



City of Fontana
Planning Division
8353 Sierra Avenue
Fontana CA, 92335

Notice of Preparation of a Draft EIR and Scoping Meeting

- Date:** November 30, 2022
- To:** State Clearinghouse, Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties
- Subject:** Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Scoping Meeting for the Downtown Core Project
- Scoping Meeting:** The City of Fontana will hold a public scoping meeting, where agencies, organizations, and members of the public will receive a brief presentation on the Project and will have the opportunity to provide comments on the scope of the information and analysis to be included in the EIR.

The meeting will be held on:

Wednesday December 14, 2022 at 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Link to join on a computer:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85499358801?pwd=b2VBYW1jL0ZyVDNuUkY1MFE0eGZBdz09>

Dial-In Number: (669) 900-6833

Access meeting at:

Meeting ID: 854 9935 8801

Passcode: 026035

Comment Period: November 30, 2022 to January 3, 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Fontana (City), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Downtown Core Project (“Project”). In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City has issued this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to provide responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and other interested parties with information describing the proposed project and its potential environmental effects. The purpose of this notice is to:

- 1) serve as the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Office of Planning and Research (OPR), Responsible Agencies, public agencies involved in funding or approving the project, and Trustee Agencies responsible for natural resources affected by the project,

pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082.

- 2) advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the preparation of the EIR, environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR, and any other related issues, from interested parties, including interested or affected members of the public; and
- 3) advertise a public meeting to solicit comments from public agencies and interested parties regarding the scope of study in the EIR.

The City determined that the proposed Project would require preparation of a full-scope EIR; thus, an Initial Study was not prepared in conjunction with this NOP. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b), the City will prepare an EIR to address the environmental impacts associated with the Project at a programmatic level. No specific development projects are proposed as part of the proposed Project. However, the program EIR can serve to streamline environmental review of future projects.

Information regarding the project description, project location, and topics to be addressed in the Draft EIR is provided below. This notice is available for public review on the City's website at: <https://www.fontana.org/2137/Environmental-Documents>.

For questions regarding this notice, please contact Alejandro Rico – Associate Planner (909) 350-6558, or by email: arico@fontana.org

Notice of Preparation Comment Period

The City, as Lead Agency, requests that responsible and trustee agencies, all interested parties, and the Office of Planning and Research, respond in a manner consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.4, responsible agencies, trustee agencies and the Office of Planning and Research must submit any comments in response to this notice no later than the comment period deadline identified below. In accordance with the time limits established by CEQA, the NOP public review period will begin on November 30, 2022 and end on January 3, 2023.

In the event that the City does not receive a response from any Responsible or Trustee Agency, or by any interested parties, by the end of the review period, the City may presume that the Responsible Agency, Trustee Agency, or interested party has no response to make (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b)(2)). Comments in response to this notice must be submitted to the address below, or by email by the close of the NOP review period, which is 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Alejandro Rico – Associate Planner
City of Fontana
8353 Sierra Avenue
Fontana, CA 92335
Email: arico@fontana.org

Scoping Meeting

The City of Fontana will hold a scoping meeting to provide an opportunity for agency representatives and the public to assist the City in determining the scope and content of the EIR. The scoping meeting will be held on **Wednesday December 14, 2022, at 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**. Information regarding the virtual meeting (Zoom) is provided above.

Project Location

The proposed Project Area encompasses approximately 478 acres and is bounded by Foothill Boulevard on the north, Randall Avenue on the south, Juniper Avenue on the west, and Mango Avenue on the east. The Downtown Core Project Area's location is shown in Figure 1, Downtown Core Project Area.

Project Description

The City is proposing to create a new focused area in the Downtown Core (Project Area) by creating and implementing a new General Plan land use category and six new FBC districts specific to the Project Area. The Project would involve amending the General Plan, including establishing a new General Plan land use category, amending the General Plan Land Use Map to apply the new land use category, and amending the Zoning and Development Code, including the Zoning District Map, as described below. The proposed Project, would in part, provide increased residential development opportunities, consistent with the goals of the SB 2 Planning Grant received by the City.

