



CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE

Community Development Department
130 South Main Street
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and Section 15072 of the State CEQA Guidelines, a Draft Initial Study/ Negative Declaration (IS/ND; Environmental Review No. 2021-01) has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the below-referenced Project and is available for public review.

Project Name: City of Lake Elsinore 2021-2029 Housing Element and Amendment of City of Lake Elsinore General Plan Chapter 3.0 (Public Safety and Welfare) including updates related to the Safety Element and the addition of new Environmental Justice goals, policies and programs. (Planning Application No. 2021-18/General Plan Amendment No. 2021-01)

Applicant: City of Lake Elsinore

Project Location: The Project encompasses the entire City of Lake Elsinore, California and its Sphere of Influence, which are bordered by the Elsinore Mountains to the west, which is part of the Santa Ana Mountain Range. The City is surrounded by Wildomar to the southeast, unincorporated Riverside County to the west and north, and Menifee and Canyon Lake to the east. The City's planning area (including its sphere of influence) encompasses approximately 72 square miles.

Project Description:

The project consists of three components consisting of:

- The adoption and implementation of the **City of Lake Elsinore 2021-2029 Housing Element**, which represents an update of the City's Housing Element. California law requires an update of the Housing Element every eight years in order to remain relevant and reflective of the community's changing housing needs. California is now entering its sixth cycle, covering a period between 2021 and 2029. The Housing Element is an integral component of the City's General Plan as it addresses existing and future housing needs of all types for persons in all economic segment groups within the City. The Housing Element serves as a tool for decision-makers and the public in understanding and meeting housing needs in Lake Elsinore. While the law does not require local governments to actually construct housing to meet identified needs, it does require that the community address housing needs in its discretionary planning actions such as creating opportunities for housing in the land use plan and facilitating development through policies. To meet this goal, the Housing Element identifies existing vacant or underdeveloped areas already designated by the General Plan Land Use Element to provide for the City's projected housing needs.
- An **update of the General Plan Safety Element** contained in Chapter 3.0 (Public Safety and Welfare) of the City's General Plan pursuant to California Government Code Section 65302(g)(3) which requires that upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2014, the safety element is required to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address the risk of fire for land classified as state responsibility areas and land classified as very high fire hazard severity zones.
- A **new Environmental Justice Element**, which is being incorporated into Chapter 3.0 pursuant to Government Code Section 65302 (h)(1) which requires upon the adoption or next revision of

two or more elements concurrently on or after January 1, 2018 that the City adopt or review the environmental justice element, or the environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives in other elements.

Environmental Effects Anticipated as a Result of the Project

Pursuant to CEQA, the City proposes to adopt a Negative Declaration for the project. Staff has found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment on the basis of the Initial Study.

Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste Sites

In accordance with the disclosure requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15072(g)(5), the housing sites identified in the Housing Element update are not identified on any list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5.

Public Review Period

The City Lake Elsinore is the Lead Agency under CEQA for this project and is holding a 30-day public review period on the Draft IS/ND beginning on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021** and ending on **Friday, September, 17, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.**, during which time responsible agencies, the public, and interested parties are invited to comment on the IS/ND for the proposed project.

The Draft IS/ND is available for review at the following locations:

- City of Lake Elsinore, Community Development Department, 130 South Main Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
- City of Lake Elsinore website at: <http://www.lake-elsinore.org/city-hall/city-departments/community-development/planning/ceqa-documents-available-for-public-review>

Public Hearings

The Planning Commission and City Council hearings on the project will be separately noticed.

Written comments and any questions regarding the project should be directed to:

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