

March 19, 2013 Notice of Availability
Public Review of the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed City of Elk Grove Sphere of Influence Amendment
(LAFC# 09-10/ SCH # 2010092076)

The Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) announces the availability of the proposed City of Elk Grove Sphere of Influence (SOI) Amendment Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for public review.

The Recirculated Draft EIR is intended to serve as an informational document for public agency decision-makers and the general public regarding the objectives and components of the proposed project. The document evaluates potentially significant adverse environmental impacts that could be associated with the project, and identifies project changes (mitigation measures) and project alternatives that would reduce or eliminate these impacts. The Recirculated Draft EIR does not set forth policy for Sacramento LAFCo about the proposed project's desirability. Rather, the Recirculated Draft EIR is an informational document to be used by the public, decision-makers, and public agencies. During the project review process, Sacramento LAFCo must consider all feasible mitigation measures and alternatives developed in the Recirculated Draft EIR to substantially lessen anticipated environmental impacts of the proposed project.

Project Description - The proposed project consists of a request initiated by the Elk Grove City Council (Resolution #2008-54) to the Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) to amend the City of Elk Grove's SOI. The current SOI is coterminous with the City boundary. The application to amend the SOI includes 7,869 acres generally described as the areas south of Bilby Road/Kammerer Road and Grant Line Road. Current City of Elk Grove land use projections indicate that future growth may require additional lands outside of the current city boundary. The City's available residential, industrial, and commercial land inventory is in the process of building out and may be unable to accommodate all anticipated urban growth within the city limits. As a result, the City needs to establish a direction to accommodate its future growth by designating an area for long-term planning.

For purposes of analyzing environmental impacts, LAFCo has developed land use assumptions that would allow LAFCo to understand environmental effects that may result from growth during future annexations. There are no land use entitlements proposed at this time in conjunction with the proposed SOI Amendment (SOIA). California Government Code Section 65300 provides that a city may comprehensively plan for lands outside of its jurisdiction without the area being within an approved SOI. However, while the Elk Grove City Council has expressed its desire to have the proposed SOIA Area master planned, the City Council has explicitly stated that no comprehensive planning of the area will occur until LAFCo approves a SOIA.

The current City boundaries and coterminous SOI encompass 26,974 acres. The proposed SOIA would expand the existing SOI, not city limits, by 7,869 acres, or by 29 percent, to a total SOI of 34,843 acres. However, any future growth and expansion through the annexation process would be limited to areas outside of the FEMA 100-year floodplain. This would limit potential growth to 6,882 acres of the proposed 7,869-acre SOIA area, leaving 13 percent of the area for non-urban uses, such as open space.

Significant Impacts on the Environment Anticipated as a Result of the Proposed Project - Significant and unavoidable impacts were identified in the Recirculated Draft EIR. The Recirculated Draft EIR found that the project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts for aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, land use and planning, noise, population and housing, transportation and traffic, and utility and service systems.

Public Review Period - Sacramento LAFCo is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, and is holding a public review period of the Recirculated Draft EIR, during which time the public and interested parties are invited to comment on the Recirculated Draft EIR for the proposed project. Please note that the public comment period is March 21, 2013, through 4 PM May 21, 2013. (Public comment regarding the Recirculated Draft EIR may be provided verbally before the Commission on May 1, 2013). All comments should be directed to:

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Location Where the Draft EIR May Be Reviewed - The Recirculated Draft EIR may be reviewed online at www.saclafco.org. Hard copy may be reviewed at the LAFCo offices, Elk Grove City Hall (8400 Laguna Palms Way), the Elk Grove Library (8900 Elk Grove Blvd.), and the Franklin Community Library (10055 Franklin High Rd).

Next Steps - To be considered, all comments must be received by the end of the public comment period (**March 21, 2013, through May 21, 2013**). Upon completion of the 60-day public review period, responses to all substantive comments concerning the adequacy of the Recirculated Draft EIR will be prepared and incorporated into a Final EIR. No sooner than 10 days following the submission of the responses to comments to public agencies, Sacramento LAFCo will hold a public hearing to consider certification of the Final EIR and the related discretionary actions concerning project approval.

