
I. INTRODUCTION

This Sustainable Communities Environmental Assessment (SCEA) has been prepared pursuant to Section 21155.2 of the California Public Resources Code.

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Olympic and Hill Project

Project Location: 1000-1034 S. Hill Street and 220-226 W. Olympic Boulevard,
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Lead Agency: City of Los Angeles
Department of City Planning
200 N. Spring Street, Room 621
Los Angeles, CA 90012

City Staff Contact: Michael Sin
(213) 978-1345

Applicant: Onni Group
315 W. 9th Street, Suite 801
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Project Summary: The Proposed Project includes the demolition of the existing surface parking lot on the Project Site and the construction of a 60-story mixed-use building (760 feet in height), which includes 700 residential dwelling units and 15,000 square feet of ground floor commercial/retail spaces. The Proposed Project would be 60 stories high with seven levels of parking below grade, ground floor commercial/retail uses, a five-story podium with an amenity deck having glass railings, and an additional 55-story residential tower above the amenity deck. The Proposed Project would provide a total of 1,075 vehicle parking spaces, which includes 840 spaces for the residential uses, 15 spaces for commercial/retail use in accordance with the Los Angeles Municipal Code (“LAMC”) requirements, and 220 spaces for an adjacent office building by private contract agreement. Parking on the Project Site would be provided in seven subterranean levels, the ground level, and on levels one through four. Primary vehicular access for residential and commercial uses would be provided via two full-access driveways: one on Hill Street and one from the adjacent alley, Blackstone Court. Vehicular access for a proposed porte cochère that exits onto Blackstone Court would be provided from Olympic Boulevard. Pursuant to the Bicycle Ordinance, the Proposed Project would provide 290 bicycle parking spaces, including 258 long-term and 32 short-term spaces. The Proposed Project meets the LAMC requirements for open space by providing approximately 86,976 square feet of open space and amenity areas. The Proposed Project would include 657,943 square feet of total floor area resulting in a floor area ratio (FAR) of 13:1. Seven street trees (five Canary Island pine and two Southern Magnolia) would be removed from the public right-of-way; 184 new trees would be provided, including 42 street trees. Trees in the public right-of-way would be replaced at a minimum 2:1 ratio.

The Applicant is requesting the following discretionary actions: (1) Pursuant to LAMC Section 14.5.6.B, a Transfer of Floor Area Rights (TFAR) Greater Than 50,000 square feet of floor area for the transfer of

approximately 354,277 square feet of floor area; (2) Pursuant to LAMC Section 12.24.W.1, a Master Conditional Use Permit to allow the on-site sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages within the Project's commercial spaces; (3) Pursuant to LAMC Section 16.05, a Site Plan Review for the construction of 700 residential units; (4) Pursuant to LAMC Section 17.15, a Vesting Tentative Tract Map for merger and re-subdivision of the Project Site for residential and commercial condominium purposes; and (5) Pursuant to LAMC Section 17.05, haul route approval in connection with the tract map approval. The Proposed Project would also require approvals and permits from the Department of Building and Safety (and other municipal agencies) for project construction activities including, but not limited to, the following: excavation, shoring, grading, foundation, haul route (for the export of approximately 206,100 cy of soil), and removal of existing street trees (requires Board of Public Works approval).

B. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SENATE BILL 375 AND THE SCEA

The State of California adopted Senate Bill 375 (SB 375), also known as "The Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008," which outlines growth strategies that better integrate regional land use and transportation planning and that help meet the State of California's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction mandates. SB 375 requires the State's 18 metropolitan planning organizations to incorporate a "sustainable communities strategy" (SCS) into the regional transportation plans to achieve their respective region's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets set by CARB. Correspondingly, SB 375 provides various CEQA streamlining provisions for projects that are consistent with an adopted applicable SCS and meet certain objective criteria; one such CEQA streamlining tool is the SCEA. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the metropolitan planning organization for the County of Los Angeles (along with the Counties of Imperial, San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, and Ventura). On April 7, 2016, SCAG's Regional Council adopted the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016-2040 RTP/SCS). For the SCAG region, CARB has set GHG emissions reduction targets at eight percent below 2005 per capita emissions levels by 2020, and 13 percent below 2005 per capita emissions levels by 2035. The 2016-2040 RTP/SCS outlines strategies to meet or exceed the targets set by CARB. By Executive Order, approved June 28, 2016, CARB officially determined that the 2016-2040 RTP/SCS would achieve CARB's 2020 and 2035 GHG emission reduction targets.

SB 375 allows the City, acting as lead agency, to prepare a SCEA as the environmental CEQA Clearance for "transit priority projects" (as described below) that are consistent with SCAG's 2016-2040 RTP/SCS.

C. TRANSIT PRIORITY PROJECT CRITERIA

SB 375 provides CEQA streamlining benefits to qualifying transit priority projects (TPPs). For purposes of projects in the SCAG region, a qualifying TPP is a project that meets the following four criteria (see Public Resources Code §21155 (a) and (b)):

1. Is consistent with the general use designation, density, building intensity, and applicable policies specified for the project area in the SCAG 2016-2040 RTP/SCS;
2. Contains at least 50 percent residential use, based on total building square footage and, if the project contains between 26 percent and 50 percent nonresidential uses, a floor area ratio of not less than 0.75;
3. Provides a minimum net density of at least 20 units per acre; and

4. Is within one-half mile of a major transit stop or high-quality transit corridor included in a regional transportation plan.

