

# CHAPTER 1

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## Introduction

Murphy’s Bowl LLC (the project applicant) proposes entitlement, construction and operation of the proposed Inglewood Basketball and Entertainment Center (IBEC), which would include an approximately 915,000 square foot (sf), 18,000-fixed-seat arena suitable for National Basketball Association (NBA) games, with up to 500 additional temporary seats for other sports or entertainment events; an approximately 85,000-sf team practice and athletic training facility; approximately 71,000 sf of Los Angeles (LA) Clippers team office space; an approximately 25,000 sf sports medicine clinic for team and potential general public use; approximately 48,000 sf of commercial uses; a hotel with up to 150 guest rooms; up to 15,000 sf of community uses; an outdoor plaza with landscaped areas, and community gathering space; removal and relocation of an existing City of Inglewood (City)-owned water well; and surface- and structured-parking facilities to serve the proposed development. These activities are referred to collectively as the Proposed Project. For a detailed description and exhibits of the Proposed Project, please see Chapter 2, Project Description.

This Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code (PRC) sections 21000 et seq.) and State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, section 15000 et seq. of the California Code of Regulations) (CEQA Guidelines) in order to disclose the potential environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Project. As required under CEQA, the EIR evaluates and describes potentially significant environmental impacts, identifies potentially feasible mitigation measures to avoid or reduce the significance of potential impacts, and evaluates the comparative effects of potentially feasible alternatives to the Proposed Project.

### 1.1 Background

The Project Site is located in the southwestern portion of the City of Inglewood within Los Angeles County, approximately 10 miles south/southwest of downtown Los Angeles. The main portion of the Project Site, referred to as the Arena Site, is bounded by West Century Boulevard on the north, South Prairie Avenue on the west, South Doty Avenue on the east, and a straight line extending east from West 103<sup>rd</sup> Street to South Doty Avenue to the south. The Arena Site is approximately 16.71 acres. Chapter 2, Project Description, presents exhibits of the Project Site, the surrounding area, and surrounding land uses. The Project Site includes three additional elements:

- The West Parking Garage Site, which is an approximately 5.55-acre site consisting of several parcels on the north and south sides of West 101<sup>st</sup> Street, bounded by West Century Boulevard to the north, hotel and residential uses to the west, South Prairie Avenue to the east, and West 102<sup>nd</sup> Street to the south;
- The East Parking and Hotel Site, which is an approximately 5.16-acre site bounded by West Century Boulevard to the north, industrial and commercial uses to the east and west, and West 102<sup>nd</sup> Street to the south; and
- The Well Relocation Site, which is an approximately 0.7-acre parcel located at 3812 West 102<sup>nd</sup> Street, surrounded by vacant land to the west and south and bounded by residential uses to the east.

A portion of West 101<sup>st</sup> Street, west of South Prairie Avenue would be vacated and replaced by the first floor of the parking garage. A portion of West 102<sup>nd</sup> Street between South Prairie Avenue and South Doty Avenue would be vacated and developed with the Arena Structure.

All but six of the parcels (approximately 23 acres) that make up the Project Site are currently vacant or undeveloped. The six developed parcels, approximately 54,098 sf (1.24 acres) all within the Arena Site, include a restaurant (on a privately-owned parcel), a hotel (on a privately-owned parcel), warehouse and light manufacturing facilities (on a privately-owned parcel), and a groundwater well and related facilities (on a City-owned parcel).

The Project Site is located approximately two miles east of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and less than 1.5 miles north of Jack Northrop Field/Hawthorne Municipal Airport (HHR). This places a portion of the Project Site within the Planning Boundary/Airport Influence Area for LAX as designated in the Airport Land Use Plan (ALUP). The Project Site's location within the ALUP limits the nature and type of development that can occur. Additionally, the Aircraft Noise Mitigation Program (ANMP), which arises from federal and state regulations, established two strategies to manage the impacts of aircraft noise, including (1) sound insulation of structures, and (2) property acquisition followed by the conversion of an incompatible land use to compatible land uses. In the 1990s, pursuant to the ANMP and the Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 150, the Los Angeles World Airports implemented a comprehensive program to provide residential sound proofing to homes that are impacted by an average noise level of 65 dB or more and also relocated hundreds of residential homes east of LAX, including homes east of LAX in the Manchester Square and Airport/Belford areas near LAX. LAX has also adopted an FAA-approved Noise Control/Land Use Compatibility Program, which makes certain residential areas in the City of Inglewood and other surrounding jurisdictions to LAX eligible for FAA funding.

