided in the Table of Contents of this FEIR and at the beginning of **Sections 2.0** and **3.0**.

The organization of this FEIR and the general contents of the sections following this introduction are:

**Section 2.0** contains the written comments received on the Draft EIR and responses to these comments.

**Section 3.0** contains minutes of the public hearing on the Draft EIR held by the City of Oxnard Planning Commission on December 20, 2001 and written responses to the oral comments on the Draft EIR made at this hearing.

**Appendix A** contains the water supply assessment.