



Mile Square Regional Park Master Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Project?

The project being analyzed in the EIR is the Mile Square Regional Park Master Plan. The proposed project will integrate 93 acres of the existing Mile Square Golf Course parcel, which currently holds a lease from OC Parks to operate, with Mile Square Regional Park (MISQ) as well as complete additional improvements within the existing MISQ.

What is CEQA?

CEQA, or the California Environmental Quality Act, is a statute adopted in 1970 that requires state and local agencies to consider the environmental consequences of decisions that involve changes to the environment. The purposes of CEQA are to:

- Provide information about the environmental effects of projects.
- Identify ways that environmental impacts can be avoided or reduced.
- Prevent significant environmental impacts through mitigation measures or alternatives.
- Disclose the reasons why a project can be approved despite significant environmental impacts where the agency determines the project benefits override the environmental impacts.

CEQA applies to projects undertaken, funded, or requiring issuance of a permit or approval by a public agency. The Mile Square Regional Park Master Plan is considered a project under CEQA. OC Parks hired environmental consultant ICF to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) to analyze the potential for impacts resulting from implementing the Master Plan.

What is an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)?

An EIR is an informational document to be used by the public and by decision-makers when making choices about projects. In an EIR, significant environmental impacts (substantial adverse physical changes to the environment) are disclosed; methods (mitigation measures) for reducing or avoiding impacts are identified; and project alternatives are developed which also seek to reduce or avoid adverse environmental effects.

What will the EIR study?

The EIR will be a “full scope” document. It will analyze all of the required CEQA environmental issue areas: aesthetics and visual resources; air quality (including toxic air contaminants); biological resources; cultural resources; geology, seismicity, soils, and mineral resources; energy consumption; greenhouse gas emissions and climate change; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; land use and planning; noise and vibration; public services and recreation; transportation; utilities and other service systems. The EIR will also address cumulative effects, growth inducing impacts and other issues required by CEQA.

What is an NOP?

An NOP, or Notice of Preparation, provides notification to interested parties that a public agency has decided to prepare an EIR for a project and to solicit comments about the scope and content of the information to be included in the EIR.

What is the purpose of the Scoping Meeting?

The purpose of a scoping meeting is to provide an opportunity for interested parties to make suggestions regarding the scope and content of the EIR analyses. Scoping provides an opportunity to further define environmental issues, feasible alternatives and potential mitigation measures that may warrant in-depth analysis in the environmental review process. Comments received during the public scoping period are considered in preparing the Draft EIR analyses.

The scoping meeting focuses on environmental issues related to the project. It is not a forum for discussing the merits of a project. There will be other meetings and hearings for that purpose.

How does the CEQA/EIR process work?

The CEQA process is a highly prescriptive evaluation and disclosure process dictated by state law. The general steps of this process and our target schedule are as follows:

- Notice of Preparation (NOP) (August 24)
- 30-Day NOP Comment Period (August 24 through September 22)
- Public Scoping Meeting (September 10)
- Preparation of Draft EIR (now through January 2021)
- Release of Draft EIR (January 2021)
- 45-Day Public Comment Period on Draft EIR (late-January through early-March 2021)
- Preparation of Response to Comments/Final EIR (March through April 2021)
- Parks Commission Public Meeting to consider Final EIR and adoption of Master Plan recommendation to Board of Supervisors (March 2021)
- Release of Final EIR (May 2021)
- Board of Supervisors Public Meeting to consider certification of Final EIR and adoption of Master Plan (May 2021)