



City of Duarte

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ND) AND NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT/PROJECT: Duarte Housing and Safety Element Update

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING DATE/TIME/LOCATION: Duarte Planning Commission
City Hall Council Chambers, Duarte City Hall
1600 Huntington Drive, Duarte, California 91010
October 18, 2021, 7 PM

PROJECT LOCATION: The Duarte Housing and Safety Element Update (project) applies to the entire geographic area located within the boundaries of the City of Duarte, which encompasses 6.8 square miles. Duarte is located in the San Gabriel Valley Region of Los Angeles County, approximately 21 miles northeast of Los Angeles, and is generally bounded by the San Gabriel Mountains and the City of Bradbury to the north, the City of Azusa to the east, the City of Irwindale to the east and south, and the City of Monrovia to the west. The San Gabriel River and Santa Fe Flood Control Basin abuts Duarte to the east and south. Duarte is bisected by Interstate 210, and the northern portion of the city is located within the Angeles National Forest.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Duarte Housing and Safety Element Update involve an update to the Housing Element of the City of Duarte's General Plan for the 2021-2029 planning period, along with minor updates to the Safety Element, and incorporation of environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives into the City's General Plan. The proposed Housing Element Update establishes programs, policies, and actions to further the goal of meeting the existing and projected housing needs of all household income levels of the community; provides evidence of the City's ability to accommodate the Regional Housing Needs Assessment allocation through the year 2029, as established by the Southern California Association of Governments; and identifies any rezoning program needed to reach the required housing capacity. The Safety Element Update is triggered by various new provisions of State legislation and guidelines, and the environmental justice policies will be added pursuant to the requirements of Senate Bill 1000, the Planning for Healthy Communities Act.

The Housing Element Update provides a framework for accommodating new housing at all levels of affordability within access to transit, downtown jobs, services, and open spaces. New housing units may occur anywhere in the city where residential uses are permitted, as well as in areas that may be rezoned in the future to allow for multi-family residential uses and mixed uses of adequate density to meet affordability targets. Through its identification of sites for future development and implementing housing programs, the updated Housing Element will lay the foundation for achievement of the City's fair share housing needs and will facilitate the development of up to 2,141 additional units.

The Safety Element Update will ensure consistency with the Housing Element Update and comply with recent State legislation and guidelines (including Assembly Bill 162, Senate Bill 1241, Senate Bill 99, Assembly Bill 747, Senate Bill 1035, and Senate Bill 379). Amendments incorporate updated data and maps regarding key areas of the element, address vulnerability to climate change, and incorporate goals from the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Key areas of the Duarte Safety Element include seismic and geologic hazards, flooding, and fire hazards, as well as emergency response and preparedness especially as they relate to the City's projected climate change exposure, and vulnerability. As mandated under Senate Bill 1000, the Safety Element Update considers strategies to reduce pollution exposure, promote public facilities, promote food access, promote safe and sanitary homes, promote physical activity, reduce unique or compounded health risks, promote civic engagement, and prioritize the needs of disadvantaged communities. The Safety Element amendments will be submitted to the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for review.

Senate Bill 1000 states that revisions or adoption of two or more elements of a general plan on or after January 1, 2018 trigger a requirement to "adopt or review the Environmental Justice Element, or the environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives in other elements." Environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives must aim to reduce health risks to disadvantaged communities, promote civil engagement, and prioritize the needs of these communities. These updates focus on the inclusion of disadvantaged communities in decision making procedures as well as increasing protections for these communities.

PROJECT APPLICANT: City of Duarte

LEAD AGENCY: City of Duarte, 1600 Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA 91010

**ENVIRONMENTAL
INFORMATION:**

An Initial Study/Negative Declaration was prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The City invites you to comment on the Negative Declaration. The 38-day public review period begins on September 11, 2021, and ends on October 18, 2021.

Written comments must be received by October 18, 2021 to Ms. Maia McCurley, Associate Planner, City of Duarte, Community Development Department, 1600 Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA 91010, or via email at mmccurley@accessduarte.com.

Copies of the Initial Study/Negative Declaration are available for public review at the following locations:

- City of Duarte – Community Development Department, 1600 Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA 91010
- Duarte Library, 1301 Buena Vista Street, Duarte, CA 91010
- City of Duarte – Public Safety Office, 1042 Huntington Drive, Duarte, CA 91010

**FURTHER
INFORMATION:**

To obtain further information about the project, please contact Maia McCurley, Associate Planner at the City of Duarte Community Development Department at (626) 357-7931 ext. 239 or via e-mail at mmccurley@accessduarte.com.



Maia McCurley
Associate Planner

Dated: September 10, 2021