

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) has prepared this Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the K Line Northern Extension Project (project). As described in Chapter 2 of this Draft EIR, Metro initiated work to consider extending the light rail transit K Line (formerly the Crenshaw/LAX Line) north from the Metro E Line (Expo) to the Metro D Line (Purple) and B Line (Red) heavy rail transit lines. This Draft EIR has been prepared in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., as amended) and its implementing guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.). Metro is the Lead Agency for the project under CEQA.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The proposed project requires the discretionary approval of the Metro Board of Directors (Metro Board). Therefore, the proposed project is subject to the environmental review requirements of CEQA. In accordance with Section 15121 of the CEQA Guidelines, the purpose of this Draft EIR is as follows:

- To satisfy the requirements of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines
- To inform public agency decision-makers and the public of the significant environmental effects of the project and possible ways to minimize those significant effects
- To enable Metro to consider environmental consequences when deciding whether to approve the proposed project, including which alignment to approve

Section 15367 of the CEQA Guidelines defines the Lead Agency as the public agency that has the principal responsibility for executing or approving a project. The Lead Agency is charged with the duty to avoid or substantially lessen significant environmental impacts of a project, where feasible. The Lead Agency also has an obligation to balance the economic, social, technological, legal, and other benefits of a project against its significant and unavoidable impacts on the environment. In accordance with Section 15051 of the CEQA Guidelines, Metro serves as the Lead Agency for the proposed project.

This Draft EIR is a Project EIR as defined by Section 15121 of the state CEQA Guidelines and serves as an informational document for the general public and project decision-makers. This Draft EIR is designed to:

- Identify significant direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the project on the environment
- Indicate the manner in which those significant impacts can be minimized with mitigation measures
- Identify reasonable and potentially feasible alternatives to the project that would avoid or reduce the significant impacts
- Identify any significant and unavoidable impacts

When environmental impacts cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level, the impacts are considered significant and unavoidable. If a public agency approves a proposed project that has significant and unavoidable impacts, the agency must state in writing the specific reasons for approving the project based on the Final EIR and any other information in the public record for the project. This

documentation is termed a “statement of overriding considerations” and is used to explain the specific reasons why the benefits of a proposed project make its significant and unavoidable environmental effects acceptable. The statement is prepared based upon substantial evidence in the record and in conjunction with the action to approve the project, in accordance with Section 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines.

This Draft EIR was prepared in accordance with Section 15151 of the CEQA Guidelines, which defines the standards for EIR adequacy as follows:

“An EIR should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decisionmakers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences. An evaluation of the environmental effects of a proposed project need not be exhaustive, but the sufficiency of an EIR is to be reviewed in the light of what is reasonably feasible. Disagreement among experts does not make an EIR inadequate, but the EIR should summarize the main points of disagreement among the experts. The courts have looked not for perfection but for adequacy, completeness, and a good faith effort at full disclosure.”

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT BACKGROUND

As described in Chapter 2 of this Draft EIR, Metro published the Crenshaw Northern Extension Feasibility/Alternatives Analysis Study (Metro 2018), which presented the relative performance and cost of various alignment and station alternatives. To further refine the alternatives, Metro prepared the Crenshaw Northern Extension Advanced Alternatives Analysis Screening Study (Metro 2020), resulting in the identification of three recommended alignment alternatives. In 2020, the Metro Board provided direction to prepare the Draft EIR building on previous work for three recommended alignment alternatives.

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Draft EIR was prepared and distributed for public review in April 2021 to initiate the CEQA EIR process. The NOP, as well as the scoping comment letters and verbal comments, are included in Appendix 1-A, Crenshaw Northern Extension Scoping Summary Report, of this Draft EIR.

