E-mailed: December 8, 2011
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Review of the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the Proposed Hollywood Community Plan Update Project

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The following comment is intended to provide guidance to the lead agency and should be incorporated into the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as appropriate.

In a comment letter submitted to the lead agency on June 1, 2011 regarding the Draft EIR for the proposed project AQMD staff expressed concern that the lead agency did not demonstrate that the project will have less than significant operational air quality impacts. Specifically, the AQMD staff commented that given the absence of a health risk assessment in the Draft EIR quantifying the potential health risk impacts from the 101 Freeway, the lead agency had not demonstrated its less than significant determination for the project's operational air quality impacts. As a result, the AQMD staff recommended that the lead agency require a 500 foot buffer for any new residential project built close to the 101 Freeway. In response to this comment the lead agency provided additional mitigation in the Final EIR that will require a health risk assessment for any discretionary project within 500 feet of the 101 Freeway and that requires health risk impacts to be reduced to an acceptable level (i.e. air quality mitigation measure #4 in the Final EIR). Given that this measure is not applicable to all projects within the plan area and that the lead agency has not set a health risk impact threshold consistent with AQMD thresholds the AQMD staff is concerned that these measures are not sufficient to reduce the project's potential health risk impacts to an insignificant level. Therefore, the AQMD staff recommends that the lead agency revise air quality mitigation measure #4 as follows:

Require a health risk assessments to be conducted for discretionary residential any projects containing sensitive land uses that is located within 500 feet of the 101 Freeway. Mitigation measures shall be required as necessary to reduce health risks (for indoor and outdoor uses) below SCAQMD's adopted thresholds to an acceptable level. These health risk assessments shall be circulated to SCAQMD for review and comment.

Please provide the AQMD with written responses to all comments contained herein prior to the adoption of the Final EIR. Further, staff is available to work with the lead agency to address these issues and any other questions that may arise. Please contact Dan Garcia, Air Quality Specialist CEQA Section, at (909) 396-3304, if you have any questions regarding the enclosed comments.

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Sincerely,

Ian MacMillan

Program Supervisor, CEQA Inter-Governmental Review Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources

Attachment

IM:DG

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