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CITY OF BERKELEY  
DRAFT GENERAL PLAN  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

SCH #2000102107

*Submitted to the:*  
CITY OF BERKELEY

*Prepared by:*  
LSA ASSOCIATES, INC.

JUNE 2001

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LSA

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LSA ASSOCIATES, INC.

*In Association with:*

BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

FEHR & PEERS ASSOCIATES, INC.

ILLINGWORTH & RODKIN, INC.

DONALD BALLANTI

JUNE 2001

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LSA

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**CITY OF BERKELEY DRAFT GENERAL PLAN  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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I.	INTRODUCTION	1
	A. Purpose of the Response to Comments Document	1
	B. Final EIR	1
	C. Environmental Review Process	1
	D. Document Organization	2
II.	LIST OF COMMENTING AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS	3
	A. Federal, State, and Regional Agencies	3
	B. Organizations	4
	C. Individuals	4
	D. Public Hearing Comments	5
III.	COMMENTS AND RESPONSES	7
	A. Organization of Comment Letters and Responses	7
	B. Comment Letters and Responses	7
	C. Public Hearing Comments and Responses	7
IV.	DRAFT EIR TEXT REVISIONS	189
V.	REPORT PREPARATION	199



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## **Chapter I INTRODUCTION**

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### **A. Purpose of the Response to Comments Document**

This report has been prepared to respond to comments submitted on the February 2001 Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed City of Berkeley *Draft General Plan: A Guide for Public Decision Making*<sup>1</sup> (the *Draft General Plan*). The Draft EIR identifies the likely environmental consequences associated with implementation of the *Draft General Plan*, and recommends mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts.

This document responds to comments on the Draft EIR and makes revisions to the Draft EIR as necessary in response to these comments or to clarify any previous errors, omissions or misinterpretations of material in the Draft EIR.

### **B. Final EIR**

This document, together with the Draft EIR, will constitute the Final EIR if the Berkeley City Council certifies the Final EIR as complete and adequate under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

### **C. Environmental Review Process**

According to CEQA, lead agencies are required to consult with public agencies having jurisdiction over a proposed project, and to provide the general public and project applicant with an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR.

The Draft EIR was made available for public review on February 14, 2001 and distributed to local and State responsible and trustee agencies. The general public was advised of the availability of the Draft EIR through public notices in The

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<sup>1</sup> Website: [http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/planning/advance/general\\_plan/EIR/](http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/planning/advance/general_plan/EIR/)

Berkeley Voice, The Daily Planet, and by electronic and regular mail. CEQA mandates a minimum 45-day public comment period on the Draft EIR. The City of Berkeley initiated an 82-day public comment period which ended on May 8, 2001.

Copies of all written and oral comments received on the Draft EIR during the comment period are contained in this report.

The Final EIR will be presented to the Planning Commission at a public hearing at which time the Commission will consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding certification of the Final EIR. A public hearing will then be scheduled before the City Council, at which time the City Council may take final action on certification of the Final EIR as a full disclosure of potential impacts, mitigation measures, and alternatives had been conducted.

#### **D. Document Organization**

This Response to Comments document consists of the following chapters:

- *Chapter I: Introduction.* This chapter discusses the purpose and organization of this Final EIR.
- *Chapter II: List of Commenting Agencies, Organizations, and Persons.* This chapter contains a list of agencies, organizations, and persons who submitted written comments on the Draft EIR.
- *Chapter III: Comments and Responses.* This chapter contains reproductions of all comment letters received on the Draft EIR, and summaries of oral comments received on the Draft EIR. A written response for each CEQA-related comment received during the review period is provided. Each response is keyed to the preceding comments.
- *Chapter IV: Draft EIR Text Revisions.* Corrections to the Draft EIR necessary in light of comments received and responses provided, or necessary to clarify any errors, omissions or misinterpretations, are contained in this chapter. Text in underline represents language that has been added to the EIR; text with ~~strikeout~~ has been deleted from the EIR. Revisions to figures are also provided where appropriate. This chapter also provides a copy of the revised Draft EIR Summary Table.
- *Chapter V: Report Preparation.* A summary of those involved in report preparation.