1.3 SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE DRAFT EIR

In accordance with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, this Draft EIR includes detailed analyses of the following environmental topics:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Communities, Population, and Housing
- Cultural and Paleontological Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Growth Inducing Impacts
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise and Vibration

- Public Services and Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Cumulative Impacts
- Other CEQA topics include Effects Determined Not to be Significant (Agriculture and Forestry Resources, and Wildfire); Significant and Unavoidable Impacts; and Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

This Draft EIR was prepared under the direction and supervision of Metro and reflects the independent judgment of Metro. During preparation of this Draft EIR, several rounds of community and stakeholder engagement were held to inform agencies, organizations, and persons who might have an interest in this proposed project. Information, data, and observations from these outreach efforts are included in Chapter 6 of this Draft EIR. During the 30-day public review period, this Draft EIR is available for general public review on Metro’s website (<https://www.metro.net/kne/>) and at the following locations:

- Metro Headquarters, Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- Baldwin Hills Branch Library, 2906 S La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90016
- Hyde Park Miriam Matthews Branch Library, 2205 W Florence Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90043
- Angeles Mesa Branch Library, 2700 W 52nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90043
- View Park Bebe Moore Campbell Library, 2854 W 54th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90043
- Washington Irving Branch Library, 4117 W Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90018
- Jefferson - Vassie D. Wright Memorial Branch Library, 2211 W Jefferson Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90018
- Fairfax Branch Library, 161 S Gardner Street, Los Angeles, CA 90036
- Will & Ariel Durant Branch Library, 7140 W Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90046
- Frances Howard Goldwyn Hollywood Regional Branch, 1623 Ivar Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90028
- West Hollywood Library, 625 N San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069
- Russian Language Public Library, 7362 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90046
- Margaret Herrick Library, 333 S La Cienega Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90211
- Inglewood Public Library, 101 W Manchester Boulevard, Inglewood, CA 90301

During the 30-day Draft EIR public review and comment period, public agencies, organizations, and individuals may submit comments concerning the adequacy of the document by mail, email, or phone to:

Roger Martin, Project Manager
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-22-5
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952
Phone: 213-418-3093
Email: klinenorth@metro.net

In accordance with Section 15088 of the CEQA Guidelines, after the public review and comment period, written responses to all written comments and oral testimony pertaining to significant environmental issues received during the comment period will be prepared as part of the Final EIR. As required by CEQA, responses to comments submitted by commenting agencies will be distributed to those agencies for review prior to consideration of the Final EIR by the Metro Board. Pursuant to Sections 15090 to 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines, upon completion of the Final EIR and other required documentation, the Metro Board may certify the Final EIR, adopt findings relative to the project's environmental effects after implementation of mitigation measures, provide a statement of overriding considerations, and approve the project. Following project approval, a Notice of Determination is filed with the State Clearinghouse.

1.4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT ORGANIZATION

This Draft EIR is comprised of the following chapters:

- ES. Executive Summary. This chapter provides a summary of the project, project background, environmental impacts, mitigation measures, public outreach, and alternatives to the project.
1. Introduction. This chapter briefly discusses the purpose of the Draft EIR, identifies the environmental topics, describes the environmental review process and organization, and discusses the intended use of this Draft EIR.
2. Project Description. This chapter provides a detailed description of the project, including location and surrounding uses, history, objectives, operating characteristics and maintenance activities, construction approach, and project schedule.
3. Environmental Analysis. This chapter presents the environmental setting, methodology, thresholds of significance, impact analyses and significance conclusions, and, if applicable, mitigation measures for the potentially affected environmental resources. This chapter also addresses cumulative impacts for each resource, as well as growth-inducing impacts. Each environmental topic addressed in the chapter is supported by a corresponding technical report, which is included as an appendix to this Draft EIR.
4. Other CEQA Required Topics. This chapter summarizes possible effects of the project that were determined not to be significant, discusses significant and unavoidable impacts that would result from the project, and analyzes significant irreversible changes in the environment.
5. Comparison of Alternatives. This chapter provides an analysis of a reasonable range of alternatives to the project, including the No Project Alternative and the High Frequency Bus Alternative. The impacts of the alternatives are summarized to facilitate the identification of the Environmentally Superior Alternative as required by CEQA.
6. Public Outreach. This chapter presents public engagement and community outreach that occurred throughout the environmental process. This chapter lists the organizations and persons with whom Metro consulted during the Draft EIR process.
7. References. This chapter lists the references and sources used in the preparation of this Draft EIR.

8. Abbreviations and Acronyms. This chapter lists the acronyms and abbreviations used throughout the Draft EIR.
9. List of Contributors and Preparers. This chapter lists persons who contributed to the preparation of this Draft EIR.