On August 29, 1995, the FAA issued noise grants to the City of Inglewood as part of the LAX Noise Control/Land Use Compatibility Program, with the objective of disposing and recycling incompatible land uses to land uses which are compatible with the noise levels of airport operations. Under that program, the FAA and City of Inglewood approved the acquisition of a number of parcels on the Project Site. In compliance with the Airport Improvement Program

(AIP) grant agreement (3-06-0139-NJ), the City must dispose of the land purchased under the grant at the earliest practicable time for fair market value, and use its best efforts to dispose of such land subject to the retention or reservation of any interest or right therein necessary to insure that such land is used only for purposes which are compatible with the noise levels of operation of the airport.

The City of Inglewood Redevelopment Agency was established in 1969. On January 10, 2012, the City elected to become the Successor Agency of the former Inglewood Redevelopment Agency. All but 9 of the 41 parcels within the Arena Site are owned by the City or the Successor Agency, and the allowable uses on these City-owned sites are governed by the ALUP. The remaining parcels within the Arena Site are privately-owned. The Well Relocation Site is owned by the City. All parcels within the West Parking Garage Site are owned by the City. The East Parking and Hotel Site is entirely owned by the Successor Agency.

In 1984, the LA Clippers relocated from San Diego to Los Angeles and played in the downtown Los Angeles Sports Arena for 15 years. In 1999, the LA Clippers moved to the nearby Staples Center which the team shares with the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers, the National Hockey League's Los Angeles Kings, and the Women's National Basketball Association's Los Angeles Sparks.<sup>1</sup> Sharing the Staples Center with other organizations has created scheduling conflicts in the past. The LA Clippers' team offices and practice and athletic training facilities are currently located in downtown Los Angeles and in Playa Vista, respectively. The LA Clippers has stated its desire to consolidate its operations and facilities in a single location, along with a state-of-the-art, multi-purpose sports and entertainment center. Additionally, the LA Clippers seeks an opportunity to play home games in its own arena, where it has scheduling priority to maximize fan attendance and interest.

Initially approved on June 15, 2017, the City of Inglewood, the Successor Agency, the Inglewood Parking Authority, and Murphy's Bowl LLC entered into an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement (ENA) regarding the purchase of various parcels within the Project Site to allow the project applicant to propose and for the City to review and consider approval of the development of an NBA basketball arena complex that would become the new home of the LA Clippers.<sup>2</sup> The ENA was amended and restated on August 15, 2017 to reflect a reduced proposed development area (referred to as the Project Site in this EIR).

## 1.2 Purpose and Use of this EIR

As described in the CEQA Guidelines section 15121(a), an EIR is a public information document that assesses potential environmental effects of a proposed project, as well as identifies mitigation measures and alternatives to a proposed project that could reduce or avoid adverse environmental

<sup>1</sup> Los Angeles Times, 1998. Clippers to Join Kings, Lakers in New Arena. Available: <http://articles.latimes.com/1998/apr/17/local/me-40174>. Accessed October 15, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> City of Inglewood Office of the City Manager, 2017. Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with Murphy's Bowl LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Corporation. Available: <https://www.cityofinglewood.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/782?fileID=748>. Published June 15, 2017. Accessed October 3, 2018.

impacts. CEQA requires that state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority. The Proposed Project, as defined above, would require a discretionary action under CEQA and is the subject of this EIR. The EIR is an informational document used in the planning and decision-making process. The purpose of an EIR is not to advocate or recommend either approval or denial of a proposed project.