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**Chapter II**  
**LIST OF COMMENTING AGENCIES,**  
**ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS**

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The following written comments were submitted to the City during the public review period on the Draft EIR. The comments are grouped by the affiliation of the commenting entity as follows: federal, State and regional agencies (Section A), organizations (B), individuals (C), and public hearing comments (D). Individuals submitted 12 letters. Of those individuals who submitted letters on the project, two of the 12 letters expressed opinions about the *Draft General Plan* process but do not include any comments or questions specifically relating to the adequacy of the Draft EIR. These letters have been compiled after the letters offering substantive comments or raising questions about the Draft EIR. A response is provided for the comments on the process.

**A. Federal, State and Regional Agencies**

*(By Date)*

- A1 California Department of Toxic Substances Control; Barbara J. Cook, P.E., Chief Northern California - Coastal Cleanup Operations Branch (April 2, 2001)
- A2 State of California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse; Terry Roberts, Senior Planner (April 10, 2001)
- A3 East Bay Regional Park District; Brian Wiese, Interagency Planning (April 11, 2001)
- A4 San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART); Joan M. Duffield, Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist (April 12, 2001)
- A5 East Bay Municipal Utilities District; William R. Kirkpatrick, Manager of Water Distribution Planning (April 16, 2001)
- A6 City of Emeryville; Diana Murrell, AICP, City Planner (April 16, 2001, assumed)
- A7 University of California, Berkeley (with attachments); Thomas E. Lollini, Director (April 16, 2001)

- 
- A8 Ernesto Orlando Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Laura Chen, LBNL  
Facilities Planning (May 8, 2001)

**B. Organizations**

*(By Date)*

- B1 League of Women Voters, Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville; Jo Ann B. Price,  
President; Lois Brubeck Action Vice President; Eva Bansner, Planning  
Consultant (February 28, 2001)
- B2 Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association; Sarah Wikander, President  
(April 16, 2001)
- B3 Commission on Disability; Eric Dibner, Acting Commission Secretary (April  
13, 2001)

**C. Individuals**

*(Alphabetical, by last name)*

- C1 Kate Bernier (April 16, 2001)
- C2 John English (April 16, 2001)
- C3 Clifford Fred (May 9, 2001)
- C4 Merrilie Mitchell (3 letter) (April 16, 2001)
- C5 Howie Muir (May 8, 2001)
- C6 Kate Nichol (May 8, 2001)
- C7 Martha Nicoloff (February 27, 2001)
- C8 Carrie Olson (April 26, 2001)
- C9 Rhiannon (May 8, 2001)
- C10 Doris Willingham (May 8, 2001)

*The following letters include statements pertaining to the Draft General Plan, or the  
planning and project approval process in Berkeley, but do not include any comments  
or questions specifically relating to the adequacy of the Draft EIR. (Alphabetical by  
last name)*

- C11 Eva Bansner (November 8, 2000)
- C12 Michael Katz (April 11, 2001)



**D. Public Hearing Comments**  
*(In Order of Appearance)*

- D1 Planning Commission Hearing February 14, 2001
  - D1.1 Lines 150-155 Martha Nicoloff
  
- D2 Planning Commission Hearing February 28, 2001
  - D2.1 Lines 134-137: John English
  - D2.2 Lines 156-158: Doris Willingham
  - D2.3 Lines 201-203. Eva Bansner
  - D2.4 Lines 213-218. Martha Nicoloff
  - D2.5 Lines 219-221. Merri Mitchell
  - D2.6 Lines 225-227. Becky O'Malley
  
- D3 Planning Commission Hearing March 28, 2001
  - D3.1 Lines 45-46: Becky O'Malley
  - D3.2 Lines 52-53: Merri Mitchell
  - D3.3 Lines 110 to 111. John English
  - D3.4 Line 113. Janet Stromberg

