

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Final Program Environmental Impact Report (Final PEIR) for the proposed Wine Country Community Plan has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and the County of Riverside policies for implementing CEQA.

The following is an excerpt from the *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15132 that states:

“The Final EIR shall consist of:

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

The Final PEIR includes all of these required components. The Draft PEIR has been provided to the public and decision-makers, is available on the County’s website, and has been provided to individuals and organizations that have requested the Draft PEIR. Section 2.0 includes the comments received on the Draft PEIR. A list of the public agencies and members of the public which commented on the Draft EIR is provided above in the Table of Contents. Section 2 includes each comment letter, followed by the corresponding response(s), consistent with the requirements of Section 15088 of the State CEQA Guidelines. A response is provided for each written and verbal comment raising significant environmental issues, as received by the County during the Draft PEIR public review period.

The Planning Commission recommends additional modifications to the proposed Temecula Valley Wine Country Community Plan to address other outstanding matters that are discussed in Attachment A: *Temecula Valley Wine Country Community Plan Planning Commission Final Recommendations and PEIR No. 524 Determination*.

Additional information regarding the Temecula Valley Wine Country Community Plan Draft EIR can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.socalwinecountryplan.org/Planning/CEQA/tabid/70/Default.aspx>

It should be noted that responses to comments also resulted in various editorial clarifications and corrections to the original Draft EIR text. Added or modified text is shown by underlining (example) while deleted text is shown by striking (~~example~~). The additional information,

corrections, and clarifications are not considered to substantively affect the conclusions within the Draft PEIR.

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

The County of Riverside issued a **Notice of Preparation** (NOP) for the proposed Project to identify the potential environmental impacts of the Project, to solicit comments from public agencies and interested parties, and to identify issues that should be considered in the Draft PEIR. The NOP for the proposed Project was sent to trustee and responsible agencies, members of the public, other interested parties, and the California Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse on December 28, 2009. This began the 30-day NOP public review period, which ended on January 26, 2010. During the review period, public agencies and members of the public had the opportunity to respond to the NOP to identify issues of special concern and to suggest additional issues to be considered in the Draft PEIR.

In addition, the County held a public scoping meeting on January 19, 2010, to discuss characteristics of the proposed Project, its planning status, the nature of its potential environmental effects, and the scope (i.e., the specific issues) of the EIR analysis. The scoping meeting provided further opportunities for public input regarding environmental concerns and issues that should be addressed in the EIR.

In addition to the formal NOP review and scoping process, the County held numerous informal meetings with stakeholders and interested parties, maintained a Project website, and convened regular Advisory Committee Meetings. The NOP scoping process and substantial additional public outreach conducted by the County is summarized in the Draft PEIR Sections 2.4 *Notice of Preparation and Initial Study*, Section 2.5 *Public Scoping*, and Draft PEIR Appendix A *IS/NOP and Comment Letters*.

**The Draft PEIR** for the proposed Project was distributed to trustee and responsible agencies, members of the public, other interested parties, and the California Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse on December 5, 2011. Although CEQA only requires a 45-day public review period, the County elected to extend the Draft PEIR public review to 60 days, from January 19, 2012 to February 2, 2012. Draft PEIR noticing and distribution materials are provided in Appendix A to this Responses to Comments document.