

CHAPTER 14

Responses

14.1 Organization of the Chapter

This chapter includes the responses written to address individual comments (as opposed to responses written to address a general topic, as in the Chapter 13 master responses). The responses are organized according to the same system as the comments, so that there is one individual response prepared for each coded comment. As explained in Chapter 12, the categories are:

- Federal government agency (F)
- State government agency (S)
- Local agency (L)
- Tribe (T)
- Affiliated group (G)
- Non-affiliated individual (NA)
- Form letter (Fo)
- Public meeting (PubMtg)

Each response is assigned the same alpha-numeric code as the corresponding comment. The code consists of three parts:

- the comment category (F, S, L, T, G, NA, Fo, or PubMtg, as listed above);
- the comment letter abbreviation, generally between four and six characters long and consisting either of the acronym of an organization's name or the first several letters of an individual's last name; and
- the number of the comment within its respective comment letter (1, 2, 3, etc.).

14.2 Reading and Understanding the Responses to Comments

Each response is written to correspond with a specific comment (contained in Chapter 12), and it is therefore useful to refer to the comment in question before reading its response. Responses to individual comments sometimes refer the reader to one of the master responses listed in Chapter 13, and they also sometimes refer the reader to a particular section or passage of the EIR in Volume 1, 2, or 3.

Some responses indicate changes to the text of the EIR that have been made in an attempt to address one or more comments. To assist the reader in easily noting revisions to the EIR, the relevant passages from the EIR are included within such a response in an indented format, and the following conventions are used to indicate text that has been deleted since the publication of the Draft EIR or added for inclusion in the Final EIR:

- Text deleted from the Draft EIR is shown in ~~striketrough text~~.
- Text added to the Final EIR is shown in underline text.

As mentioned in the Preface at the beginning of Volume 1 of this document, Volumes 1 through 3 consist of the revised EIR, which includes the full text of the Draft EIR as modified in response to comments received as well as to new data and changes to the Regional Project. Additional revisions correct typographical errors discovered in the text of the EIR since publication, or refine discussions and resolve internal inconsistencies. None of these staff-initiated text changes alter or affect the conclusions reached by the Draft EIR as to the significance of environmental impacts.

Readers should be aware that the revised EIR does not retain the same pagination as was used in the Draft EIR. Efforts have been made, however, to retain the same section and subsection numbering whenever possible. In instances where commenters referred to page numbers within their comments, the responses referred instead to the corresponding sections, subsections, or headers.

14.3 Comments Beyond the Scope of the EIR

CEQA does not require a lead agency to conduct every test or perform all research recommended by commenters. Rather, a lead agency need only respond to significant environmental issues and does not need to provide all information requested by reviewers (CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15088, 15204). In this Final EIR, CPUC has in fact chosen to provide responses to some comments that do not concern the adequacy or accuracy of the Draft EIR. The CPUC has done this in an effort to assist the public in understanding all facets of the CWP and the project review process, thereby maximizing the usefulness of this EIR as a document for public review.