

## **Meeting to Receive Public Comment on Draft EIR for the Cache Creek Area Plan Update**

Thursday, June 13, 2019 – 8:30 to 9:30 am  
Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chambers  
625 Court Street, Room 206, Woodland, CA 95695

### **MEETING PURPOSE**

This meeting is being held to receive comments from any interested party regarding the adequacy of the subject Draft EIR as an informational tool for making decisions regarding the Cache Creek Area Plan Update project (“CCAP Update” or “Proposed Project”).

The State guidelines for determining the adequacy of an EIR are stated as follows:

*An EIR should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decisionmakers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences. An evaluation of the environmental effects of a proposed project need not be exhaustive, but the sufficiency of an EIR is to be reviewed in the light of what is reasonably feasible. Disagreement among experts does not make an EIR inadequate, but the EIR should summarize the main points of disagreement among the experts. The courts have looked not for perfection but for adequacy, completeness, and a good faith effort at full disclosure. (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15151)*

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines require that lead agencies evaluate comments received from interested parties during the public comment period, then prepare written responses to relevant comments and make these responses available. The response to comments and the Draft EIR will comprise the Final EIR for the CCAP Update.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This Draft EIR evaluates the environmental impacts related to implementation of the proposed update to the Cache Creek Area Plan. The CCAP is a rivershed management plan adopted in 1996 that regulates off-channel mining and in-channel restoration along the Lower Cache Creek corridor. The CCAP was adopted as a “specific plan” pursuant to Section 65450 et seq of the California Government Code, and as a part of the County’s General Plan. As a result, changes to the CCAP are regulated as amendments to the 2030 Countywide General Plan. The CCAP consists of two distinct, complementary plans governing different areas of the overall plan area, namely the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan and the Off-Channel Mining Plan.

The Cache Creek Resources Management Plan (CCRMP) is a creek restoration plan that eliminated in-channel commercial mining and includes the Cache Creek Improvement Program (CCIP) for implementing on-going projects to improve, stabilize, and maintain the creek. The Off-Channel Mining Plan (OCMP) is an aggregate resources management plan that establishes a policy and regulatory framework that allows for controlled off-channel gravel mining.

The CCAP is implemented through the following ordinances:

- Title 10, Chapter 3, In-Channel Maintenance Mining Ordinance (In-Channel Ordinance)
- Title 10, Chapter 4, Off-Channel Surface Mining Ordinance (Mining Ordinance)
- Title 10, Chapter 5, Surface Mining Reclamation Ordinance (Reclamation Ordinance)
- Title 10, Chapter 11, Gravel Mining Fee Ordinance (Fee Ordinance)
- Title 8, Chapter 4, Flood Protection Ordinance (Flood Ordinance)

The Proposed Project is an update to the CCAP, comprised of an integrated set of proposed modifications to the CCAP and the ordinances that implement it, to reflect changing conditions in the creek, analysis of monitoring data collected as a part of the program, new regulatory requirements, and clarifications and corrections. This review and update is a mandated part of the adopted program. The CCAP is based on the concept of adaptive management and relies on ongoing detailed monitoring, analysis, and reevaluation.

The proposed changes fall into three categories: 1) updates to include history and context of what has occurred under the program since 1996, including updates related to the regulatory framework and corrections of errata; 2) clarifications that better describe the intent of the program relative to the text included in the original documents; and 3) other proposed changes to the program.

Key proposed changes that may lead to environmental impacts include: 1) increase of the in-channel material removal limit from 210,000 tons to 690,800 tons annually; 2) identification of an additional 1,188 acres within the planning area to be rezoned to add the Sand and Gravel Reserve Overlay (SGRO) zone, which allows for future possible aggregate mining; and 3) extension of the plan horizon year to 2068.

