

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

### 4.1 Regional Setting

The City of Beaumont and its Sphere of Influence (SOI), collectively referred to as the Planning Area is located in the northwestern portion of Riverside County (County), and is bounded by the City of Calimesa to the northwest, unincorporated areas of the County to the west, unincorporated County areas (e.g., Cherry Valley) to the north, unincorporated County areas and the City of San Jacinto to the south, and by the City of Banning to the east. The Planning Area encompasses approximately 41 square miles (26,371 acres). Major transportation routes through the Planning Area include the Interstate 10 (I-10) freeway, State Route 60 (SR-60) freeway, and State Route 79 (SR-79) freeway. The I-10 and SR-60 freeways generally run in an east-west direction. The SR-79 freeway starts where the I-10 and SR-60 freeways merge and runs in a north-south direction (**Figure 3-1, Regional Map**).

The Planning Area includes land within the existing City (approximately 19,188 acres) and within the SOI which includes unincorporated areas outside the current City limits (approximately 7,373 acres). (Refer to **Figure 3-2, Project Vicinity**). Land uses within the City's Planning Area includes undeveloped, developing, and developed properties. At this time, the City is not aware of any planned development within its SOI nor is the City seeking annexation of land within the SOI into its current jurisdiction. Nonetheless, the SOI is included in the Planning Area of the Beaumont 2040 Plan.

### 4.2 Notice of Preparation and Baseline

The Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Project was distributed on March 9, 2018, which is the baseline year for purposes of this Draft PEIR.

### 4.3 Local Setting

Data regarding the existing conditions of the Planning Area was collected, analyzed, and presented in the *Existing Conditions Report, City of Beaumont General Plan Update*. This report, which is incorporated by reference and included as Appendix B to the Draft PEIR. The *Existing Conditions Report* is organized as follows.

**Our Community:** Provides an overview of the existing demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the City. It uses U.S. Census data, City and County data, and other sources to provide a big picture analysis of the current social context within the City. This chapter also includes information about environmental justice and health conditions in Beaumont, including levels of ozone, chronic disease, and physical activity

**Our Local Market:** Summarizes existing trends and projections related to market and economic conditions in the City. It identified types of jobs and employers across the region.

**Our City:** Provides an overview of existing land use and development across the City; a summary of development patterns and development opportunity areas in the City; and an overview of City structure.

**How We Get Around:** Identifies the existing circulation network and transportation facilities, including roadways, sidewalks, trails, transit facilities, and bicycle facilities.

**Our Community Services:** Provides an overview of park, library, and school facilities in the City, in addition to water, solid waste collection and diversion, and wastewater treatment.

**Safety:** Provides an overview of fire and police services and a summary of hazards such as wildfires, earthquakes, and measured noise levels.

**Our Natural Resources:** Provides an inventory of existing habitat and special status species and existing conditions regarding air quality.

In addition to information contained in the *Existing Conditions Report*, the Beaumont 2040 Plan also contains information regarding, among other topics, existing land use, the bicycle network, population and demographics, groundwater, housing, utilities, schools and parks, relevant regional plans, provision of public safety services, and geologic features.

Draft PEIR sections 5.1 through 5.20 provides additional, more specific information regarding the Planning Area's current environmental and regulatory setting pertaining to the following issues:

- Section 5.1 – Aesthetics
- Section 5.2 – Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Section 5.3 – Air Quality
- Section 5.4 – Biological Resources
- Section 5.5 – Cultural Resources
- Section 5.6 – Geology and Soils
- Section 5.7 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Section 5.8 – Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Section 5.9 – Hydrology and Water Quality
- Section 5.10 – Land Use and Planning
- Section 5.11 – Mineral Resources
- Section 5.12 – Noise
- Section 5.13 – Population and Housing
- Section 5.14 – Public Services
- Section 5.15 – Recreation
- Section 5.16 – Transportation and Traffic
- Section 5.17 – Tribal Cultural Resources
- Section 5.18 – Utilities and Service Systems
- Section 5.19 – Energy
- Section 5.20 - Wildfire

Readers are directed to refer to each analysis section of the above Draft PEIR sections for detailed discussions of the environmental setting relative to each environmental topic analyzed.