Chapter 18: Public Health

Public health is the effort of society to protect and improve the health and well-being of its population. As described in Chapter 1, "Project Description," the applicants, the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) and SJC 33 Owner 2015 LLC, are proposing a series of discretionary actions (the proposed actions) that would facilitate the redevelopment of St. John's Terminal Building at 550 Washington Street (Block 596, Lot 1) (the development site) with a mix of residential and commercial uses, and public open space (the proposed project) in Manhattan Community District 2. The 2014 *City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual* defines as its goal with respect to public health "to determine whether adverse impacts on public health may occur as a result of a proposed project, and if so, to identify measures to mitigate such effects."

According to the *CEQR Technical Manual*, for most proposed projects, a public health analysis is not necessary. Where no significant unmitigated adverse impact is found in other CEQR analysis areas, such as air quality, water quality, hazardous materials, or noise, no public health analysis is warranted. If an unmitigated significant adverse impact is identified in one of these analysis areas, the lead agency may determine that a public health assessment is warranted for that specific technical area.

As described in the relevant analyses of this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), upon completion of construction, the proposed actions would not result in significant adverse impacts in any of the technical areas related to public health. However, as discussed in Chapter 20, "Construction," the proposed actions have the potential to result in temporary unmitigated significant adverse air quality and noise impacts during construction. Between the DEIS and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), detailed analyses will be conducted to quantify the levels of construction air quality concentrations and noise levels that may occur at project elements should they be completed and occupied during construction on one or more of the other project buildings. Based on the results of these analyses, the FEIS will include a consideration of practicable and feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate the impacts. If these potential impacts cannot be mitigated, the lead agency will make a determination as to whether a public health assessment is warranted for inclusion in the FEIS. ✷