General Plan Text and Map Amendments

Chapter 9: Community Mobility and Circulation

The Project proposes to modify the existing circulation within the Project Area specific to Nuevo Avenue, Wheeler Avenue, and Sierra Avenue; refer to the Project Area Circulation and Parking discussion below. General Plan Chapter 9 Exhibit 9.2 would be amended to modify the functional roadway classifications for Nuevo Avenue and Wheeler Avenue and to remove the roadway functional class for Sierra Avenue between Arrow Boulevard and Orange Way; related text modifications would also occur for consistency.

Chapter 14: Downtown Area Plan

Modifications to text and graphics would occur within Chapter 14 to be consistent with the proposed modifications to Chapter 9 and 15.

Chapter 15: Land Use, Zoning, and Urban Design

The Project proposes to amend General Plan Chapter 15, Table 15.25 and Exhibit 15.10 to include the addition of a new WMXU-3: Walkable Mixed-Use Downtown Core (0.2-2.0 FAR, 2.1-70 du/ac) land use category. Text modifications would also occur within Chapter 15 to incorporate the WMXU-3 land use category.

General Plan Land Use Map

The General Plan Land Use Map would be amended to apply the WMXU-3: Walkable Mixed-Use Downtown Core (0.2-2.0 FAR, 2.1-70 du/ac) land use category within the Project Area, as shown on Figure 2, Proposed Land Use Categories.

Zoning and Development Code Amendments

Zoning and Development Code Chapter 30, Article III, Form-Based Code, would be amended to incorporate six new FBC districts, described below, including permitted land uses, increased densities and development standards by zoning district, building types, frontage types, general regulations, design and architectural regulations, private open space types, and public open space standards specific to each new FBC District. Article IV, Zoning Districts, Section 30-405, Section 30-406, and Table No. 30-408 would also be amended to add the new Downtown Core and associated land use districts. The Fontana Zoning District

Map would be amended to incorporate the Downtown Core and associated land use districts. The Fontana Zoning District Map would be amended to incorporate the Downtown Core.

The Project proposes the following six new FBC districts as shown on Figure 3, Proposed FBC Districts:

Civic Core. The Civic Core district would involve a mix of existing and new public uses, including the existing City Hall, Library, and Park spaces. Building heights would be a maximum of 70 feet.

Gateway Core. The Gateway Core district would develop strong gateways along Sierra Avenue and serve as a primary gateway to Downtown Fontana from the north and south. This area would contain a mix of existing and new buildings and would support Downtown commercial uses by encouraging the development of residential units near transit and along major corridors. Building heights would be a maximum of 70 feet with a 55-foot maximum adjacent to street corners, and a 35-foot maximum adjacent to Sierra Avenue. First floor commercial uses would be allowed anywhere in the district, and density bonuses would be provided as an incentive for including optional commercial uses.

Multi-Family Core. The Multi-Family Core district would strengthen the opportunity for higher density multi-family development within the Downtown Core. It would support Downtown commercial uses by encouraging the development of residential units within walking distance. Building heights would be a maximum of 55 feet. Density bonuses would be provided as an incentive for lot assemblages of at least one acre.

Mixed-Use Core. The Mixed-Use Core district would involve a mix of existing and new commercial and residential uses. Buildings built along major corridors would be built to the sidewalk to reinforce the street as a pedestrian-friendly area. Building heights would be a maximum of 55 feet. First floor commercial uses would be allowed anywhere in the district and required on Nuevo Avenue between Orange Avenue and Arrow Boulevard, on Wheeler Avenue between Orange Avenue and Arrow Boulevard, and Arrow Boulevard between Juniper Avenue and Wheeler Avenue. Density bonuses would be provided as an incentive for including optional commercial uses.

