



Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY 2045 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

PROJECT TITLE: Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan

PROJECT LOCATION: Unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (County), acting as the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), completed a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan (2045 CAP). The County has prepared this Notice of Availability (NOA) to consult with and request comments from responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and other interested parties regarding the environmental analyses presented in the DEIR. The DEIR is being circulated for review and comment by appropriate agencies, as well as organizations and individuals who have requested notification.

PROJECT LOCATION

Unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. See **Project Vicinity Map** below.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Approval of the Draft 2045 CAP would require an amendment to the *Los Angeles County General Plan 2035* (General Plan) to replace the *Unincorporated Los Angeles County Community Climate Action Plan 2020* (2020 CCAP), an implementing component of the General Plan's Air Quality Element.

The Draft 2045 CAP includes the following:

- An updated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory for 2018.
- New emissions forecasts for 2030, 2035, and 2045.
- New GHG emissions targets for 2030 and 2035, and an aspirational goal of carbon neutrality for 2045.
- A revised suite of GHG emissions reduction strategies, measures, and actions in response to public comments to be more clear, specific, feasible, and quantifiable.
- A technical modeling appendix to explain the Draft 2045 CAP's GHG emissions reduction estimates.

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- A consideration of environmental justice and equity concerns.
- A new development review consistency checklist to allow projects to streamline CEQA compliance by using the Draft 2045 CAP, per CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5.

From Executive Order S-3-05, which expressed the intent of the State of California in 2005 to address the issue of climate change through reducing GHGs, to AB 32 and other more recent legislative and other governmental actions, two things are clear: (i) preventing or mitigating climate change is a key component of the state's sustainable future, and (ii) local governments play a key role in reducing communitywide emissions with their control over local land use planning. In 2016, for example, Senate Bill (SB) 32 and its companion bill, AB 197, established a new statewide GHG emissions reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and included provisions to ensure that the benefits of state climate policies accrue to disadvantaged communities.

While several initiatives at the state level will help reduce GHG emissions, they alone will not be sufficient to meet the 2030 target mandated by SB 32. The County is preparing the Draft 2045 CAP in response to the state's efforts, with the following goals:

- Implement the GHG emissions reduction strategies of the Air Quality Element of the General Plan.
- Ensure that the County contributes its fair share to statewide GHG emissions reductions.

With these goals in mind, the objectives of the Draft 2045 CAP are as follows:

- (1) Identify appropriate GHG emissions reduction targets that closely align with state and local climate goals.
- (2) Provide a road map to achieve GHG reductions to meet the GHG emissions reduction targets.
- (3) Encourage sustainable housing production at all levels of affordability, including increasing housing densities near transit to the extent allowed in the General Plan.
- (4) Demonstrate a level of GHG emissions below which the County would have less than cumulatively considerable GHG impacts for future environmental review projects and provide CEQA streamlining for development projects (serve as a "qualified CAP") via a Draft 2045 CAP Consistency Checklist.
- (5) Implement climate action policies of the General Plan (which are summarized in Section 2.2.1, *Relationship to the Los Angeles County General Plan*, in Chapter 2, *Project Description*).

LIST OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ANTICIPATED AS A RESULT OF THE PROJECT

The Project, as a result of projects facilitated by Draft 2045 CAP measures and actions, would have the following significant impacts:

- **Aesthetics:** The Project, as a result of projects facilitated by Draft 2045 CAP measures and actions would: have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista; be visible from or obstruct views from a regional riding, hiking, or multiuse trail; substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway; substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views

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of the site and its surroundings because of height, bulk, pattern, scale, character, or other features and/or conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality; and create a new source of substantial shadows, light, or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

