

**General Information about the California Environmental
Quality Act (CEQA)**

Staff understands that CEQA can be a little confusing; we hope the following general information about the process will help Commissioners by clarifying the decision-making process for considering the proposed Peery Park Specific Plan (PPSP) project.

CEQA was enacted in 1970 and requires local government agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a project, prior to taking action on the project. An EIR is the most comprehensive form of environmental documentation identified in CEQA. Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) are intended to provide an objective analysis of the environmental impacts of a project, and help inform decision-makers and the public.

During the public comment period of the draft (D)EIR, it is helpful to staff to receive comments regarding the adequacy of the DEIR. For instance, have the potential impacts been adequately considered? Is the data used in the analysis accurate? Is a reasonable range of alternatives to the project considered? After the public comment period, comments related to the DEIR will be compiled and responses will be prepared. Responses to comments will become part of the Final EIR. Public hearings to consider the Final EIR will then be held, ultimately going before the City Council for final certification.

It is important to note that an EIR does not approve or disapprove a project, but rather helps to support informed decision-making. Separate actions to consider the PPSP itself will also be required. In these actions, other non-CEQA related impacts will be discussed. The City Council may decide to certify the EIR, but may still decide to modify the PPSP if they feel it does not meet certain community standards.

More information about CEQA can be found at the link below.

<http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Portals/0/Sunnyvale/CDD/Planning/Planning%20Library/CEQAInfo.pdf>

