

1. Introduction

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

This Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), provides responses to comments received on the Draft EIR for the adoption and implementation of the proposed Santa Rosa General Plan 2050 (also known as Santa Rosa Forward), along with the associated Specific Plan and Santa Rosa City Code (SRCC) amendments, and the Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy (GHG Reduction Strategy), herein referred to separately or together as the “proposed project.” The Draft EIR identifies significant impacts associated with the proposed project, identifies and considers alternatives to the proposed project, and identifies mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential environmental impacts. This Final EIR also contains text revisions to the Draft EIR. This Final EIR, together with the Draft EIR, constitutes the complete EIR for the proposed project.

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

According to CEQA, lead agencies are required to consult with public agencies having jurisdiction over a proposed project, and to provide the general public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR. A Draft EIR was prepared for the proposed project to provide an assessment of the potential environmental consequences of adoption and implementation of the proposed project. A Notice of Preparation of an EIR was issued by the City of Santa Rosa (City) on February 7, 2023, for a 30-day review period. During this 30-day review period, a Scoping Meeting was conducted on February 27, 2023, to receive comments from members of the public, organizations, and interested public agencies on issues related to the physical environment that should be addressed in the EIR. A Notice of Availability (NOA) was issued by the City on October 7, 2024, and the Draft EIR was made available for public review for a 45-day public review period through November 20, 2024. Written comments received on the Draft EIR are included in their original format as Appendix E, *Comments Letters on the Draft EIR*, of this Final EIR. These comments are also reproduced in Chapter 4, *Comments and Responses*, of this Final EIR, and responses to comments that were made on environmental issues are provided. Written comments on the General Plan are also included in their original format in Appendix F, *Comment Letters on the Draft General Plan*, of this Final EIR.

This Final EIR will be presented at a Planning Commission hearing at which the Commission will advise the City Council on certification of the EIR. However, the Planning Commission will not take final action on the EIR or the proposed project. Instead, the City Council will consider the Planning Commission’s recommendations on the Final EIR and the proposed project during a noticed public hearing and will take the final action with regard to certification of the Final EIR. The City Council will consider certification of the complete EIR (Draft and Final) at a public hearing in spring 2025.

INTRODUCTION

This page has been intentionally left blank.