

This Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15132). The City of Fort Bragg (City) is the lead agency for the environmental review of the Best Development Grocery Outlet Project (Project) and has the principal responsibility for approving the Project. This Final EIR assesses the expected environmental impacts resulting from approval of the Project and associated impacts from subsequent development and operation of the Project, as well as responds to comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR).

## 1.1 PURPOSE AND INTENDED USES OF THE EIR

### CEQA REQUIREMENTS FOR A FINAL EIR

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This Final EIR for the Project has been prepared in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines. State CEQA Guidelines Section 15132 requires that a Final EIR consist of the following:

- the Draft EIR or a revision of the draft;
- comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR, either verbatim or in summary;
- a list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR;
- the responses of the lead agency to significant environmental concerns raised in the review and consultation process; and
- any other information added by the lead agency.

In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15132(a), the Draft EIR is incorporated by reference into this Final EIR.

An EIR must disclose the expected environmental impacts, including impacts that cannot be avoided, growth-inducing effects, impacts found not to be significant, and significant cumulative impacts, as well as identify mitigation measures and alternatives to the Project that could reduce or avoid its adverse environmental impacts. CEQA requires government agencies to consider and, where feasible, minimize environmental impacts of proposed development, and an obligation to balance a variety of public objectives, including economic, environmental, and social factors.

### PURPOSE AND USE

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The City, as the lead agency, has prepared this Final EIR to provide the public and responsible and trustee agencies with an objective analysis of the potential environmental impacts resulting from approval, construction, and operation of the Project. Responsible and trustee agencies that may use the EIR are identified in Chapters 1.0 and 2.0 of the Draft EIR.

The environmental review process enables interested parties to evaluate the Project in terms of its environmental consequences, to examine and recommend methods to eliminate or reduce potential adverse impacts, and to consider a reasonable range of alternatives to the Project. While CEQA requires that consideration be given to avoiding adverse environmental effects, the lead

agency must balance adverse environmental effects against other public objectives, including the economic and social benefits of a project, in determining whether a project should be approved.

This EIR will be used as the primary environmental document to evaluate all aspects of construction and operation of the Project. The details and operational characteristics of the Project are identified in Chapter 2.0, Project Description, of the Draft EIR (September 2022).

## 1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

The review and certification process for the EIR has involved, or will involve, the following general procedural steps:

### NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

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The City of Fort Bragg circulated an Initial Study (IS) and Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR for the proposed Project on May 19, 2022 to the State Clearinghouse, CDFW, Other Public Agencies, Organizations and Interested Persons. A public scoping meeting was held on June 7, 2022. Concerns raised in response to the NOP were considered during preparation of the Draft EIR. The IS, NOP, and comments received on the NOP by interested parties, including those received at the public Scoping Meeting, are presented in Appendix A of the Draft EIR.

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND DRAFT EIR

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The City published a public Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIR on September 15, 2022 inviting comment from the general public, agencies, organizations, and other interested parties. The NOA was filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH # 2022050308) and the County Clerk, and was published in a local newspaper pursuant to the public noticing requirements of CEQA. The Draft EIR was available for public review and comment from September 15, 2022 through October 31, 2022.

The Draft EIR contains a description of the Project, description of the environmental setting, identification of Project impacts, and mitigation measures for impacts found to be significant, as well as an analysis of Project alternatives, identification of significant irreversible environmental changes, growth-inducing impacts, and cumulative impacts. The Draft EIR identifies issues determined to have no impact or a less-than-significant impact, and provides detailed analysis of potentially significant and significant impacts. Comments received in response to the NOP were considered in preparing the analysis in the Draft EIR.

### RESPONSE TO COMMENTS/FINAL EIR

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The City received 27 comment letters regarding the Draft EIR from public agencies. These comment letters on the Draft EIR are identified in Table 2.0-1, and are found in Chapter 2.0 of this Final EIR.

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15088, this Final EIR responds to the written comments received on the Draft EIR, as required by CEQA. This Final EIR also contains minor edits

to the Draft EIR, which are included in Chapter 3.0, Revisions. This document, as well as the Draft EIR as amended herein, constitute the Final EIR.

## CERTIFICATION OF THE EIR/PROJECT CONSIDERATION

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The Fort Bragg Planning Commission and City Council will review and consider the Final EIR. If the City Council finds that the Final EIR is "adequate and complete," the Council may certify the Final EIR in accordance with CEQA and City environmental review procedures and codes. The rule of adequacy generally holds that an EIR can be certified if:

- 1) The EIR shows a good faith effort at full disclosure of environmental information; and
- 2) The EIR provides sufficient analysis to allow decisions to be made regarding the proposed project which intelligently take account of environmental consequences.

Upon review and consideration of the Final EIR, the City Council may take action to approve, revise, or reject the Project. A decision to approve the Project, for which this EIR identifies significant environmental effects, must be accompanied by written findings in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15091 and 15093. A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, as described below, would also be adopted in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21081.6(a) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15097 for mitigation measures that have been incorporated into or imposed upon the project to reduce or avoid significant effects on the environment. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program has been designed to ensure that these measures are carried out during Project implementation, in a manner that is consistent with the EIR.

## 1.3 ORGANIZATION OF THE FINAL EIR

This Final EIR has been prepared consistent with Section 15132 of the State CEQA Guidelines, which identifies the content requirements for Final EIRs. This Final EIR is organized in the following manner:

### CHAPTER 1.0 – INTRODUCTION

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Chapter 1.0 briefly describes the purpose of the environmental evaluation, identifies the lead, agency, summarizes the process associated with preparation and certification of an EIR, and identifies the content requirements and organization of the Final EIR.

### CHAPTER 2.0 – COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIR AND RESPONSES

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Chapter 2.0 provides a list of commenters, copies of written and electronic comments made on the Draft EIR (coded for reference), and responses to those written comments.

### CHAPTER 3.0 – REVISIONS

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Chapter 3.0 consists of minor revisions to the Draft EIR in response to comments received on the Draft EIR.

## CHAPTER 4.0 – FINAL MMRP

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Chapter 4.0 consists of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). The MMRP is presented in a tabular format that presents the impacts, mitigation measure, and responsibility, timing, and verification of monitoring.