

4.0 STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. Introduction

Section 15093 of the CEQA guidelines states:

- (a) CEQA requires the decision-making agency to balance, as applicable, the economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of a proposed project against its unavoidable environmental risks when determining whether to approve the project. If the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of a proposed project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered “acceptable.”
- (b) When the lead agency approves a project which will result in the occurrence of significant effects which are identified in the Final EIR but are not avoided or substantially lessened, the agency shall state in writing the specific reason to support its actions based on the Final EIR and/or other information in the record. The statement of overriding considerations shall be supported by substantial evidence in the record.
- (c) If an agency makes a statement of overriding considerations, the statement should be included in the record of the project approval and should be mentioned in the notice of determination.

The City of Huntington Beach proposes to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations regarding the significant cumulative air quality, greenhouse gas, hydrology and water quality, noise, and utilities/water supply impacts of the Project. This section describes the anticipated benefits and other considerations of the Project to support the decision to proceed, even though significant and unavoidable impacts are anticipated.

4.2. Significant Adverse Project and Cumulative Impacts

The City of Huntington Beach is proposing to approve the proposed Project, with revisions to reduce environmental impacts, and has prepared a SEIR as required by CEQA. Even with revisions to the Project, the following impacts have been identified as being unavoidable as there are no feasible mitigation measures available to further reduce the impacts. Refer to Chapter 2 (CEQA Findings) for further clarification regarding the impact listed below.

Air Quality

Despite compliance with General Plan policies, GPU PEIR mitigation, and MM AQ-1 and AQ-2, the Project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts concerning construction-related and operational emissions. In addition, sites over two acres could expose sensitive receptors to significant impacts by exceeding construction LST thresholds. The Project-related contribution of daily construction and operational emissions associated with the HEU are considered cumulatively significant and unavoidable.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Despite the recommendation of Greenhouse Gas Reduction program GHG reduction strategies, the Project would generate GHG emissions that may have a significant impact on the environment and could

conflict with applicable plans for reducing GHG emissions. Therefore, impacts on GHG are considered significant and unavoidable, both for the Project and cumulative conditions.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The Project could substantially decrease groundwater supplies resulting in a significant and unavoidable impact concerning sustainable management of the Basin. The Project's impact concerning groundwater supplies would be cumulatively considerable and a significant unavoidable impact would occur.

Noise

Despite compliance with GPU PEIR mitigation, the Project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts concerning construction-related noise and vibration levels and operational noise levels associated with traffic. The Project's impact concerning the substantial temporary and permanent increase of ambient noise levels would be cumulatively considerable. The Project's impact concerning construction-related noise and groundborne vibration would also be cumulatively considerable.

Utilities and Service Systems

Despite compliance with GPU PEIR mitigation, until the water supply situation improves, the water demands from future development pursuant to the HEU would result in a significant and unavoidable impact concerning water supplies. Additionally, until such time as greater confidence in and commitment from water suppliers can be made, or the water supply situation improves, the Project's impacts concerning water supplies to serve future development would be cumulatively considerable.

4.3. Findings

The City of Huntington Beach has evaluated all feasible mitigation measures and potential changes to the Project with respect to reducing the impacts that have been identified as significant and unavoidable (see Chapter 2, CEQA Findings). The City of Huntington Beach has also examined a reasonable range of alternatives to the project as proposed (see Chapter 3, Findings Regarding Project Alternatives). Based on this examination, the City of Huntington Beach has determined that the No Project Alternative is considered to be the environmentally superior alternative.

4.4. Overriding Considerations

Specific economic, social, or other considerations outweigh the significant and unavoidable impacts stated above. The reasons for proceeding with the proposed project, notwithstanding the identified significant and unavoidable impacts are described below.

Proposed Project Benefits

- 1) The HEU would facilitate the development of a wide range of housing types in sufficient supply to meet the needs of current and future residents, particularly for persons with specific needs, including but not limited to extremely low, very low, and lower income households; seniors; persons

- with disabilities; large households, single-parent households, people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and farmworkers.
- 2) The HEU would increase the supply of affordable housing in high opportunity/resource areas, including areas with access to employment opportunities, community facilities and services, and amenities.
 - 3) The HEU would provide a comprehensive system of support and would expand housing options aimed to prevent and end homelessness.
 - 4) The HEU would reduce constraints to the development of housing, including affordable housing, through programs that allow ministerial approval processes, permit ready plans for Accessory Dwelling Units, a review and update of the City's small lot ordinance, and housing overlays in non-residential areas.
 - 5) The HEU would address planning and monitoring goals for long-term affordability of adequate housing.
 - 6) The HEU would facilitate the development of an accessible housing supply for all persons without discrimination in accordance with State and federal fair housing laws. The HEU would enhance existing lower resource neighborhoods by promoting livable, healthy, and safe housing for all residents.
 - 7) The HEU provides a plan for meeting the City's RHNA goals and to affirmatively further fair housing, which substantially complies with State law, thereby enabling the City to achieve certification of the HEU through the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Certification of the HEU would also enable the City to maintain eligibility for funding programs tied to a compliant HEU.
 - 8) The HEU would allow the City of to revitalize commercial corridors and older industrial areas by allowing for additional housing opportunities in the City while maintaining the character of existing, long-established single-family residential neighborhoods in the City. Consistent with General Plan Implementation Program LU-P.14, the Affordable Housing Overlay allows for housing within the Research and Technology zoned areas, which establishes housing opportunities for employees of business in these areas. The provisions of the Affordable Housing Overlay ensure that potential conflicts between residential and non-residential uses in these areas would be minimized. The City would continue to ensure that all standards for building design, streetscape design, and landscaping would be adhered to and would review development proposals to ensure consistency with the character and visual appearance of the surrounding neighborhood.
 - 9) The HEU would encourage future housing developments to better integrate with alternative modes of traditional transport because over half of the candidate housing sites identified in the HEU are located along High Quality Transit Areas. New development would also be encouraged to promote and support public transit and alternative modes of transportation by incorporating bus turnouts and shaded bus stops (where appropriate) and providing enhanced pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
 - 10) With more organized development and guided use of existing resources, such potential impacts to water supply can be monitored and improved for the health and benefit of residents. Further, park

lands and open spaces can be protected and retained in place throughout the planning horizon to provide recreational benefits to residents, visitors and school aged students. A shift toward sustainable resources and self-sufficiency, as outlined in the HEU, will allow for the continuation of the valued way of life within the City of Huntington Beach throughout the planning horizon. For example, future projects would be required to comply with General Plan Goal ERC-15 and Policies ERC-15.A and ERC-15.B, which aim to maintain an adequate supply of water and distribution facilities capable of meeting existing and future water supply needs and require monitoring to reduce impacts to the water system in an effort to maintain and expand water supply and distribution facilities.