

**SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN
VITAL MISSION PLAN PROJECT**

DEIR RECIRCULATION DOCUMENT – APRIL 2009

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS DEIR

OVERVIEW

In response to questions by the public as to the purpose of the April 2009 Draft EIR Recirculation Document as well as questions about how the sections of the document have changed since the previous Draft EIR was prepared, the following summary of revisions has been prepared.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

No substantive changes to the project description have occurred since release of the December 2008 DEIR Recirculation Document. Section 1.0 of that document summarizes the changes to the project description since preparation of the June 2007 DEIR, largely in response to design changes developed through conceptual review by the South County Board of Architectural Review. Additional detail and clarification has been provided in the project description of the April 2009 recirculation document in response to past public comments, including:

- Clarification of project objectives, making explicit what had been implied;
- General description of temporary installations that would be erected from time to time;
- More specifics on the nature and extent of proposed retaining walls throughout the site;
- Clarification of extent of pavers and fencing at the time of the Notice of Preparation;
- Clarification of types of events where music, tents, and/or alcohol is included; and
- Inclusion of plans and elevations reflecting the current design.

AIR QUALITY

This section has been revised to reflect minor changes to state law and National and State Ambient Air Quality Standards, and the County's attainment status thereof, since release of the June 2007 Draft EIR. Other changes include the following:

- Project emission estimates (short and long-term) have been revised to reflect the reduced amount of development as compared to the original project description;
- A discussion of greenhouse gases and the project's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions has been provided, consistent with current state law; and
- A new *recommended* mitigation measure has been added to minimize the project's generation of greenhouse gases through energy conservation features.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

This section has been revised to reflect a new environmental threshold for solid waste that was recently adopted by the County related to the generation of construction and demolition waste. Because of this new threshold, the project results in a new significant but mitigable impact to solid waste even though the project itself has not changed. Thus, a new mitigation measure has been included (PF 1-1). The solid waste analysis has also been revised to reflect the reduction in the

scale of the project, which equates to a reduction in the generation of solid waste associated with the long-term operation of the Garden. No substantive changes have been made to the Water Supply or Sewer Services sections; only minor clarifications or revisions to reflect the impacts of the current project.

ALTERNATIVES

This section has been revised to eliminate redundancy with the project description, which had been previously revised in response to comments by the BAR. The project revisions incorporated several of the project elements that were originally included in the alternatives, necessitating revisions to the alternatives to provide a reasonable range distinct from the proposed project. In addition, the alternatives analysis has been revised to include a discussion of alternatives that were considered but ultimately rejected as infeasible. The environmentally superior alternative was revised from the No Project alternative to the Reduced Project alternative, based on the revised analyses and alternative components summarized below. The revisions to each alternative are summarized as follows:

- No Project Alternative:
 - Revised growth rate up from 1% per year to 1.8% per year to reflect historic growth trends at the Garden;
 - Revised assumptions under this alternative to reflect the lack of restrictions under the current CUP; and
 - Revised the analyses accordingly based on the above revised assumptions.
- Off-site Alternative:
 - Eliminated the overlap with the revised project (e.g. remodeling of the existing Hansen residences instead of demolishing and rebuilding them);
 - Added the relocation of the annual lecture series to an off-site location; and
 - Moved the rare book storage (400 s.f.) to an off-site location.
 - Revised the analyses accordingly based on the revisions to the alternative components.
- Reduced Development Alternative:
 - Eliminated the overlap with the revised project (e.g. remodeling of the existing Hansen residences instead of demolishing and rebuilding them);
 - Added to the alternative an element that eliminates the proposed paving of the existing trails and pathways, retaining the existing earthen surfaces;
 - Added to the alternative an element that eliminates the proposed increases in classes, lectures, fundraisers and private parties; and
 - Revised the analyses accordingly based on the revisions to the alternative components.
- Project Redesign Alternative:
 - Eliminated the overlap with the revised project (e.g. remodeling of the existing Hansen residences instead of demolishing and rebuilding them);
 - Moved the Caretaker's Cottage to a location next to the Director's residence instead of the Hansen site, to reduce historic resource impacts;
 - Added to the alternative an element that would replace the existing and recently constructed perimeter cyclone fencing to match the proposed new 3 ½-foot fencing; and
 - Revised the analyses accordingly based on the revisions to the alternative components.