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PUBLIC NOTICE

Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Notice of Completion)

Date: May 19th, 2021

To: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Interested Parties

From: City of McFarland

Project Title: McFarland 2040 General Plan Update

State Clearinghouse Number: 2021040288

Lead Agency: City of McFarland, CA

Project Location: City of McFarland, CA

Staff Contact: McFarland City Manager, Maria Lara

Address: 401 West Kern Ave, McFarland, CA 93250

Email: mlara@mcfarlandcity.org

Introduction

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is a statute that requires state and local agencies to identify the potential environmental impacts of a project and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible. A public agency must comply with CEQA when it undertakes an activity defined by CEQA as a "project," such as a General Plan Update. The City of McFarland is the lead agency and has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the McFarland 2040 General Plan Update.

Pursuant to CEQA, the McFarland 2040 General Plan Update's DEIR identifies potential environmental impacts and feasible measures to mitigate those impacts. The preparation of an EIR includes specific time periods for public notice and comment. We are requesting your input on the DEIR. The project description and location are listed below. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent as early as possible, but no later than 45 days after the DEIR is posted for public availability. Please send your response to:

McFarland City Manager, Maria Lara, at 401 West Kern Ave, McFarland, CA 93250.

Or by email to: mlara@mcfarlandcity.org

Copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Report and the McFarland 2040 General Plan are accessible online at: https://www.mcfarlandcity.org/DocumentCenter/View/2302/Vol3_DEIR_05-16-2021. Printed copies may be available for review at City Hall and the Public Library subject to public health guidelines.

Project Location

The City of McFarland is in Kern County between Bakersfield, about 25 miles to the south, and Delano, about 7 miles to the north. Highway 99, which connects the City to the wider Central Valley region, bisects the City into east and west sides. Agricultural fields surround McFarland, framing the built environment and defining its rural character. Beyond its eastern sphere of influence, the Sierra Nevada mountains provide a backdrop to the City.

Project Description

The proposed project is a comprehensive update of the City's 1998 General Plan. California law requires cities and counties to adopt a General Plan to guide future development. The General Plan is the foundation upon which all land use decisions are to be based. The Draft McFarland 2040 General Plan accommodates new housing and jobs in anticipation of population growth in the City, County, and the region through the year 2040. The General Plan includes thirteen elements: Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Noise, Safety, Environmental Justice, Air Quality, Economic Development, Public Facilities & Service, Community Design, Health, and Sustainable Agriculture.

The EIR prepared for the proposed General Plan Update is a "Program EIR." According to the CEQA Handbook Article 11 Section 15168. A program level EIR evaluates the implications of environmental effects resulting from the adoption of a planning document, such as a general plan, which provides direction for long-term visioning and broad community goals. Additional environmental review pursuant to CEQA guidelines may be required for site-specific projects, such as those requiring discretionary approval. Such environmental review may be in the form of initial studies, negative declarations, mitigated negative declarations, or the preparation of a project-level EIR.

Public Meeting

Depending on public health restrictions, a public meeting on this Draft EIR and related matters will be scheduled by the City in June 2021, from 5 PM to 8:00 PM virtually or in the City Council Chamber, City Hall, 401 West Kern Ave, McFarland, CA 93250. Public comments will be accepted from **May 20th, 2021 to July 7th, 2021**. Comments received at the public hearing and in writing will be responded to in the Responses to Comments section of the EIR document.

The purpose of this public meeting is to give citizens and stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the proposed General Plan Update and associated Draft EIR. Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public meeting and need assistance should contact Francisca Alvarado, City Clerk, at 661.792-3091, no later than May 31, 2021. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for these persons. If you are unable to attend the public meeting, you may direct written comments to the City of McFarland, City Manager, 401 West Kern Ave, McFarland, CA 93250 or Francisca Alvarado, City Clerk, (falvarado@mcfarlandcity.org). In addition, general information on the General Plan Update and Draft EIR is available for your inspection at the above office address between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. This notice is posted in accordance with the provisions of the California Government Code, Title 7, Chapter 65000, as amended.