Neighborhood Core. The Neighborhood Core district would be largely composed of single-family homes and would allow the development of extra units. This area would provide a transition between the Downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods. Building heights would be a maximum of 40 feet. Density bonuses would be provided as an incentive for lot assemblages of at least one acre.

Sierra Core. The Sierra Core district would reinforce Sierra Avenue between Arrow Boulevard and Orange Way as the core of Downtown Fontana. This area would be enhanced with a pedestrian promenade and public plazas, and provide a variety of entertainment, retail, service, and residential uses within existing and new buildings. Building heights would be a maximum of 70 feet, with a 55-foot maximum adjacent to street corners, and a 35-foot maximum adjacent to Sierra Avenue. First floor commercial uses would be required.

Project Area Circulation and Parking

In addition, the Project proposes to ultimately close a quarter-mile portion of Sierra Avenue to vehicular traffic in order to enhance the pedestrian experience and promote walkability. This would occur in two phases. Phase I (interim condition) would reduce the number of travel lanes on Sierra Avenue from two lanes in each direction to one lane in each direction, convert Wheeler Avenue to a one-way northbound

street, and convert Nuevo Avenue to a one-way southbound street. Phase II (the ultimate condition) would close Sierra Avenue between Arrow Boulevard and Orange Way to vehicular traffic, diverting traffic to parallel streets.

Development Standards and Design and Architectural Regulations

The Downtown Fontana Development Guide summarizes development standards and design and architectural regulations for all new development projects within the Project Area. Individual development projects within the Project Area would be required to comply with the new FBC district development standards as they define the minimum or baseline standards for urban design. The design guidelines further define the desired character and image of development in the Project Area. Development standards, and the design and architectural regulations, address a variety of development regulations including, but not limited to, building facades, roofs, signs, mechanical equipment, landscaping, lighting, plazas, pedestrian walkways and courtyards, and parking.

Development Potential

While no specific development projects are proposed as part of the Project, the Project will accommodate future growth in the Downtown Core area. The proposed General Plan, General Plan Land Use Map, Zoning District Map and Zoning and Development Code amendments would apply the new General Plan WMXU-3 land use category and new Zoning and Development Code FBC districts to the Project Area. Table 1 identifies the maximum development potential that could occur within the Project Area under the proposed FBC districts.

Table 1: Proposed Project Development Potential

FBC District	Acreage	Maximum Development Potential		Existing Development Anticipated to Remain		Net New Development Potential	
		Residential (du)	Commercial (s.f.)	Residential (du)	Commercial (s.f.)	Residential (du)	Commercial (s.f.)
Gateway Core	106.4	4,331	1,537,799	276	125,091	4,055	1,412,708
Multi-Family Core	84.7	3,438	0	0	0	3,438	0
Mixed-Use Core	44	2,203	1,905,262	0	0	2,203	1,905,262
Neighborhood Core	73.3	461	0	0	0	461	0
Sierra Core	13.6	871	373,802	108	0	763	373,802
Civic Core	41.9	0	500,538	0	199,442	0	301,096
Total	363.9	11,304	4,317,401	384	324,533	10,920	3,992,868

As shown in Table 1, based on the maximum development potential and existing (on-the-ground) development anticipated to remain, implementation of the Downtown Core Project would allow for the following new development:

- New development of approximately 10,920 dwelling units (8,900 units over existing conditions)
- New development of approximately 3,992,868 square feet of non-residential uses (2,685,404 square feet over existing conditions)

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The proposed project could potentially affect the following environmental factors, and each will be addressed in the EIR:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gases Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Parks and Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfires
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

The EIR will assess the effects of the project on the environment, identify potentially significant impacts, identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate potentially significant environmental impacts, and discuss potentially feasible alternatives to the project that may accomplish basic objectives while lessening or eliminating any potentially significant project-related impacts.

Attachments

- Figure 1: Downtown Core Project Area
- Figure 2: Proposed Land Use Categories
- Figure 3: Proposed FBC Districts

DOWNTOWN CORE PROJECT

Figure 3. Proposed FBC Districts

