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# I. INTRODUCTION

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## OVERVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code (P.R.C.) Division 13, § 21000 et seq.) was enacted in 1970 with the main objective of providing public disclosure to inform Decision-Makers and the public of the significant environmental effects of proposed activities and to require agencies to avoid or reduce the environmental effects by implementing feasible alternatives or mitigation measures.

CEQA applies to all discretionary activities proposed to be carried out or approved by California public agencies, including state, regional, county, and local agencies. The proposed Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Renovation Project (“Proposed Project”) requires discretionary approval from the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission (“Coliseum Commission”) and, therefore, is subject to the environmental review requirements established under CEQA. For purposes of complying with CEQA, the Coliseum Commission is identified as the Lead Agency for the Proposed Project.

This Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is a “Project EIR” prepared in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations (C.C.R.), Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, § 15000-15387, as amended). As provided by the State CEQA Guidelines § 15121(a):

*“An EIR is an informational document which will inform public agency decision-makers and the public generally of the significant environmental effect of a project, identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects, and describe reasonable alternatives to the project. The public agency shall consider the information in the EIR along with other information which may be presented to the agency.”*

The subject of this Draft EIR is the proposed renovation of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (“Proposed Project”), located at 3911 South Figueroa Street in the City of Los Angeles. For a detailed description of the Proposed Project, see Section III.C, Project Characteristics. For a detailed description of the Project Site and the surrounding locale, see Section IV.A, Overview of Environmental Setting.

As Lead Agency for the Proposed Project, the Coliseum Commission conducted an initial review of the Proposed Project’s potential impacts and determined that the Project could have a significant effect on the environment and has required that an EIR be prepared. On May 22, 2003, the Coliseum Commission distributed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) and project description to local and regional responsible agencies and other interested parties. Written responses to the NOP (received during a 30-day comment period ending on June 23, 2003) were evaluated and considered in the development of this Draft EIR. A matrix identifying each NOP respondent and categorizing each response by subject matter is contained in Appendix A to this report. Copies of each response are also contained in Appendix A to this report.

Based upon the initial review of the Proposed Project and a review of the NOP responses from responsible and trustee agencies, and other interested organizations and preservation interest groups, the EIR focuses on the following set of issues:

- Aesthetics (Visual Impacts and Light and Glare);
- Air Quality;
- Cultural and Historic Resources;
- Geology/Seismic Hazards;
- Land Use;
- Noise;
- Public Services (Fire and Police Services);
- Public Utilities (Energy Conservation, Water Conservation, Sanitary Sewers, Solid Waste Disposal); and
- Traffic, Access and Parking.

## **FORMAT OF THE EIR**

Including this introductory Chapter, this Project EIR is comprised of nine Sections.

Section II of this EIR includes a concise summary of the probable environmental effects of the Proposed Project, mitigation measures and the levels of significance assuming all of the identified mitigation measures are implemented.

Section III of this EIR includes the Project Description. The Project Description is comprised of three subsections, including: the location and boundaries, the project objectives and the project characteristics.

Section IV of this EIR provides an overview of the environmental setting. This Section includes a description of the environmental conditions at the time the NOP was published, a statement of the analytical assumptions that were employed in preparing the analyses, and a description of cumulative related projects.

Section V of this EIR includes the environmental impact analysis for the proposed project. The environmental impact analysis section includes detailed analysis on nine environmental issue areas, as previously identified above. Each analysis provides a detailed account of the environmental setting, a statement of the thresholds of significance in which the potential impacts were evaluated, a list of feasible mitigation measures (if applicable), a cumulative impact analysis, and a statement of the level of environmental impact after implementation of the recommended or required mitigation measures.

Section VI of this Draft EIR includes a discussion of mandatory general impact statements including: a summary of significant unavoidable impacts of the Proposed Project, growth-inducing impacts of the Proposed Project, and effects of the Proposed Project found not to be significant.

Additionally, CEQA requires that the EIR include a reasonable range of project alternatives that may reduce the effects of the proposed project. Section VII, Alternative to the Proposed Project, includes an analysis of the following Project Alternatives:

- 1) No Project Alternative;
- 2) Alternative Design Without Roof Structure;
- 3) Evaluation of Alternative Site(s).

Section VIII of this EIR includes a list of organizations and persons consulted during the preparation of the EIR.

Section IX of this EIR includes a list of references and acronyms used in creating this environmental report.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

To provide full public disclosure of potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of a Proposed Project, CEQA requires that Draft EIRs be noticed and circulated to all responsible and trustee agencies as well as the general public. In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, this Draft EIR will be circulated for a 45-day review period. During this period, all public agencies and interested individuals and organizations are encouraged to provide written comments addressing their concerns with the adequacy and completeness of the EIR. When providing written comments on the subject matter of the EIR, the readers are referred to State CEQA Guidelines, 15204(a), which state:

*“In reviewing Draft EIRs, persons, and public agencies should focus on the sufficiency of the document in identifying and analyzing the possible impacts on the environment and ways in which the significant effects of the project might be avoided or mitigated. Comments are most helpful when they suggest additional specific alternatives or mitigation measures that would provide better ways to avoid or mitigate the significant environmental effects. At the same time, reviewers should be aware that the adequacy of an EIR is determined in terms of what is reasonably feasible, in light of factors such as the magnitude of the project at issue, the severity of its likely environmental impacts, and the geographic scope of the project. CEQA does not require a lead agency to conduct every test or perform all research, study, and experimentation recommended or demanded by commentors. When responding to comments, lead agencies need*

*only respond to significant environmental issues and do not need to provide all information requested by reviewers, as long as a good faith effort at full disclosure is made in the EIR. ”*

The 45-day public review period will commence on September 8, 2003 and end on October 22, 2003. All comments regarding the adequacy of the Draft EIR should be submitted in writing to the Coliseum Commission at the following address no later than October 22, 2003:

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission  
Attn: Margaret Farnum, Chief Administrative Officer  
3911 S. Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, California, 90037  
Fax: (213) 748-5828

The Draft EIR will be made available to the general public at the address listed above. Copies of the Draft EIR will also be made available to view in electronic format on the Coliseum Commission’s official website at <http://www.lacoliseum.com>. Public and agency notice of availability of the Draft EIR will be made in accordance with CEQA. Following the public review period, the Lead Agency will prepare a Final EIR. The Final EIR will include additions and corrections to the Draft EIR, as warranted, and will include written responses addressing the comments and recommendations received by individuals, organizations, and public agencies during the review period.

## **INTENDED USES OF THIS EIR**

Pursuant to Section 15124 (d) of the CEQA Guidelines, the following section describes the intended uses of this EIR, to the extent that this information is known at the time of this writing. The purpose of this EIR is to provide an objective analysis of the environmental implications of the Proposed Project through the evaluation of potentially significant environmental issues. In addition, feasible mitigation measures are recommended, when applicable, that could reduce such adverse impacts to insignificant levels.

### **Public Agency Actions**

The Proposed Project will require the following discretionary approvals from the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission, the designated Lead Agency:

- Certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report;
- Approval of the Mitigation Monitoring Program;
- Approval of the Development and Concept Plan.

Other ministerial and/or discretionary approvals required in order to execute and implement the Proposed Project, as necessary, may include but are not limited to permits for excavation, shoring, barricades in public ways, and installation of public improvements; permits that may include grading, foundation support, and building permits; required permits for mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and heating/ventilating/air conditioning (HVAC) system; and approval of a haul route for export of soil/debris materials. Jurisdiction for such permits and/or approvals may be ceded to the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles or State of California, as may be appropriate.