

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), following completion of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) the lead agency is required to consult with and obtain comments from public agencies that have jurisdiction by law or discretionary approval power with respect to the proposed project, and to provide the general public with opportunities to comment on the Draft EIR.

On January 27, 2009, the City of Hercules (City), as the Lead Agency under CEQA, issued a Draft EIR on the Updated 2009 Redevelopment Plan EIR proposed by the City of Hercules Redevelopment Agency. The 45-day public comment period ended on March 12, 2009.

The Final EIR is an informational document prepared by the Lead Agency that must be considered by decision makers before approving or denying the proposed project. CEQA Section 15132 specifies that the Final EIR shall consist of the following:

- a. The Draft EIR or a revision to the draft.
- b. Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary form.
- c. A list or persons of the persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR.
- d. The response of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in review and consultation process.
- e. Any other information added by the Lead Agency.

The Draft EIR, which is incorporated by reference, and this document (including project refinements, EIR revisions, summary, and responses to comments) constitute the Final EIR. Copies of this draft EIR and the proposed Updated 2009 Redevelopment Plan are available for review online at www.ci.hercules.ca.us/planning or at the following locations:

- Hercules City Hall, Community Development Department, 111 Civic Drive, Hercules, California 94547
- Hercules Public Library, 109 Civic Drive, Hercules, California 94547

This document has been prepared pursuant to the *State CEQA Guidelines*. The Final EIR incorporates comments from public agencies and the general public, and contains responses by the Lead Agency to those comments that are relevant to the Draft EIR analysis. The City of Hercules is responsible for

reviewing and certifying the adequacy of this environmental document and making a decision with respect to the proposed project.

1.2 ORGANIZATION OF THIS RESPONSE TO COMMENTS DOCUMENT

This document is organized into five sections. Following this introduction (**Section 1.0**), **Section 2.0, Revisions to the Draft EIR**, presents changes to the text of the Draft EIR, some of which were made in response to comments on the Draft EIR. **Section 3.0, Comments on the Draft EIR and Responses to Comments**, contains a list of persons, agencies, and organizations that submitted written comments on the Draft EIR, reproductions of the written comments, and responses to those comments. Each comment is labeled with a number in the margin. **Section 4.0, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**, contains the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project, and **Section 5.0, List of Preparers**, lists persons involved in the preparation of the Final EIR.