CHAPTER 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The *Draft Environmental Impact Report, Revised Foresthill Divide Community Plan*, dated November 2007, was prepared to disclose, analyze, and provide mitigation measures for all potentially significant environmental effects associated with implementation of the proposed Foresthill Divide Community Plan in Placer County. Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is a requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for all discretionary projects in California that have a potential to result in significant environmental impacts. As required under CEQA, the Draft EIR (EIR) was published and circulated for review and comment by responsible and trustee agencies and interested members of the public.

CEQA requires that a Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) be prepared, certified, and considered by public decision-makers prior to taking action on a project. The Final EIR provides the Lead Agency (i.e., County of Placer) an opportunity to respond to comments received on the Draft EIR during the public review period and to incorporate any additions or revisions to the Draft EIR necessary to clarify or supplement information contained in the Draft document.

It should be noted for clarification purposes that in both the Draft EIR and this Final EIR, the references to the Forest Ranch Concept Plan relate to the information contained in Appendix E of the Revised Foresthill Divide Community Plan.

1.2 SCOPE AND FORMAT

This document includes this section, <u>Introduction</u>, providing background and outlining the purpose, scope and format of the Final EIR. Chapter 2.0 explains the public review process and lists all agencies and individuals who commented on the Draft EIR. Chapter 3.0 consists of the actual letters of comment, reproduced in their entirety, and the responses to each written comment received on the Draft EIR. These responses are intended to supplement or clarify information contained in the Draft EIR, as appropriate, based on the comments and additional research or updated information. Additions to the Draft EIR are shown in <u>underline</u> and deletions shown in <u>strikeout</u> format. Each response follows the associated letter or document. Each letter and document has been numbered (e.g., Letter 1, Letter 2). Within each letter or document, individual comments are assigned an alphanumeric identification. For example, the first comment of Letter 1 is Comment 1-A, and the second is Comment 1-B. Chapter 4.0 is a Mitigation Monitoring Plan to ensure that mitigation measures contained in the EIR are implemented. Chapter 5.0 contains the Draft EIR pages that have been revised in response to the comments received.