## 1.3 Recent Relevant Legislation

### 1.3.1 Assembly Bill 987 (AB 987)

AB 987 was signed by Governor Jerry Brown on September 30, 2018. The bill added section 21168.6.8 to the PRC and provides for expedited judicial review in the event that the adequacy of this EIR is challenged, so long as certain requirements are met. The provisions of PRC section 21168.6.8 are similar to the provisions of the Jobs and Economic Improvement through Environmental Leadership Act of 2011 (AB 900; PRC sections 21178 through 21189.3), which first established expedited judicial review of certified Environmental Leadership Development Projects. In order to qualify for expedited judicial review under AB 987, the Proposed Project would have to be certified by the Governor as satisfying certain criteria, including that it would result in no net additional greenhouse gas emissions, and would have to achieve certain trip reductions through a transportation demand management program. Additionally, the Proposed Project would have to reduce certain criteria pollutants and toxic air contaminants.<sup>3</sup> These requirements are outlined in greater detail below.

The Proposed Project must:

- A. Receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certification for new construction within one year of the completion of the first NBA season.
- B. Implement trip reduction measures including the following:
  - i. Implementation of a transportation demand management plan that, upon full implementation, will achieve and maintain a 15-percent reduction in the number of vehicle trips, collectively, by attendees, employees, visitors, and customers as compared to operations absent the transportation demand management program;
  - ii. To accelerate and maximize vehicle trip reduction, each measure in the transportation demand management program shall be implemented as soon as feasible, so that no less than a 7.5-percent reduction in vehicle trips is achieved and maintained by the end of the first NBA season during which an NBA team has played at the arena;
  - iii. A 15-percent reduction in vehicle trips shall be achieved and maintained as soon as feasible, but not later than January 1, 2030. The applicant shall verify achievement to the lead agency and the Office of Planning and Research; and

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<sup>3</sup> Assembly Bill 987, 2018.

- iv. If the applicant fails to verify achievement of the reduction require by clause (iii), the lead agency shall impose additional feasible measures to reduce vehicle trips by 17 percent, or, if there is a rail transit line with a stop within one-quarter mile of the arena, 20 percent, by January 1, 2035.

C. Is located on an infill site.

- D. Is consistent with the general use designation, density, building intensity, and applicable policies specified for the project area in either a sustainable communities strategy or an alternative planning strategy for which the State Air Resources Board, pursuant to subparagraph (H) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 65080 of the Government Code, has accepted a metropolitan planning organization's determination that the sustainable communities strategy or the alternative planning strategy would, if implemented, achieve the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

CEQA streamlining under AB 987 would require the Proposed Project to result in no net additional emission of greenhouse gases, including greenhouse gas emissions from employee transportation. Not less than 50 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions necessary to achieve this requirement must be from local, direct greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures, and the project applicant may obtain offset credits for up to 50 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions necessary to achieve it.

AB 987 also requires that, as a condition of approval of the Project, the lead agency shall require the project applicant, in consultation with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), to implement measures that would achieve criteria pollutant and toxic air contaminant reductions over and above any emission reductions required by other laws or regulations in communities surrounding the Project. At a minimum, these measures must achieve reductions of at least 400 tons of oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) and 10 tons of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, as defined in Section 39047.2 of the Health and Safety Code, over 10 years following the commencement of construction of the Proposed Project. Of these amounts, reductions of a minimum of 130 tons of NO<sub>x</sub> and 3 tons of PM<sub>2.5</sub> must be achieved within the first year following commencement of construction of the Proposed Project. If the project applicant can demonstrate and verify to the South Coast Air Quality Management District that it has invested at least thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) to achieve the requirements of this subdivision, the requirements of this subdivision shall be deemed met, so long as one-half of the reductions described above are met. Greenhouse gas emissions reductions achieved through these NO<sub>x</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> reduction measures shall count toward the project applicant's obligations to achieve 50 percent of the greenhouse gas reductions through local, direct greenhouse gas reduction measures.

