



**COMBINED NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND RELEASE OF A
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS/ FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (Final EIR);
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION TO
THE CITY COUNCIL ON THE CERTIFICATION OF THE EIR FOR THE PHASE I
OAKLAND 2045 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

PROJECT TITLE: Phase I Oakland 2045 General Plan Update
PROJECT LOCATION: Approximately 49,910 acres bound by the physical jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Oakland.
PROJECT SPONSOR: City of Oakland
LEAD AGENCY City of Oakland
CASE NO.: Case File No. GP21002; ZA 23002; GP21002-ER01

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

The Phase I Oakland 2045 General Plan Update includes updates to the City of Oakland Safety Element, adoption of a new Environmental Justice element, and Planning Code, Zoning Map, and General Plan text and map amendments, which serve to implement several actions contained in the City’s recently adopted 2023-2031 Housing Element. Key components are summarized as follows:

Housing Element Implementation (HEI)

To ensure a path for construction of Oakland’s Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) assigned production target by 2031, the Housing Element Implementation (HEI) component of the Project includes adoption of Planning Code, Zoning Map, and General Plan text and map amendments to implement goals, policies, and actions related to housing contained in the Housing Element of the City’s General Plan. The 2023-2031 Housing Element was adopted on January 31, 2023, and contains an updated housing needs assessment, a housing sites inventory that meets the City’s RHNA including a buffer of additional housing development capacity, and a Housing Action Plan (HAP). The HAP is a chapter of the 2023-2031 Housing Element and presents the updated goals, policies, and actions critical to respond to increasing housing pressures in Oakland.

Safety Element Update

The Safety Element Update presents a framework for minimizing risks posed by natural and human-caused hazards that may impact health and welfare. As part of this Project, the City conducted a comprehensive update to the Safety Element that builds on the City’s 2021- 2026 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan; addresses all State requirements including requirements of Assembly Bill 747 (2019) and Senate Bill 99 (2019) regarding evacuation routes as well as Senate Bill 379 (2016) requiring

inclusion of climate adaptation and resiliency strategies; and serves as a central reference point for the City’s efforts to address safety and climate change. The policy development focuses on wildfire, toxic and hazardous materials, seismic risk, flooding, climate change adaptation and resilience, and drought. The Safety Element Update includes actionable strategies for addressing identified critical facility needs and enabling climate-smart development.

Environmental Justice Element

Senate Bill 1000, also referred to as the 2016 Planning for Healthy Communities Act, requires that cities with “disadvantaged communities” or “Environmental Justice Communities (EJ Communities)” adopt environmental justice policies or an Environmental Justice Element as part of its General Plan.¹ The Project includes the City’s first Environmental Justice (EJ) Element with the purpose of addressing the unique or compounded health risks in EJ Communities within the City of Oakland. Building on issues identified in the *Oakland 2045 Environmental Justice and Racial Equity Baseline*, the EJ Element measures include, but are not limited to, measures to improve air quality; and measures to promote public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity. In addition, the element serves to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of these communities.

Changes Since Release of the Draft EIR

In response to comments from the public on the Draft EIR and feedback received from City Planning Staff, since release of the Draft EIR, the City made revisions to the Proposed Project analyzed in the Draft EIR. Specifically, the City revised specific sites included in the proposed Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO) Zone and made specific reductions to the proposed corridor height limit increases to ensure compatibility with the Alameda County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

The City prepared the Draft EIR for the Project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code §§21000 et. seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (*Guidelines*) (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, §§15000 et. seq.). On March 24, 2023, the City of Oakland’s Bureau of Planning issued a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIR. The NOA noticed a 45-day public review and comment period on the Draft EIR, ending on Tuesday May 9, 2023. During that period, public agencies and interested parties were invited to submit written comment on the Draft EIR. During the public review and comment period, a public meeting on the Draft EIR was held by the City of Oakland Planning Commission on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, during which persons could speak their comments on the Draft EIR into the record.

¹ As described in the *Oakland 2045 Environmental Justice and Racial Equity Baseline*, while State law refers to these as “disadvantaged communities,” the City of Oakland has opted to use the term “Environmental Justice Communities or EJ Communities.”

This notice of the Response to Comments (RTC)/Final EIR is being sent to agencies, organizations, and individuals who submitted comments on the Draft EIR during the public review and comment period, as well as other interested parties. The RTC/Final EIR includes written responses to comments received during the public review and comment period, in addition to changes to the Draft EIR proposed in response to public comments or initiated by staff for the Draft EIR. None of the changes to the Draft EIR identified in the RTC/Final EIR meet any of conditions requiring recirculation of any part of this Final EIR, pursuant to CEQA *Guidelines* Section 15088.5. Preparation of the RTC/ Final EIR was overseen by the City's Environmental Review Officer and the conclusions and recommendations in the document represent the independent conclusions and recommendations of the City. Although not required by CEQA, the City will upload the RTC/Final EIR to the State Clearinghouse CEQAnet portal (<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/>).

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FINAL EIR:

The **City of Oakland Planning Commission** will conduct a public hearing on the Final EIR for the Phase I Oakland 2045 General Plan Update to consider a recommendation to the City Council on certification of the EIR on **August 2, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza – Council Chamber, Oakland, CA 94612**. The hearing will be held **in person only** and you may access the meeting information one week prior to the meeting at the following website: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/boards-commissions/planning-commission>

Upon receiving a recommendation by the Planning Commission, the Oakland City Council will consider certification of the EIR at the following dates and times:

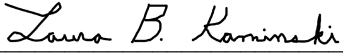
Community and Economic Development Committee: Tuesday, September 12th 2023 at 1:30 PM
<https://oakland.legistar.com/calendar.aspx>

City Council: Tuesday, September 19th 2023 at 4:00 PM
<https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/view-city-council-meeting-schedule-agendas-minutes-and-video>

City Council: Tuesday, October 3rd 2023 at 4:00 PM
<https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/view-city-council-meeting-schedule-agendas-minutes-and-video>

For further information, please contact Lakshmi Rajagopalan, AICP, Planner IV, City of Oakland Bureau of Planning, at (510) 238-6751 or generalplan@oaklandca.gov.

Date: July 26, 2023
Case File Number: GP21002; ZA 23002;
GP21002-ER01

 Laura B. Kaminski Acting for Ed Manasse
Ed Manasse, Bureau of Planning
Environmental Review Officer