

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FOR A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE
6TH CYCLE 2021-2029 HOUSING ELEMENT**

DATE: July 1, 2021

OFFICIAL NOTICE is hereby given of the completion and availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the City of Santa Monica's 2021-2029 Housing Element (or Housing Element Update) located in the City of Santa Monica (City). The Draft EIR has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

PROJECT LOCATION: The City of Santa Monica is located in Los Angeles County along the coast of the Pacific Ocean. The City is surrounded on three sides by the City of Los Angeles, including the westside communities of Brentwood, Mar Vista, Pacific Palisades, Venice and West Los Angeles. The City comprises approximately 5,280 acres (approximately 8.25 square miles). See Figure 1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Since 1969, California has required that all local governments (cities and counties) adequately plan to meet the housing needs of everyone in the community. One of the required elements of a General Plan is the Housing Element. California State law requires that communities prepare and update the Housing Element every eight years. The Housing Element serves as the City's guide for addressing the housing needs of all segments of Santa Monica's population. Housing needs are determined by the California Housing and Community Department (HCD), who decides what the numerical housing targets should be for each regional council of governments. Each council of government across the state then further allocates the regional housing number (known as the Regional Housing Needs Allocation – or RHNA) to every city and county within its jurisdiction. The RHNA is a targeted housing number - Cities and counties must plan for the RHNA and show that under current land use and development standards, there is capacity to accommodate for this number of housing. For the proposed 6th Cycle 2021-2029 Housing Element, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has determined that the City's draft RHNA allocation is 8,895 units, more than 5 times than the last cycle. The significant increase in the City's RHNA housing number is indicative of the severity of the current housing crisis. As part of the proposed 2021-2029 Housing Element, Santa Monica must demonstrate to the State that there is available capacity within its jurisdictional boundaries to meet its targeted RHNA number. Per State requirements, the City's 2021-2029 Housing Element has been drafted and available online at www.santamonica.gov/housing-element-update. The Housing Element Update includes the following components:

- A detailed analysis of the City's demographic, economic and housing characteristics.
- An analysis of the barriers to producing and preserving housing.
- A review of the City's progress in implementing current housing policies and programs.
- An identification of goals, objectives, and policies, in addition to a full list of programs that will implement the vision of the plan.
- A list of sites (aka the Suitable Sites Inventory) that could accommodate new housing, demonstrating the City's ability to meet the quantified housing number established in the RHNA.

The proposed 6th Cycle Housing Element must be certified by the State Department of Housing and Community Development no later than October 15, 2021.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ANALYZED: The Draft EIR analyzed potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Housing Element Update

- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Population/Housing
- Public Services
- Transportation/Circulation
- Tribal Cultural Services
- Utilities
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

The EIR identified potentially significant impacts associated with Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Noise, Public Services, Transportation, and Utilities. The Draft EIR does not focus on any specific projects that may be implemented pursuant to the proposed Housing Element Update.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: A minimum 45-day public review period will be provided for all interested persons to submit comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIR. **The comment period will start on July 1, 2021 and end at 5:30 p.m. on August 16, 2021.** Written comments should be sent to:

Rachel Kwok, Environmental Planner
City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, #3205
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Email: Rachel.kwok@santamonica.gov

On August 4, 2021, a Planning Commission meeting will be held to review the Draft EIR. Please check the Planning Commission webpage regularly for the latest information on meeting details:
<https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Planning-Commission/>

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: Please go to the City's webpage <https://www.santamonica.gov/housing-element-update> for the Draft EIR and associated draft Housing Element (including background on the Housing Element, State requirements, anticipated project schedule, notification lists). A hardcopy of the Draft EIR may be reviewed in person by appointment only at City Hall East at 1685 Main Street in Santa Monica.

ESPAÑOL: Este es un aviso de que la Ciudad está preparando un informe que describe los posibles efectos ambientales de un plan de vivienda, que puede ser de su interés. Para más información, llame a Carmen Gutiérrez al 310 458 8341.

