

## Foreword\*

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The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center (NTC) Strategic Vision was certified as complete by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), as lead agency under City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR), and issued for public review and comment on January 3, 2013. A public hearing on the DEIS was held on April 24, 2013 concurrently with the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) public hearing held by the New York City Planning Commission (CPC) at Spector Hall, 22 Reade Street, New York, NY 10007. Oral and written comments were accepted at that hearing and throughout the public comment period, which was held open until 5:00 PM on Monday, May 6, 2013.

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) reflects changes subsequent to publishing the DEIS, which include the following:

- **Replacement Park Land.** In response to comments made during the review process, the City and USTA have agreed that USTA will surrender 1.56 acres of its currently alienated and leased land in order to provide replacement park land.
- **Tree Replacement.** The DEIS disclosed the findings of a preliminary tree survey, which has since been refined and revised. The FEIS has been updated to note that approximately 349 trees would be affected, two of which are dead. USTA is working with DPR's Forestry Division to minimize the number of trees that would be removed and not replanted and has currently identified approximately 45 of the 347 living trees that would be replanted in place or transplanted. The other approximately 302 affected trees are being evaluated. Under a worst case scenario those approximately 302 trees would be removed and not replanted. However, some of these trees are expected to be determined by DPR to be suitable for transplant. Trees that could not be transplanted would be replaced pursuant to City regulations.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).** The DEIS noted that a determination was necessary by the US Department of the Interior, National Parks Service (NPS) as to whether any approval was required in connection with LWCF Act program requirements due to previously funded improvements to Flushing Meadows Corona Park. The FEIS has been updated to note that NPS has determined that no approval is required in connection with LWCF Act program requirements because the NTC is used, and would continue to be used, consistent with LWCF requirements.
- **Chapter 8, "Hazardous Materials."** The chapter has been updated to note that the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) has approved a Subsurface (Phase II) Investigation Work Plan, to determine whether past or present, on or off-site activities have affected subsurface conditions.

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\* This Foreword is new to the FEIS.

## **USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center Strategic Vision**

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- Chapter 20, “Construction.” The chapter has been updated with minor revisions to the construction schedule for the proposed project. The construction trip generation estimates have also been updated.

These changes would not alter the findings of the DEIS and would not result in any new significant adverse impacts to the environment. In addition to these changes, the FEIS summarizes the comments made during the public review period and provides responses in a new chapter, Chapter 21, “Response to Comments.” Revisions to other chapters are indicated by ~~strikethroughs~~ and double underlines.