

Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Date: April 9, 2021

Project Title: Hollister General Plan Update 2040, Climate Action Plan, and Sphere of Influence Amendments and Annexations EIR

CEQA Document: Notice of Preparation

State Clearinghouse Number:

Lead Agency: City of Hollister

Lead Agency Contact Name: Abraham Prado, Interim Development Services Director

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Project Location (City and County): City of Hollister, San Benito County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences):

Hollister’s existing General Plan was adopted in 2005, with a horizon year of 2023. Since the horizon year is approaching, the City is now updating its plan to extend the planning period to 2040. The Hollister General Plan Update will build off the current General Plan and provide a framework for land use, transportation, and conservation decisions through the year 2040. The proposed General Plan will direct future growth within the EIR Study Area and address the city’s vulnerability to environmental challenges such as earthquakes, wildland fires, and other hazards identified in the proposed Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Climate Action Plan to be completed concurrently with the General Plan Update. The General Plan is intended to respond to local and regional housing needs, foster economic growth and local job creation, enhance civic identity and placemaking, and protect sensitive natural resources. The proposed Climate Action Plan (CAP) will identify strategies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated by existing and potential future uses in Hollister. The General Plan Update could potentially lead to Sphere of Influence amendments and annexations that would accommodate future housing sites and limited commercial development.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect:

The Draft EIR will determine whether implementation of the proposed project may result in environmental impacts that require mitigation measures to offset potential impacts. By incorporating implementation provisions (goals and policies) that focus on reducing environmental impacts, the proposed project can be made largely “self-mitigating”, which reduces the need for separate EIR mitigation measures, improves the efficiency of implementation, and increases the likelihood that development within the study area will be environmentally sustainable. In accordance with CEQA, the cumulative impacts discussion will be based on review of other plans shaping development outside of the study area. CEQA requires that an EIR evaluate alternatives to a project that could reasonably attain the project objectives while reducing any significant impact of the project, as well as considering the “No Project” Alternative (i.e., what could happen if the project were not approved). The EIR will address the proposed project’s potential impacts in the following environmental topics:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Parks and Recreation
- Transportation
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

If applicable, describe any of the project’s areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public: N/A

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project: N/A