To be eligible for certification by the Governor, the Proposed Project would also have to result in a minimum investment of one hundred million dollars in California upon completion of construction, and would need to create high-wage, highly skilled jobs that pay prevailing wages and living wages, employ a skilled and trained workforce, provide construction jobs and permanent jobs for Californians, and help reduce unemployment. The Proposed Project must also comply with requirements for commercial and organic waste recycling in Chapters 12.8 and 12.9

of Division 30 of the Public Resources Code. The project applicant also must enter into a binding and enforceable agreement that all mitigation measures required pursuant to CEQA, as identified in this EIR, and any other environmental measures required to certify the Project under AB 987, shall be conditions of approval of the Project, and those conditions will be fully enforceable by the lead agency or another agency designated by the lead agency, and that, as an ongoing obligation those measures will be monitored and enforced by the lead agency for the life of the obligation. The project applicant also must pay any additional costs incurred by the courts in hearing and deciding any case subject to expedited judicial review under AB 987 and the costs of preparing the record of proceedings.

In accordance with PRC section 21168.6.8, the City is making the Draft EIR and all other documents submitted to or relied upon by the City in preparing the Draft EIR readily accessible in electronic format. These documents may be accessed from xxx. The Draft EIR will be circulated for a 45-day review public review and comment period beginning on xxx and ending on xxx.

## 1.4 Environmental Review

### 1.4.1 Preliminary Project Evaluation

In its preliminary review of the application for the Proposed Project, the City, as the Lead Agency under CEQA, determined that the Proposed Project is subject to CEQA and determined that an EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15161 is the appropriate environmental document. Having determined an EIR would be required to evaluate changes in the environment that would result from construction and operation of the Proposed Project, the City elected not to prepare an Initial Study Checklist, as permitted by section 15060(d) of the CEQA Guidelines.

### 1.4.2 EIR Scoping

On February 20, 2018, the City issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) (included in Appendix A). The NOP public comment period ended on March 22, 2018. The NOP was distributed to governmental agencies, organizations, and persons interested in the Proposed Project. The City sent the NOP to agencies with statutory responsibilities in connection with the Proposed Project and requested their input on the scope and content of the environmental information that should be addressed in the EIR. The City Economic and Community Development Department's Planning Division held a Scoping Meeting on March 12, 2018 at Inglewood City Hall to provide information about the project and the anticipated CEQA process, and to receive comments regarding the scope of the EIR.

In addition to the public scoping meeting, the City conducted additional focused scoping discussions with responsible and trustee agencies, as well as other interested stakeholders, throughout the preparation of this EIR. This includes meetings with the following agencies and parties.

- SCAQMD: dates
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans): dates

- Metro: dates
- LAX: dates

In response to the NOP, the City of Inglewood received 75 written comment letters regarding the Proposed Project. All comment letters received are provided in Appendix B. Comments pertaining to environmental issues analyzed in this EIR were considered in each technical section of Chapter 3, Environmental Impacts, Settings, and Mitigation Measures. The scope of this EIR includes environmental issues determined to be potentially significant as determined through preparation of the NOP, responses to the NOP, scoping meetings, and discussions among the public, consulting staff, and the City of Inglewood. This process identified potentially significant impacts associated with the construction and/or operation of the Proposed Project in the following issue areas:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy Demand and Conservation
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise and Vibration
- Population, Employment, and Housing
- Public Services (Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services and Facilities, Police Protection, Parks or Recreation Services, and Schools)
- Transportation and Circulation; and
- Utilities and Service Systems (Water Supply, Wastewater, Stormwater, and Solid Waste)

### 1.4.3 Project Variants

The environmental analysis includes two potential project elements, referred to as Project Variants, in this EIR. These variants are briefly described in Chapter 2, Project Description and are described detail in Chapter 5, Project Variants. These variants are not proposed as part of the Proposed Project as there is uncertainty about the feasibility of the variants. They are being identified and analyzed, however, to provide the flexibility to allow the City to approve them as part of the Proposed Project, if desired, and if the uncertainty around the implementation of one or both of the variants can be overcome. Therefore, analysis of the project variants is included in

Chapter 5. The variants analyzed are the West Century Boulevard Pedestrian Bridge Variant and the Alternate Prairie Access Variant.

