PUBLIC NOTICE Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21091 and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15105, notice is hereby given that a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed City Hall and Park Development Plan project (proposed project) is available for public review during the public comment period (September 1–October 15, 2009). The City of Newport Beach (City) has prepared the DEIR to analyze the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project; to discuss alternatives; and to propose mitigation measures for identified potentially significant impacts that will minimize, offset, or otherwise reduce or avoid those environmental impacts. The proposed project would result in the relocation of City functions (except for Fire Station No. 2) currently taking place at the existing City Hall located at 3300 Newport Boulevard to the proposed project site. The proposed project site is located in the City between Avocado Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard. The proposed project includes eight primary components, including: (1) construction and operation of an approximately 98,000-square-foot (sf) City Hall administration building, Community Room, and Council Chambers; (2) a 450-space parking structure; (3) an approximately 17,000 sf expansion of the Newport Beach Central Library (Library); (4) a dedicated 4,800 sf Emergency Operations Center (EOC); (5) a Civic Green; (6) construction of a 14.3-acre public park that includes a dog park, wetlands area, bridges over the wetlands, lookouts, and a pedestrian overcrossing over San Miguel Drive; (7) widening of San Miguel Drive; and (8) reuse of the existing City Hall structures located at 3300 Newport Boulevard with public facilities uses.

The DEIR examines the potential impacts generated by the proposed project in relation to the following Environmental Analysis Checklist categories: Land Use and Planning, Traffic and Circulation, Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Global Climate Change, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Population, Housing, and Employment, Public Services, Utilities and Service Systems, and Recreation. The project site is not listed as a hazardous waste site under Government Code Section 65962.5. The proposed project would result in significant unavoidable adverse impacts related to construction air quality and global climate change.

The purpose of this notice is to inform local residents, institutions, agencies, and other interested parties about the availability of the DEIR during the public comment period (September 1–October 15, 2009). Written comments on the DEIR must be submitted no later than October 15, 2009, to the address below.