- **Agriculture and Forestry:** The Project, as a result of projects facilitated by Draft 2045 CAP measures and actions, would: convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use; conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, with a designated Agricultural Resource Area, or with a Williamson Act contract; and involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.
- **Air Quality:** The Project, as a result of projects facilitated by Draft 2045 CAP measures and actions, would: conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan; result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of a criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard; potentially expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; and contribute to a significant cumulative impact to air quality associated with TAC emissions.
- **Biological Resources:** The Project, as a result of projects facilitated by Draft 2045 CAP measures and actions, would: have a substantial adverse indirect impact (i.e., through habitat modifications) on one or more species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS; have a substantial adverse impact on sensitive natural communities (e.g., riparian habitat, coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, non-jurisdictional wetlands) identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by CDFW or USFWS; have a substantial adverse impact on state or federally protected wetlands through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means; and interfere substantially with the movement of native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.
- **Cultural Resources:** The Project, as a result of projects facilitated by Draft 2045 CAP measures and actions, would: cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5; cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5; directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature; and disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.
- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** The Project, as a result of projects facilitated by Draft 2045 CAP measures and actions, would: create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials or waste into the environment; emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25-mile of sensitive land uses; and impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- **Hydrology and Water Quality:** The Project, as a result of projects facilitated by Draft 2045 CAP measures and actions, would, in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation.

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- **Noise:** The Project, as a result of projects facilitated by Draft 2045 CAP measures and actions, would: generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies; and generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.
- **Transportation:** The Project, as a result of projects facilitated by Draft 2045 CAP measures and actions, would: conflict with an applicable program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities; and substantially increase hazards due to a road design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment).
- **Tribal Cultural Resources:** The Project, as a result of projects facilitated by Draft 2045 CAP measures and actions, would: cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, or of a resource determined by the County, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(c).
- **Utilities and Service Systems:** The Project, as a result of projects facilitated by Draft 2045 CAP measures and actions, would: require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects.
- **Wildfire:** The Project, as a result of projects facilitated by Draft 2045 CAP measures and actions, would: substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment; and expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RELEASE SITES

Various sites in unincorporated Los Angeles County are identified on lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code, including known contamination sites identified in the EnviroStor database that need further investigation (i.e., 149 school investigation and school cleanup sites, 165 state response sites, 18 federal Superfund sites, and 370 voluntary cleanup sites) and hazardous materials sites identified in the GeoTracker database as having the potential to affect groundwater quality (i.e., 7,528 leaking underground storage tank sites).

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

In accordance with Section 15105 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the County has scheduled a 45-day public review period for the DEIR. **The formal public review will start on May 25, 2022, and end on July 8, 2022.**

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please submit written comments on the DEIR no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 8, 2022.

Please send by mail to the following address:
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
Attn: Thuy Hua
320 W. Temple Street, 13th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

For email submittal of your comment letter, send to: climate@planning.lacounty.gov

All written comment letters/emails will be included in an appendix in the Final EIR and responded to in the Response to Comments section of the final document.

AVAILABILITY OF MATERIALS

A digital copy of the DEIR will be posted on the project website at <https://planning.lacounty.gov/site/climate/los-angeles-county-cap/> on or before May 25, 2022. A printed copy of the DEIR is available for public review by appointment during normal business hours at the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning's headquarter office (320 W Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012).

To ensure additional public access to the DEIR, printed copies of the document (with electronic copies of all appendices) will be available for review at the following County libraries starting May 25, 2022:

- AC Bilbrew Library
150 E El Segundo Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90061
- Acton Agua Dulce Library
33792 Crown Valley Rd
Acton, CA 93510
- Charter Oak Library
20540 E Arrow Highway Suite K
Covina, CA 91724
- East Los Angeles Library
4837 E 3rd St
Los Angeles, CA 90022
- Hacienda Heights Library
16010 La Monde St
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
- La Crescenta Library
2809 Foothill Blvd
La Crescenta, CA 91214
- Stevenson Ranch Library
25950 The Old Road
Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381
- Topanga Library
122 N Topanga Canyon Blvd
Topanga, CA 90290

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PROJECT VICINITY MAP

