City Of Oakland

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**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY/ RELEASE OF**

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR) FOR THE**

**Downtown Oakland Specific Plan AND**

**nOTICE OF PUBLIC hEARING ON Deir**

**To:** All Interested Parties

**sUBJECT:** Notice of Availability/Release of Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Downtown Oakland Specific Plan, and Notice of Public Hearing on the same.

**review/cOMMENT pERIOD:** August 30, 2019 through October 15, 2019

**caSE nO:** ER 18-020 (CEQA State Clearinghouse Number 2019012008)

**prOJECT SPONSOR:** City of Oakland

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Downtown Oakland Specific Plan (the “Plan”) encompasses approximately 930 acres in Downtown Oakland, generally bound by 27th Street to the north; Brush and Market Streets to the west; the Jack London estuary waterfront and Embarcadero West to the south. The eastern boundary of the Plan extends from the north to Grand Avenue between Broadway and Telegraph Avenue south of Grand Avenue to Lake Merritt, and the Lake Merritt and 5th Avenue, Channel excluding the Lake Merritt Station Area Plan Area east of Franklin Street, north on the street and South of 13th street. The Plan Area’s location is shown in Figure 1, and the Plan Area Boundary is shown in Figure 2.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Plan will provide a roadmap for how the area develops over the next 20 years through policy guidance on land use, transportation, housing, economic development, public spaces, cultural arts, and social equity.

The Plan aims to ensure that Downtown Oakland remains a place of continuing growth and revitalization, as well as a valuable resource for the larger Oakland community through increased employment, housing, arts, and cultural opportunities. Supporting existing residents by growing existing businesses and the creative economy are important to creating a plan that serves both current and future residents.

The Plan builds on extensive community feedback to meet the following goals:

1. Create opportunities for economic growth for all Oaklanders.
2. Ensure sufficient housing is built and retained to meet the varied needs of current and future residents.
3. Make Downtown Oakland’s streets comfortable, safe, and inviting, as well as improve connections to the city as a whole so that everyone has efficient and reliable access to downtown’s jobs and services.
4. Encourage diverse voices and forms of expression to flourish.
5. Provide vibrant public spaces and a healthy environment that improve the quality of life downtown today and for generations to come.
6. Develop Downtown Oakland in a way that meets community needs and preserves Oakland’s unique character.

The components of the Plan include:

* The distribution, location, and extent of the uses of land, including open space, within the area covered by the Plan;
* The proposed distribution location, and extent of the uses of major components of public and private transportation, sewage, water, drainage, solid waste disposal, energy, and other essential facilities proposed to be located within the area covered by the plan and needed to support the land uses described in the Plan;
* Standards and criteria by which development will proceed, and standards for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources, where applicable; and
* A program of implementation measures, including regulations, public works projects, and financing measures necessary to carry out the proposed improvements

For more information on the Plan, please visit the project website at: https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/downtown-oakland-specific-plan.%20

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was prepared for the project under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et. seq.* The DEIR analyzes potentially significant environmental impacts in the following environmental categories: Land Use, Traffic and Transportation, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Cultural Resources, Aesthetics, Biology, Soils and Geology, Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise and Vibration, Population and Housing, Public Services and Recreation, and Utilities. The DEIR identifies significant and unavoidable environmental impacts related to, Traffic and Transportation, Air Quality, Aesthetics, and Cultural Resources. Copies of the DEIR are available for review or distribution to interested parties at no charge at the Department of Planning and Building, Bureau of Planning, 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 2114, Oakland, CA 94612, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The DEIR may also be reviewed at the following website:

http://www2.oaklandnet.com /Government/o/PBN/OurServices/Application/DOWD009157.htm

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board will conduct a public scoping hearing on the DEIR for the project on **Monday, September 23, 2019**, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612.

The City Planning Commission will conduct a public scoping hearing on the DEIR for the project on **Wednesday, October 2 , 2019**, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612.

The City of Oakland is hereby releasing this DEIR, finding it to be accurate and complete and ready for public review. Members of the public are invited to comment on the DEIR and the project. There is no fee for commenting, and all comments received will be considered by the City prior to finalizing the DEIR and making a decision on the project. Comments on the DEIR should focus on the sufficiency of the DEIR in discussing possible impacts on the physical environment, ways in which potential adverse effects might be minimized, and alternatives to the project in light of the DEIR’s purpose to provide useful and accurate information about such factors. Comments may be made at the public hearing described above or in writing. Please address all written comments to Alicia Parker, Planner III, City of Oakland, Department of Planning and Building, Bureau of Planning, 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 2114, Oakland, CA 94612; (510) 238-3362(phone); (510) 238-6538(fax) or by e-mail at [aparker@oaklandca.gov](mailto:aparker@oaklandca.gov) . Comments should be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 15, 2019. Please reference case number ER18-020 in all correspondence. If you challenge the environmental document or project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised at the Planning Commission public hearing described above, or in written correspondence received by the Department of Planning and Building on or prior to 4:00 p.m. on October 15, 2019. After all comments are received, a Final EIR (FEIR) will be prepared and the Planning Commission will consider certification of the FEIR and render a decision/make a recommendation on the project at a later meeting date to be scheduled. For further information, please contact Alicia Parker, Planner III at (510) 238-3362 or at aparker@oaklandca.gov

August 30, 2019 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

File Number: ER18-020 edward manasse

City of Oakland

Environmental Review Officer

Attachments:

Figure 1: Project Location and Vicinity Map

Figure 2: Plan Area