

Attachment D

Addendum No. 4¹ to Final Environmental Impact Report for 2010 Monterey County General Plan (#07-01, SCH #2007121001) for General Plan Amendment pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Article 11, Section 15164 (Planning File No. REF200041)

1. Introduction

On October 26, 2010, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors certified Final Environmental Impact Report #07-01, SCH #2007121001 (“FEIR”), and adopted findings, a Statement of Overriding Considerations, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and the 2010 Monterey County General Plan (“General Plan”) (Board Resolution Nos. 10-290 and 10-291). Section 3, Project Description, of the FEIR identified that the primary goal of the General Plan was to provide a blueprint for public and private development by acting as the foundation upon which County leaders will make decisions related to growth and land use while minimizing environmental impacts. Growth assumptions based on the General Plan were considered in the FEIR. As a means of complying with guidance from the State on Climate change and to mitigate potential increases in greenhouse gas emissions from anticipated growth, the General Plan FEIR required adoption of a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (also referred to as a Climate Action Plan) which was incorporated in the General Plan as Policy OS-10.11.

This technical addendum has been prepared pursuant to Article 11, Section 15164 of the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines because revisions to policy OS-10.11 (and by extension revisions to mitigation measures for climate change described in the 2010 General Plan FEIR) are proposed, but none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 or 15163, calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR or supplemental FEIR have occurred.

2. Analysis

This Addendum describes whether any changes or additions are necessary to the FEIR as a result of the proposed amendment to the General Plan and implementation

¹ Subsequent to its certification, three Addenda to the FEIR were approved. “Addendum No. 1” to the FEIR was considered for amending policies in the Carmel Valley Master Plan (Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 13-029). “Addendum No. 2” to the FEIR was considered for amending Public Services policies of the 2010 Monterey County General Plan (Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 13-028). “Addendum No. 3” to the FEIR was considered for implementing the Development Evaluation System by has not yet been adopted.

of General Plan Policy OS 10.11, or if any of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 or 15163 have occurred.

Pursuant to Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines, an addendum may be prepared if there are no substantial changes proposed in the project, no changes to circumstances under which the project was undertaken, and there is no new information of substantial importance not known at the time that would require major revisions to the certified FEIR due to the involvement of new environmental effects or substantial increase in the severity of previously identified environmental effects.

The General Plan contains policies intended to minimize or mitigate potential impacts of its implementation to the extent feasible. Where policies were insufficient to avoid an impact, additional mitigation was identified in the FEIR. Table 1-2, Executive Summary Table, of the FEIR summarizes impacts and mitigation measures identified in the FEIR and includes the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan Policy OS-10.11. The policy utilized state law laid out in Assembly Bill 32 to set a goal for greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The goal at that time was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent below 2005 levels. Since then, Senate Bill 32 was signed into law in 2016, setting a new reductions target to reduce emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. This amendment revises the General Plan policy to the updated statewide target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which would be more effective at addressing the effects on climate change for anticipated development. This makes the proposed amendment equal to or more effective at mitigating climate change impact as well as updates the policy to reflect current State Law and guidance. The goal was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, as set out in Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act. Following guidance from Senate Bill 32, the revised target of 40 percent reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030 would be more effective at addressing the effects on climate change for anticipated development by including goals to achieve higher levels of greenhouse gas reductions. The revision to the language does not increase the severity of previously identified impacts. The effects of greenhouse gas emissions on climate change were known and were addressed in the 2010 General Plan EIR. The proposed addendum reflects minor and technical changes to the policy and mitigation language contained in the 2010 General Plan EIR.

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Plan, now called the Climate Action Plan to accurately reflect commonly used terminology, inventories the sources of greenhouse gas emissions of the County and sets strategies to reduce those emissions to target levels in the most efficient and effective manner feasible. Such strategies adhere to General Plan policies and the proposed update of this policy does not negatively alter or affect the environment.

This amendment will allow the County to effectively implement General Plan policy and does not result in an increased density of development beyond what was analyzed in the General Plan EIR. Likewise, there are no changes in circumstances or new information of substantial importance that would result in identification of new

significant environmental impacts or substantial increase in severity of previously identified significant environmental effects as compared to the FEIR certified for the General Plan.

3. Conclusion

Pursuant to Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines, there are no substantial changes proposed in the project, no changes to circumstances under which the project was undertaken, and there is no new information of substantial importance not known at the time that would require major revisions to the prior FEIR. Based on the information contained within previous point No. 2, a subsequent or supplemental FEIR is not required. This amendment brings the General Plan Policy OS-10.11 into alignment with State Law and better carries out the intent of the General Plan. The amendment would not result in an increase to the build-out projections identified in the General Plan. This amendment will not require major revisions to the FEIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.

FEIR #07-01 is available on the Monterey County website at:

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-i-z/resource-management-agency-rma-/planning/resources-documents/2010-general-plan/general-plan-final-environmental-impact-repo>