



City of Anaheim
Planning Department

**Notice of Preparation
Notice of Scoping Meeting**

DATE: February 16, 2022

TO: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Other Public Agencies, Interested Parties, Residents

FROM: City of Anaheim

SUBJECT: **Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meeting for the City of Anaheim General Plan Update Programmatic Environmental Impact Report**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Anaheim (City) will prepare a programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR) for the City of Anaheim General Plan Update project (Proposed Project). The City is the lead agency for the Proposed Project. The purpose of this notice is to: (1) serve as a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a PEIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15082, (2) solicit comments and suggestions regarding the scope and content of the PEIR to be prepared for the Proposed Project, and (3) notice the public scoping meeting.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION: The City determined that the Proposed Project would require preparation of a full-scope PEIR; thus, an Initial Study was not prepared in conjunction with this NOP. Consistent with Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City will prepare a PEIR to address the environmental impacts associated with the project at a programmatic level. The Proposed Project is an update to the City's General Plan, which is a long-range plan consisting of policies that will guide future development activities and City actions. No specific development projects are proposed as part of the Proposed Project. However, the PEIR can serve to streamline environmental review of future projects.

The City of Anaheim, as Lead Agency, requests that responsible and trustee agencies respond in a manner consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b). Pursuant to CEQA Section 21080.4, responsible agencies must submit any comments in response to this notice no later than 30 days after the date of this NOP. Comments in response to this notice must be submitted in writing at the address below by the close of the 30-day NOP review period, **by 5:00 pm on March 18, 2022.**

SCOPING MEETING: The City will hold a virtual public scoping meeting at **6:00 pm on March 2, 2022**, to provide members of the public with an opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions, and provide comments about the scope and content of the information to be addressed in the PEIR. Information can also be found at the following location: <https://www.anaheim.net/6093/General-Plan-Update-PEIR>.

Virtual Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/2wtv6anp>

Project Title: City of Anaheim General Plan Update Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)

Project Applicant: City of Anaheim

Send Responses to: City of Anaheim
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Questions: If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Hwang at (714) 765-4968 or by email to programeir@anaheim.net

Project Location: The project encompasses the City of Anaheim, which is approximately 35 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles and 7 miles north of Santa Ana. The city is surrounded by the cities of Fullerton, Placentia, and Yorba Linda to the north; Riverside County to the east; the cities of Orange, Garden Grove, and Stanton and unincorporated Orange County to the south; and the cities of Cypress and Buena Park to the west. The city encompasses over 32,000 acres of land, stretching nearly 20 miles along State Route 91.

Project Background: State law requires that every local jurisdiction adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan, typically with a 20-year horizon. A general plan represents the community's view of its future and is often referred to as a blueprint for growth and development. State law requires that a general plan contain eight elements: land use, circulation, housing, open space, noise, safety, environmental justice, and conservation. General plans must be periodically updated to respond to new state laws, changing conditions, and emerging issues and opportunities. The purpose of the City of Anaheim General Plan is to create a policy framework that articulates a vision for the city's long-term physical form and development, while preserving and enhancing the quality of life for Anaheim's residents. In 2004, the Anaheim City Council adopted a comprehensive update of the City's General Plan and certified EIR No. 330 as the environmental documentation. Since the 2004 comprehensive update, the City has amended its General Plan 75 times. These amendments continue to follow current General Plan policies and objectives, providing flexibility to enhance and guide development in diverse areas of the city.

In 2014, the Anaheim City Council approved the 2014-2021 Housing Element. This document is one of the eight State-required components of the General Plan. This document assesses the housing needs for the City of Anaheim and plans for the provision of housing at a variety of income levels. The Housing Element includes policy programs that identify specific strategies to meet these housing needs. The City of Anaheim is in the process of updating the sixth cycle housing element for the 2021-2029 planning period to address the City's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) growth allocation of 17,453 housing units. The Housing Element update will require changes to the City's Zoning Code and land use maps.

Proposed Project: The City of Anaheim is in the process of preparing a technical update to parts of its General Plan, which constitutes the Proposed Project. The following element updates and related policy changes are included as part of the Proposed Project:

- **Circulation Element Update:** The Circulation Element identifies the general location and extent of existing and proposed major transportation facilities, including major roadways, passenger and freight rail, transit systems, and bikeways. It also provides policies, programs, actions, and priority transportation networks that support the safe and efficient movement of people driving, walking, biking, and taking transit in Anaheim. The Circulation Element will be updated to reflect changes in transportation needs, new technologies, and other projects, such as the City's 2021-2029 Housing Element. Changes may include, but are not limited to, updates to the policies, technical guidance, and circulation-system networks and classifications.
- **Safety Element Update:** The Safety Element identifies the potential short- and long-term risks of death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social dislocation resulting from fires, floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides, climate change, and other hazards. It identifies hazards and hazard-abatement provisions to guide local decisions related to zoning, subdivisions, and entitlement permits. The City will use the risk assessment and mitigation strategies from the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is currently being updated, to update the Safety Element. The Safety Element will be updated to ensure compliance with state law, as described in Section 65302(g) of the California Government Code, related to wildfire, climate change, and evacuation. The updated element will also address wildfire hazards in greater detail to ensure compliance with SB 1241 due to the presence of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones within the City's Local Responsibility Area.
- **New Environmental Justice Element:** The state law requires local jurisdictions with disadvantaged communities to adopt a new Environmental Justice Element when they are updating two or more elements of their general plan. The Environmental Justice Element will be compliant with all relevant State laws, including California Senate Bill 1000 (2016), by addressing the following seven topics: (1) pollution exposure (including air quality); (2) public facilities; (3) food access; (4) safe and sanitary homes; (5) physical activity; (6) community engagement; and (7) prioritization of improvements and programs addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities.
- **New Climate Action Plan (CAP):** The new CAP will serve as a strategic framework for measuring, planning, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and related climatic impacts in the city.

- **Zoning Code and Land Use Changes:** The 2021-2029 Housing Element and updates to the other General Plan elements, described above, require updates to the City’s Zoning Code, Zoning Map, and the Land Use Element to ensure consistency and allow for future implementation.

In addition, the Proposed Project may amend other General Plan elements to ensure consistency between the elements.

The City will prepare a PEIR to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Project. The City of Anaheim, as lead agency for the project, is responsible for preparing environmental documentation, in accordance with CEQA, to determine if approval of the Proposed Project could have a significant impact on the environment.

Environmental Review: The PEIR will consider whether the implementation provisions of the General Plan Update (i.e., goals, policies, and programs) would reduce environmental impacts, or whether additional mitigation measures would be required to ensure that environmental impacts are reduced to the extent feasible. In accordance with CEQA, the cumulative impacts discussion will be based on review of other plans shaping development outside of the study area. CEQA also 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 Proposed Project was not approved).

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected: The EIR will address the Proposed Project’s potential impacts to the following environmental topics:

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

Attachments:

Figure 1, Regional Location Map