The proposed CCAP Update will require the following actions by the County:

- Certification of the EIR including a Resolution adopting findings of fact and taking other actions required under CEQA.
- Approval of the CCAP Update.
- Approval of a Resolution(s) amending the 2030 Countywide General Plan to recognize the changes to the CCAP including amendments to the OCMP, CCRMP, and CCIP.
- Approval of an Ordinance(s) modifying the In-Channel Ordinance, Mining Ordinance, Reclamation Ordinance, Fee Ordinance, and Flood Ordinance to incorporate the CCAP Update changes.
- Approval of an Ordinance amending the zoning for 1,188 acres to add the SGRO zone.

## **SUMMARY OF DEIR**

An EIR is an informational document that examines and discloses the potential for adverse environmental impacts to result from any given action. Pursuant to CEQA, the County has prepared a Draft EIR which analyzes the potential adverse environmental impacts associated with adoption and

implementation of the CCAP Update. The DEIR provides an analysis of the potential for impacts within 11 potential environmental impact areas, plus an assessment of various project alternatives, cumulative effects, and other required matters.

A Final EIR (Response to Comments) document will be prepared following public review and comment. This subsequent volume will include responses to comments received on the DEIR, errata and/or other changes, modifications, or clarifications of the DEIR, identification of any other pertinent data or information, and a mitigation monitoring and reporting plan. The County will consider this information when deliberating the project.

The DEIR identifies adverse environmental impacts that may result from continued implementation of the CCAP with the proposed changes in place. It concludes that most of the projects that would be implemented pursuant to the CCAP will be mitigated through the course of complying with the CCAP, and other applicable requirements and regulations. In some instances, mitigation measures are identified in the form of changes or clarifications to the proposed update in order to avoid and/or minimize the potential for impacts. The following impacts were determined to be significant and unavoidable:

- Impact CUMULATIVE AES-1: Cumulative aesthetic impacts
- Impact AG-1: Conversion of farmland associated with CCAP projects
- Impact CUMULATIVE AG-1: Cumulative conversion of farmland
- Impact AIR-1 and AIR-2: Air quality impacts from CCAP projects
- Impact CUMULATIVE AIR-1: Cumulative air quality impacts
- Impact GHG-1: Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from CCAP projects
- Impact CUMULATIVE GHG-1: Cumulative GHG emissions
- Impact CUMULATIVE NOI-1: Cumulative traffic noise impacts
- Impact CUMULATIVE TR-1: Cumulative traffic impacts

### **DEIR PROJECT ALTERNATIVES**

The DEIR examines two project alternatives which provide additional important information and context for the County to consider:

- Alternative 1, No Project Alternative -- This alternative assumes the County would not make or adopt any of the changes to the CCRMP, CCIP, OCMP and implementing ordinances identified per the CCAP Update. All existing plans, policies, and regulations would remain in place with no revisions.
- Alternative 2, Constrained Implementation Alternative -- This alternative assumes 50 percent less material would be removed from the Cache Creek channel under the CCRMP/CCIP relative to the proposed CCAP Update. It also assumes that the amount of potential new off-channel mining under the OCMP would be 50 percent of the acreage identified under the proposed CCAP Update.

The CEQA Guidelines required the County to determine the “environmentally superior” alternative. If this is found to be the No Project alternative, then the County is required to identify the next most environmentally superior alternative. Alternative 1 (No Project) was found to be the environmentally

superior alternative. Alternative 2 (Constrained Implementation) was found to be the next most environmentally superior alternative.

### **DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS**

The DEIR was released May 10, 2019 for review and comment. The DEIR is available electronically at the following website:

<https://www.yolocounty.org/general-government/general-government-departments/county-administrator/county-administrator-divisions/natural-resources/cache-creek-area-plan-ccap/ccap-20-year-update-draft-eir>.

Hard copies are also available at the reception desk at the County Administrator's Office, the permit counter at the Community Services Department building, and at the Woodland Public Library.

Comments will be accepted for a 45-day period extending through June 24, 2019. Pursuant to Section 15088a of the CEQA Guidelines, late comments will be considered only at the County's discretion. All comments can be directed to:

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Woodland, CA 95695  
[NaturalResources@yolocounty.org](mailto:NaturalResources@yolocounty.org)  
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