D. SCEA PROCESS AND STREAMLINING PROVISIONS

Qualifying TPPs that have incorporated all feasible mitigation measures and performance standards or criteria set forth in the prior applicable EIR (SCAG's 2016-2040 RTP/SCS Program EIR) and that are determined to not result in significant and unavoidable environmental impacts may be approved with a SCEA. The specific substantive and procedural requirements for the approval of a SCEA include the following:

1. An initial study shall be prepared for a SCEA to identify all significant impacts or potentially significant impacts, except for the following:
 - a. Growth-inducing impacts, and
 - b. Project-specific or cumulative impacts from cars and light trucks on global warming or the regional transportation network.

Note: All relevant and applicable 2016-2040 RTP/SCS Program EIR mitigation measures shall be incorporated into the Project prior to conducting the initial study analysis.

2. The initial study shall identify any cumulative impacts that have been adequately addressed and mitigated in a prior applicable certified EIR. Where the lead agency determines the impact has been adequately addressed and mitigated, the impact shall not be cumulatively considerable.
3. The SCEA shall contain mitigation measures that either avoid or mitigate to a level of insignificance all potentially significant or significant effects of the project required to be identified in the initial study.
4. A draft of the SCEA shall be circulated for a public comment period not less than 30 days, and the lead agency shall consider all comments received prior to acting on the SCEA.
5. The SCEA may be approved by the lead agency after the lead agency's legislative body conducts a public hearing, reviews comments received, and finds the following:
 - a. All potentially significant or significant effects required to be identified in the initial study have been identified and analyzed, and
 - b. With respect to each significant effect on the environment required to be identified in the initial study, either of the following apply:
 - i. Changes or alterations have been required in or incorporated into the project that avoid or mitigate the significant effects to a level of insignificance.

- ii. Those changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and have been, or can and should be, adopted by that other agency.
6. The lead agency's decision to review and approve a TPP with a SCEA shall be reviewed under the substantial evidence standard.

E. REQUIRED FINDINGS

The City of Los Angeles has determined that:

1. The Proposed Project is consistent with the general use designations, density, building intensity, and applicable policies specified for the project area in the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) prepared by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG);
2. The State Air Resources Board, pursuant to subparagraph (H) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 65080 of the Government Code, has accepted SCAG's determination that the sustainable communities strategy adopted by SCAG in the 2016-2040 RTP/SCS would, if implemented, achieve the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.
3. The Proposed Project qualifies as a transit priority project pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21155(b);
4. The Proposed Project is a residential or mixed-use project as defined by Public Resources Code Section 21159.28(d);
5. The Proposed Project incorporates all relevant and feasible mitigation measures, performance standards, or criteria set forth in the prior environmental reports, including the RTP/SCS Program Environmental Impact Report;
6. All potentially significant or significant effects required to be identified and analyzed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) have been identified and analyzed in an initial study; and
7. The Proposed Project, as mitigated, either avoids or mitigates to a level of insignificance all potentially significant or significant effects of the Proposed Project required to be analyzed pursuant to CEQA.

Therefore, the City of Los Angeles finds that the Proposed Project complies with the requirements of CEQA for using an SCEA as authorized pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21155.2(b).

The attached Section IV, Environmental Impact Analysis, has been prepared by the Parker Environmental Consultants on behalf of the Project Applicant and in conjunction with the City of Los Angeles, as Lead Agency in support of this SCEA.

F. ORGANIZATION OF THE SCEA

This SCEA is organized into five sections as follows:

I. Introduction: This section (above) provides introductory information about the Project.

II. Project Description: This section provides a detailed description of the environmental setting and the Project, including Project characteristics, Project objectives, and environmental review requirements.

III. SCEA Criteria and Consistency Analysis: This section identifies the Transit Priority Project Criteria and provides an analysis of the Project's consistency with the SCAG RTP/SCS.

IV. 2016-2040 RTP/SCS Program EIR Mitigation Measures. This section identifies all feasible mitigation measures, performance standards, and criteria from the 2016-2040 RTP/SCS Program EIR.

V. Initial Study Checklist: This section contains the completed SCEA Initial Study Checklist showing the significance level under each environmental impact category.

VI. Sustainable Communities Environmental Analysis: Each environmental issue identified in the Initial Study Checklist contains an assessment and discussion of impacts associated with each subject area. When the evaluation identifies potentially significant effects, as identified in the Checklist, mitigation measures are provided to reduce such impacts to a less than significant level. This Section also discusses applicable mitigation measures from prior EIRs.

VII. List of Preparers: This section provides a list of City personnel, other governmental agencies, and consultant team members that participated in the preparation of the SCEA.

VIII. References, Acronyms and Abbreviations: This section provides a list of reference documents and identifies commonly used acronyms and abbreviations that are used throughout the document.

Appendices: Includes various documents, technical reports, and information used in the SCEA.