
13.0 FINAL EIR INTRODUCTION

13.1 Introduction

This Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) addresses at a project-level the potential environmental effects associated with implementation of the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan – Public Works Plan (Proposed Plan), which includes the construction and operation of park facilities, camping, and trail improvements; various park programs, a fire protection and emergency relocation plan; and related Plan policies and implementation measures. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the preparation of an EIR when a project, such as the proposed Plan, would have potentially significant impacts on the environment. EIRs are prepared to “inform public agency decision makers and the public generally of the significant effect of a project, identify possible ways to minimize the significant effects, and describe reasonable alternatives to the project” (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15121). An EIR is intended to serve as an informational document for decisionmakers and the general public regarding the environmental consequences of a project.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) prepared the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan—Public Works Plan (Proposed Plan) with the goal of maximizing public access and recreational opportunities for parkland and recreation areas in the coastal areas of Malibu and the Santa Monica Mountains in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

13.2 Final EIR Background

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was completed in February 2010 for the Proposed Plan. A Notice of Completion was filed with the State of California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) on February 2, 2010, which began a required minimum 45-day public review period for the DEIR. Notices of Availability were mailed out to public agencies, interested persons, and individual property owners within the project vicinity. In addition, a Notice of Availability was published in the Malibu Surfside News. During the required minimum 45-day public review period, members of the public were invited to submit written comments on the EIR to the Conservancy/MRCA. The comment period for the DEIR officially closed on March 22, 2010, although late comments received through July 2010 were also accepted.

In addition, a public meeting to receive oral testimony occurred on Monday, February 22, 2010, at a joint meeting of the Conservancy/MRCA Boards.

The comment period for the DEIR officially closed on March 22, 2010, although late comments received through the preparation of the Final EIR (as late as July 2010) were also accepted.

In accordance with § 15088 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and the State CEQA Statute, the Conservancy/MRCA, as co-lead agencies, have reviewed the comments received on the DEIR for the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan – Public Works Plan (Plan), and have prepared written responses. All comments received on the DEIR (including late submissions received up until the preparation of the FEIR) were reviewed by Conservancy/MRCA staff to identify specific environmental concerns and determine whether any additional environmental analysis would be required to respond to issues raised in the comments.

Comments received on the DEIR and responses to those comments, and any pertinent additional information, have been incorporated into the FEIR. The FEIR will be presented to the Conservancy/MRCA Boards for their consideration and action during a noticed public hearing. The version of the Plan selected, along with the FEIR, will then be reviewed by the California Coastal Commission, which may or may not take action thereon.

13.3 Creation of the Modified Redesign Alternative

In response to both oral and written comments received on the DEIR for the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan – Public Works Plan, the Conservancy/MRCA have revised one of the alternatives detailed in the DEIR to create the Modified Redesign Alternative (MRA). In developing this MRA, the Conservancy/MRCA worked to refine the Redesign Alternative Plan contained in the DEIR to reduce all significant and unavoidable impacts to a level of insignificance. The Conservancy/MRCA also created the MRA to further reduce those impacts deemed insignificant (with or without mitigation) in the DEIR, but were of concern to the public. The intent was to make use of the comments received, and the analysis contained in the DEIR, to develop an alternative which was environmentally superior to the Proposed Plan analyzed in the DEIR. The Final EIR includes a detailed analysis of the MRA as well as a MRA Fire Protection Plan.

13.4 Final EIR Format and Organization

The FEIR for the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan – Public Works Plan consists of the following Volumes:

VOLUME I – DRAFT EIR

VOLUME II – DRAFT EIR; APPENDICES A-G

VOLUME III – DRAFT EIR; APPENDICES H-R

VOLUME IV – COMMENTS ON DRAFT EIR & RESPONSES AND THE MODIFIED REDESIGN ALTERNATIVE

Volume IV of the FEIR is organized as follows:

Section 13.0 - provides a brief update on the project’s background, explains that the Redesign Alternative has been refined in response to comments to create the Modified Redesign Alternative , and sets forth the format and organization of the FEIR.

Section 14.0 - provides a summary description of the Modified Redesign Alternative (with references to a more complete plan description identified within *Appendix MRA-1*); the summary description is followed by an impact analysis section. After discussion of the impacts (and any required mitigation measures) associated with each environmental issue area, a brief comparative analysis of impacts between the Proposed Plan and the Modified Redesign Alternative is provided.

Section 15.0 - presents a revision of the DEIR’s Section 8.0, *Alternatives*, incorporating the Modified Redesign Alternative into the original section with a revised discussion and identification of the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

Section 16.0 - addresses the written and verbal comments received on the DEIR. A written response is provided for each comment, consistent with the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15088. Any changes made to the text of the Draft EIR correcting information, data or the intent, other than minor typographical corrections or minor working changes, are noted within an Errata sub-section, which follows after the responses to written comments.

The Appendices section (of this FEIR Volume IV) - provides detailed information, plans, and figures related to the MRA, as well as supplemental technical reports and data utilized in preparation of the FEIR.

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