#### 1.4.4 Public Review

The Draft EIR is available for public review and comment beginning X date and concluding at X:00 p.m. on X date. During the review and comment period written comments (including email) regarding the Draft EIR may be submitted to the City at the address below.

Mindy Wilcox, AICP, Planning Manager  
City of Inglewood, Planning Division  
One West Manchester Boulevard, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
Fax: (310) 412-5681  
E-Mail: [mwilcox@cityofinglewood.org](mailto:mwilcox@cityofinglewood.org)

The City will conduct a public meeting to receive comments on the Draft EIR. The public meeting will be held on X date at X:00 p.m., at Inglewood City Hall Community Room, 915 One West Manchester Boulevard, 1st Floor Foyer, Inglewood, California.

#### 1.4.5 Final EIR and EIR Certification

Following the public review and comment period for the Draft EIR, the City will prepare responses that address all substantive written and oral comments on the Draft EIR's environmental analyses received within the specified review period. The responses and any other revisions to the Draft EIR will be prepared as a Response to Comments document. The Draft EIR and its Appendices, together with the Response to Comments document, will constitute the Final EIR (commonly referred to collectively as the EIR) for the Proposed Project.

#### 1.4.6 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Throughout this EIR, mitigation measures have been clearly identified and presented in language that will facilitate establishment of a mitigation monitoring and reporting program. As required under CEQA, a mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) will be prepared at the time of certification of the Final EIR for the Proposed Project and will identify the specific timing and roles and responsibilities for implementation of adopted mitigation measures.

### 1.5 Later Project Approvals

This EIR discloses the environmental effects of construction and operation of the Proposed Project. As described in Chapter 2, Project Description, the Proposed Project would include the arena, office space, team practice and training facility, sports medicine clinic, community space, commercial uses, outdoor areas, a hotel, water well relocation, a hotel, and associated parking.



## 1.6 Document Organization

This Draft EIR document is organized as follows:

**Executive Summary** – This chapter provides a summary of the Proposed Project. This chapter includes an overview of the project description, identified areas of controversy, a discussion of key environmental effects, a discussion of significant and unavoidable impacts, a discussion of cumulative effects, an overview of alternatives, and a summary table that includes each environmental impact, level of impact, and all applicable mitigation measures.

**Chapter 1, Introduction** – This chapter describes the Project Background, other applicable legislation (AB 987), and the purpose and organization of the EIR.

**Chapter 2, Project Description** – This chapter describes in detail all elements of the Proposed Project. The description includes, with text and graphics, the location and boundaries of the Proposed Project, statements of objectives from the project applicant and the City, and a description of the Proposed Project’s components and characteristics.

**Chapter 3, Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures** – For each environmental issue, this chapter discusses the environmental and regulatory setting, the methodology used, the detailed analysis of potential impacts (including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts), and, if necessary, a discussion of potentially feasible mitigation measures.

**Chapter 4, Other CEQA Required Considerations** – This chapter discusses several issues required to be included in an EIR, including effects not found to be significant, significant and unavoidable impacts, significant irreversible environmental changes, and any potential socioeconomic/urban decay-related impacts.

**Chapter 5, Project Variants** – This chapter discusses and analyzes the potential impacts of the two variants of the Proposed Project.

**Chapter 6, Alternatives** – This chapter describes potentially feasible alternatives to the Proposed Project that may avoid or substantially reduce one or more significant impacts while attaining most of the basic objectives of the project, and evaluates the comparative environmental effects of the alternatives. It also discloses those alternatives that were considered but rejected from detailed analysis.

**Chapter 7, List of Preparers and Persons Consulted** – This chapter identifies the agency staff and consultants who prepared the EIR, and agencies or individuals consulted during preparation of the EIR.

**Chapter 8, Acronyms** – This chapter lists the acronyms used in this Draft EIR.

**Chapter 9, References** – This chapter lists the references used in this Draft EIR.

**Appendices** – The appendices include environmental scoping information and technical reports and data used in the preparation of the Draft EIR. These documents are included on CD at the back of the Draft EIR and printed copies are available for review at the City offices.