

## CHAPTER 1.0: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PURPOSES OF THE FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The purpose of this Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (FSEIR) for the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Corridor (SVRTC) BART Extension to Milpitas, San Jose, and Santa Clara, CA is to update information presented in the *Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Corridor - BART Extension to Milpitas, San Jose and Santa Clara - Final Environmental Impact Report* (November 2004); to document agency and public comments on the updates; to provide responses for those comments; and to indicate revision and corrections to the draft document as a result of the responses to comments, revised data, or updated information.

The VTA Board of Directors (Board) certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) in December 2004 in accordance with CEQA. Analysis of the Bay Area Rapid Transit Extension to Milpitas, San Jose and Santa Clara (Project) presented in the 2004 FEIR was based on 10 percent design plans prepared during the Conceptual Engineering design phase of the Project. Following approval of the Project by the VTA Board, the Preliminary Engineering design phase began, taking design plans to the 35 percent level. The SEIR describes the design changes and evaluates the associated environmental impacts of the Project at the 35 percent design level. The SEIR also covers substantive new information since certification of the 2004 FEIR.

### 1.2 OVERVIEW OF THE FINAL SEIR

#### 1.2.1 RECOMMENDED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Chapter 2 provides the Recommended Project Description. This includes VTA staff recommendations regarding the 57 design changes and associated options and alternate locations.

#### 1.2.2 COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT SEIR

Chapter 3 addresses the comments received on the Draft SEIR. The Draft SEIR was released for agency and public review on January 22, 2007. Four public hearings were held: February 13, 2007, February 15, 2007, February 26, 2007, and February 28, 2007. The public review period closed on March 16, 2007. Information on the release of the Draft SEIR and the public review process is also included in this chapter.

A total of 75 commentors sent written or made oral comments on the draft document during the public review period. Written comments were received by postal mail, email, and facsimile and oral comments were received at the public hearings. Table 1.2-1 summarizes the total number of commentors by category and the total number of comments received within the categories, as many single letters, facsimiles, and emails included multiple comments and several speakers offered more than one comment.

<b>Table 1.2-1: Summary of Written and Oral Comments on the Draft SEIR</b>		
<b>Comment Category</b>	<b>Total Number by Category</b>	<b>Total Number of Comments Within the Category</b>
Agencies	16	120
Public (individual, organization, business)	36	135

<b>Table 1.2-1: Summary of Written and Oral Comments on the Draft SEIR</b>		
<b>Comment Category</b>	<b>Total Number by Category</b>	<b>Total Number of Comments Within the Category</b>
Comment Cards	20	44
Transcript	4	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>356</b>

Chapter 3 includes a list of all commentors followed by the scanned copies of the written comments and public hearing transcripts. VTA's responses follow each letter, facsimile, email, or transcript.

### **1.2.3 REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT SEIR**

Chapter 4 includes revisions to the Draft SEIR as a result of the written and oral comments received during the public review period. The Draft SEIR has been revised to include revisions to text, tables, and figures, as necessary.