

### **PURPOSE OF THE EIR PROCESS**

This Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) is an informational document prepared by the Monterey County Resource Management Agency, Planning Department, to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Ferrini Ranch Subdivision. The primary objectives of the EIR process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are to inform decision-makers and the public about a project's potential significant environmental effects, identify possible ways to minimize significant effects, and consider reasonable alternatives to the project. This EIR has been prepared with assistance from Monterey County's planning and environmental consultant, PMC, with additional input from the project applicant's team. The FEIR has been reviewed by County staff for completeness and adequacy in accordance with Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 21000-21177 and the State CEQA Guidelines.

As prescribed by the State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15088 and 15132, the lead agency, the County of Monterey, is required to evaluate comments on environmental issues received from persons who have reviewed the Draft EIR and to prepare written responses to those comments. This document, together with the DEIR (incorporated by reference in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15150), and Recirculated Draft EIR (June 2014 and also incorporated by reference) will comprise the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for this project. Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the County of Monterey must certify the FEIR as complete and adequate prior to approval of the project or a project alternative.

This FEIR contains individual responses to each written letter received during the public review period for the DEIR and RDEIR. In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(b), the written responses describe the disposition of significant environmental issues raised. The Monterey County RMA - Planning Department and its consultants have provided a good faith effort to respond in detail to all significant environmental issues raised by the comments.

### **EIR CERTIFICATION PROCESS AND PROJECT APPROVAL**

In accordance with the requirements of CEQA and the procedures of Monterey County, the FEIR must be certified as complete and adequate prior to any action on the proposed Ferrini Ranch Subdivision. Once the EIR is certified and all information considered, using its independent judgment, the County can take action to go forward with the proposed subdivision, make changes, or select an alternative to the proposed subdivision. While the information in the EIR does not control the County's ultimate decision, Monterey County must respond to each significant effect and mitigation measure identified in the EIR by making findings supporting its decision.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

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