

18 Public Health

Introduction

According to the 2014 *CEQR Technical Manual*, public health is the organized effort of society to protect and improve the health and well-being of the population through monitoring; assessment and surveillance; health promotion; prevention of disease, injury, disorder, disability, and premature death; and reducing inequalities in health status. Most actions do not require an analysis of public health. A public health assessment may be warranted if an unmitigated, significant, adverse impact is identified in other relevant CEQR analysis areas, such as air quality, water quality, hazardous materials, or noise.

Air quality, water quality, noise, and hazardous materials impact assessments were performed for the Proposed Actions based on a comparison of the development of the four prototypical analysis sites under the No Action scenario with the With Action scenario. Because the analyses identified the potential for significant, adverse impacts related to hazardous materials, a public health screening analysis for hazardous materials is warranted.

Principal Conclusions

The Proposed Actions would not result in significant, adverse impacts related to public health. As described in preceding chapters of this EIS, the Proposed Actions would not result in significant, adverse impacts related to air quality, water quality, or noise from the incremental development that would occur on each of the four prototypical analysis sites. The Proposed Actions would potentially result in significant, adverse impacts related to hazardous materials because of increased ground disturbance; therefore, a screening analysis was conducted. The screening analysis concludes that, while the Proposed Actions could result in unmitigated, significant, adverse impacts related to hazardous materials from the potential for additional ground disturbance, the potential for these impacts to occur is expected to be limited and would not significantly affect public health. Therefore, further analysis is not

needed, and adverse public health impacts are not expected as a result of the Proposed Actions.

Screening Analysis

The Proposed Actions are not intended to induce development where it otherwise would not have been possible. The extent of effects of hazardous materials are unknown because of the generic nature of the Proposed Actions, and because it is not possible to determine exactly where and to what extent additional ground disturbance may occur. Removing certain discretionary actions and instituting underlying lot coverage regulations may increase the amount of ground disturbance on certain sites. Without an assessment of a specific development site, the absence of hazardous materials cannot be definitively demonstrated. As such, the possibility of impacts related to hazardous materials cannot be eliminated. However, the extent of the potential impact is expected to be limited.

As noted in **Chapter 10**, *Hazardous Materials*, a hazardous materials impact would only occur in potentially contaminated areas and would depend on the location, depth, and extent of excavation and grading activities. The potential for additional ground disturbance is limited, and potential impacts are not expected to be sufficiently large or widespread to raise the potential for significant, adverse public health impacts.

Conclusion

As discussed in **Chapter 11**, *Water and Sewer Infrastructure*, **Chapter 17**, *Noise*; and **Chapter 15**, *Air Quality*, no significant, adverse impacts have been identified for the Proposed Actions with respect to water quality, noise, and air quality. The potential for significant, adverse impacts related to hazardous materials is expected to be limited and would not affect public health. Therefore, the Proposed Actions do not warrant a public health analysis and would not cause an adverse public health impact.