



# **CEQA ADDENDUM GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN CENTER SPECIFIC PLAN INTO THE CITY OF COVINA GENERAL PLAN**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

According to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, an addendum may be filed if a lead agency (for this action, the lead agency is the City of Covina or the “City”) determines that a proposed action or project has been adequately addressed in a previous environmental document. According to the CEQA Guidelines, the following requirements are applicable to the filing of an addendum:

- The lead agency or responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.
- An addendum to an EIR or negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.
- An addendum need not be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the final EIR or adopted negative declaration.
- The decision making body shall consider the addendum with the final EIR or adopted negative declaration prior to making a decision on the project.
- A brief explanation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162 should be included in an addendum to an EIR, the lead agency's findings on the project, or elsewhere in the record. The explanation must be supported by substantial evidence.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The proposed action involves the incorporation of the Town Center Specific Plan (TCSP) into the City of Covina General Plan. The TCSP will be incorporated into the General Plan by reference. No new physical changes to the environment will occur beyond that envisioned in the EIR that was prepared and certified for the TCSP (Town Center Specific Plan Program Environmental Impact Report, SCH # 2004051124).

## **PREVIOUS CEQA REVIEW**

The environmental consequences associated with the implementation of the TCSP were addressed in an EIR prepared by the City. The potential impact and the requisite mitigation are identified in the Town Center Specific Plan Program Environmental Impact Report (SCH # 2004051124). No changes have or will be made to the TCSP, the EIR, or the mitigation program as part of the TCSP's incorporation into the City of Covina General Plan.



## Section 15162 Requirements

The lead agency or responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred. Those conditions or circumstances that would require additional environmental review are stated below:

- Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:
  - The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;
  - Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
  - Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
  - Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.
- If changes to a project or its circumstances occur or new information becomes available after adoption of a negative declaration, the lead agency shall prepare a subsequent EIR if required under subdivision (a). Otherwise the lead agency shall determine whether to prepare a subsequent negative declaration, an addendum, or no further documentation.
- Once a project has been approved, the lead agency's role in project approval is completed, unless further discretionary approval on that project is required. Information appearing after an approval does not require reopening of that approval. If after the project is approved, any of the conditions described in subdivision (a) occurs, a subsequent EIR or negative declaration shall only be prepared by the public agency which grants the next discretionary approval for the project, if any. In this situation no other responsible agency shall grant an approval for the project until the subsequent EIR has been certified or subsequent negative declaration adopted.



- A subsequent EIR or subsequent negative declaration shall be given the same notice and public review as required under Section 15087 or Section 15072. A subsequent EIR or negative declaration shall state where the previous document is available and can be reviewed.

None of the above circumstances are applicable to the proposed action. Therefore, an addendum is the appropriate CEQA document.

### **FINDINGS SUPPORTING THE CEQA ADDENDUM**

The City of Covina, determined that the proposed action would not result in any significant effects on the environment. This determination is based on the following:

- The proposed action is a requirement of the State of California Planning, Zoning, and Development Laws governing conformity between the local general plan and the implementing specific plan(s).
- The planning area has no value as habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species. The planning area was previously developed. No native or natural habitats are found within the planning area.
- The approval of the action would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality above and beyond that identified in the original EIR prepared for the TCSP..
- The proposed action will not result in any new development above and beyond that envisioned in the adopted TCSP.
- The planning area is not located within an area, nor does it include a site the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Secretary for Environmental Protection has identified as being affected by hazardous wastes.
- The proposed action will not result in any impacts on historic resources. The planning area is not identified on any State list identifying the site as containing a historic resource.
- The proposed action will not require any review by a State trustee or responsible agency.
- The proposed action will not require any special entitlements above and beyond the General Plan Amendment incorporating the TCSP into the City’s General Plan, by reference.
- The lead agency, based on a rule of common sense, “has determined that there is no possibility that the proposed action will result in significant effects above and beyond that identified in the original EIR prepared for the TCSP.

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City of Covina

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Date