

Attachment #6  
Statement of  
Overriding Considerations

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## Statement of Overriding Considerations

CEQA requires that the decision makers balance the benefits of a proposed project against its unavoidable environmental risks in determining whether to approve the project (Public Resources Code Section 21081(b); 14 CCR Sections 15043, 15093(a)). As documented in the EIR and explained in the Findings of Fact for the proposed Specific Plan project, the project will potentially result in significant and unavoidable impacts in the following environmental areas:

- Air quality during construction and operational activities;
- Cumulative air quality impacts;
- Temporary or periodic ambient noise impacts.

The project provides substantial benefits for the City of Baldwin Park Downtown area, which include: opportunities to build on the City's unique historic and cultural characteristics to enhance the Downtown core; take advantage of the location of the Metrolink Station and access to regional transit; create a strong community identity and sense of place; provide new employment, housing and shopping opportunities; and strengthen the City's tax base. Opportunities exist within walking distance of the Metrolink Station to provide for infill development and adaptive reuse of existing under-utilized structures to better serve the transit-oriented Downtown area and generate new investment. The proposed Specific Plan is intended to guide future development of mixed uses in a walkable environment, streamline the development process, and serve as an incentive for economic development.

This City has balanced the project's benefits against the project's significant unavoidable impacts related to air quality and short-term ambient noise. The City finds that the benefits of the Specific Plan outweigh its significant unavoidable impacts. Therefore, the project's significant unavoidable impacts are acceptable in light of the project's benefits. The City finds that each of the following benefits is an overriding consideration, independent of the other benefits, that warrants approval of the Specific Plan notwithstanding the Specific Plan's significant and unavoidable impacts:

1. The Specific Plan would provide new employment and housing opportunities in the Downtown area, proximate to the Metrolink station.
2. The Specific Plan would provide multi-modal streets to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles in the Downtown area that would connect to the Metrolink station and would reduce dependence upon automobiles.

3. The Specific Plan would create a pedestrian-friendly mixed-use environment with buildings and streetscapes designed to provide a strong community identity and sense of place;
4. The land uses provided by the Specific Plan would increase the level of goods and services available to residents of the community while strengthening the City's tax base.