

# CHAPTER I

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## Introduction

### A. CEQA Process

On March 1, 2006, the City of Oakland (Lead Agency) released for public review a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR or DEIR) for the Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center (OMC) Master Plan Project (ER05-004). The 47-day public review and comment period on the Draft EIR began on March 1, 2006 and closed on at 4:00 p.m. on April 17, 2006.

The City of Oakland Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Draft EIR on March 22, 2006. The Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) also held two hearings on the Draft EIR on March 13 and April 17, 2006 to solicit public comments and formulate its advisory comments on the Draft EIR to the Planning Commission.

The Draft EIR for the Kaiser Permanente OMC Master Plan Project, together with this response to comments document, constitute the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR or FEIR) for the project.<sup>1</sup> The Final EIR is an informational document prepared by the Lead Agency that must be considered by decisionmakers (including the Oakland City Planning Commission and City Council) before approving or denying the proposed project.

The City of Oakland (Lead Agency) has prepared this document pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines specify the following:

“The Final EIR shall consist of:

- (a) The Draft EIR or a revision of that draft.
- (b) Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in a summary.
- (c) A list of 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The commonly used term “EIR” is used in this document to refer to the Draft EIR combined with this document. This document is referred to as “Final EIR,” its commonly used and practical title.

- (e) Any other information added by the Lead Agency.”

This Final EIR incorporates comments from public agencies and the general public and contains appropriate responses by the Lead Agency to those comments.

## **B. Organization of the Final EIR**

This document contains information that responds to issues and comments raised during the public comment period on the Draft EIR. Comments received after the close of the public comment period, and appropriate responses thereto, are also included and noted as such. The document is organized as follows after this introductory chapter.

Chapter II, *Revisions to the Project*, describes project sponsor initiated changes to the project analyzed in the Draft EIR and contains summarizes the environmental effects of those changes.

Chapter III, *Changes to the Draft EIR*, contains changes and corrections to the Draft EIR initiated by the Lead Agency or resulting from comments on the Draft EIR.

Chapter IV, *Agencies, Organizations and Individuals Commenting on the Draft EIR*, lists all agencies, organizations, and persons that submitted written comments on the Draft EIR during the public review and comment period, and/or that commented verbally at the Planning Commission public hearing on the Draft EIR on March 22, 2006. The list also indicates the receipt date of each written correspondence. The LPAB members who voted on its action regarding the Draft EIR are also identified.

Chapter V, *Master Responses*, contains master responses to recurring topic areas raised in the Draft EIR comments.

Chapter VI, *Other Responses to Written Comments on the Draft EIR*, contains comment letters received during the review and comment period (and within a reasonable timeframe after). The responses to the comments are provided following each letter.

Chapter VII, *Responses to Comments Received at the Planning Commission Public Hearing on the Draft EIR*, contains a summary of all environmental topics raised regarding Draft EIR at Planning Commission public hearing on the Draft EIR on March 22, 2006, environmental topics raised by the LPAB at its meetings of March 13 and April 17, 2006, and responses to those comments.

Appendices are included at the end of this report.