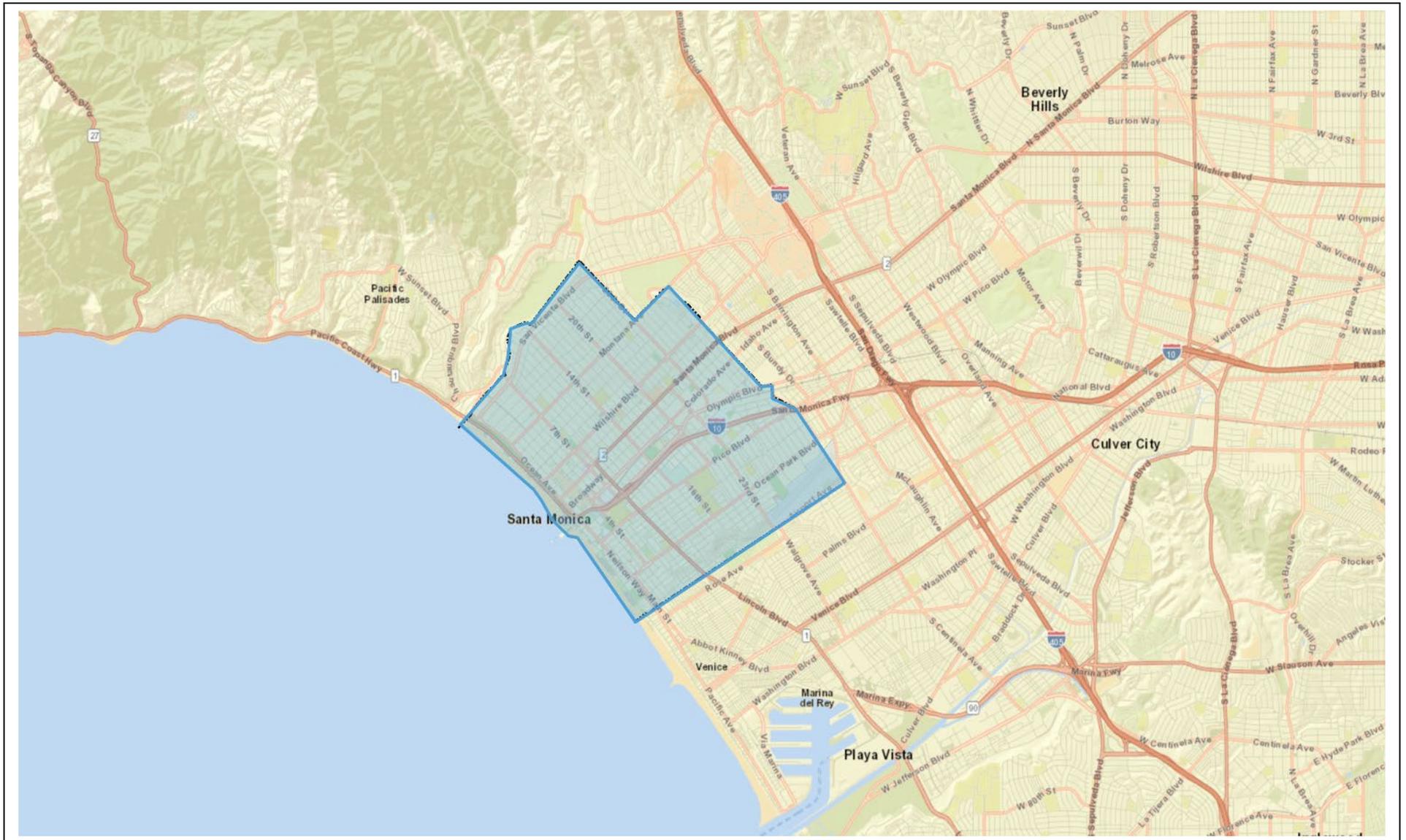


Figure 1: Project Map - City of Santa Monica Boundaries