

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

RECIRCULATED DRAFT PROGRAM 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 (PEIR) for the Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan (2045 CAP) in May 2022. After the July 2022 conclusion of the comment period for the Draft PEIR, the County elected to revise the Draft 2045 CAP in response to public and other input received, and to transition the 2045 CAP's aspirational goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 into a target consistent with new legislation, Assembly Bill (AB) 1279, which was enacted in September 2022 after the close of the Draft PEIR comment period. The County prepared a Recirculated Draft PEIR, which analyzes changes in the project made after the issuance of the Draft PEIR and which wholly replaces the Draft PEIR that was issued in May 2022.

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 Recirculated Draft PEIR.

PROJECT LOCATION

Unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Draft 2045 CAP (Project) is the County's plan towards meeting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets for unincorporated Los Angeles County by the years of 2030, 2035, and 2045. It was developed with the goals of implementing the GHG emissions reduction policies of the General Plan Air Quality Element and ensuring 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 detailed programs, actions, and performance goals to achieve the climate action policies of the General Plan.
- (2) Identify GHG emissions reduction targets tailored to the unincorporated County that closely align with state and County climate goals.
- (3) Provide a road map for reducing GHG emissions to achieve the County's GHG emissions reduction targets.

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- (4) Encourage sustainable housing production at all levels of affordability, including increasing housing densities near transit to the extent allowed in the General Plan.
- (5) 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 the 2045 CAP Consistency Review Checklist.

The Draft 2045 CAP includes the following:

- A greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory for 2018.
- Emissions forecasts for 2030, 2035, and 2045.
- GHG emissions targets for 2030, 2035, and 2045.
- A long-term aspirational goal for carbon neutrality by 2045.
- A suite of GHG emissions reduction strategies, measures, and actions to reduce GHG emissions from major sectors.
- A technical modeling appendix to explain the Draft 2045 CAP’s GHG emissions reduction estimates.
- A consideration of environmental justice and equity concerns.
- Implementation and monitoring measures to ensure successful climate action.
- A new development review consistency checklist to allow future projects to streamline GHG emissions analyses pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as anticipated by CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5 by using the 2045 CAP.

Approval of the Draft 2045 CAP would require an amendment to the 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.

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

No changes to General Plan land use designations, zoning, or specific development projects are proposed as part of the Draft 2045 CAP. However, 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 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. The Project would also cause significant cumulative impacts to aesthetics resources.

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- **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 that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. The Project would also cause significant cumulative impacts to agriculture and forestry resources.
- **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; expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations for localized air pollutants and TAC emissions; and contribute to a significant cumulative impact to air quality associated with toxic air contaminant 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 (including, but not limited to, marshes, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, etc.) 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; and convert oak woodlands or other unique native woodlands. The Project would also cause significant cumulative impacts to biological resources.
- **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. The Project would also cause significant cumulative impacts to cultural resources.
- **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. The Project would also cause significant cumulative impacts to hazards and hazardous materials resources.

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- **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. The Project would also cause significant cumulative impacts to hydrology and water quality resources.
- **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. The Project would also cause significant cumulative impacts on noise.
- **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; and substantially increase hazards due to a road design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment). The Project would also cause significant cumulative impacts to transportation resources.
- **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). The Project would also cause significant cumulative impacts to tribal cultural resources.
- **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; and result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments. The Project would also cause significant cumulative impacts to utilities and service systems.
- **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. The Project would also cause significant cumulative wildfire impacts.

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

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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 Recirculated Draft PEIR. **The formal public review will start on March 30, 2023, and end on May 15, 2023.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Recirculated Draft PEIR wholly replaces the Draft PEIR that was issued in May 2022. **Public comments on the May 2022 Draft PEIR will not be responded to in the Final PEIR. New public comments are requested on the Recirculated Draft PEIR, and only these will be responded to in the Final PEIR.** Please submit written comments on the Recirculated Draft PEIR no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 15, 2023.

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 regarding the Recirculated Draft PEIR 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 Recirculated Draft PEIR is available on the project website at <https://planning.lacounty.gov/long-range-planning/climate-action-plan/documents/>. A printed copy of the Recirculated Draft PEIR 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) starting March 30, 2023.

To ensure additional public access to the Recirculated Draft PEIR, printed copies of the document (with electronic copies of all appendices) are available for review during normal hours starting March 30, 2023 at the following County libraries:

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- 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