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**PLANNING AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

**RECEIVED  
KERN COUNTY**

Planning  
Community Development  
Administrative Operations

FEB 05 2024

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA  
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK  
BY  DEPUTY

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW ON THE ~~NEGATIVE~~ DECLARATION  
FOR THE KERN COUNTY HOUSING UPDATE 2024 - 2031**

This is to advise that the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department has prepared a Negative Declaration for the project identified below. As mandated by State law, the minimum public review period for this document is 30 days. The document and documents referenced in the draft Negative Declaration are available for review at the Planning Department, 2700 "M" Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301, and are posted on the Department's website.

A public hearing has been scheduled with the Kern County Planning Commission to receive comments on the document on: **March 14, 2024**, at 7:00 p.m. or soon thereafter, Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, First Floor, Kern County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California, 93301.

The comment period for this document closes on March 4, 2024. Testimony at future public hearings may be limited to those issues raised during the public review period either orally or submitted in writing by 5:00 p.m. the day the comment period closes.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Kern County Housing Element Update 2024 – 2031; General Plan Amendment Case No. 160, Map 500

**PROJECT APPLICANT:** Kern County Planning & Natural Resources Department (PP1 7009)

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Countywide

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Draft Kern County 2024 – 2031 Housing Element (henceforth referred to as the Project) is designed to address the projected housing needs of current and future unincorporated area County residents. The Project is mandated by the State of California, which has required the preparation and adoption of a Housing Element within every General Plan for every jurisdiction since 1969. On mandated intervals all jurisdiction in California are required to update their Housing Element pursuant to Section 65580-65589.8 of the Government Code. The development and preservation of adequate and affordable housing is important to the well-being of the residents and economic prosperity of Kern County. Kern County has adopted two (2) General Plans for the unincorporated areas; the Kern County General Plan and the Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan, which was prepared and updated jointly, but adopted separately, with the City of Bakersfield and covers unincorporated areas within the Bakersfield City limits and Sphere of Influence. This Housing Element is part of both general Plans and the use of the term "General Plan" in this document refers to both unincorporated areas only. The City of Bakersfield separately prepares and adopts its own Housing Element to cover areas within the city limits and under their jurisdiction.

Notice of Environmental Document

Posted by County Clerk on 02/15/2024

and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to  
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code

The Housing Element represents Kern County’s long-term commitment to the development and improvement of housing with specific goals for the mandated review period 2024 – 2031. This Element identifies strategies and programs that focus on:

1. Preserving and improving housing and neighborhoods;
2. Providing adequately zoned housing sites that meets the requirements from the Regional Housing Needs allocation (RHNA);
3. Assisting in the provision of affordable housing;
4. Removing governmental and other constraints to housing investment; and
5. Affirmatively furthering fair housing in the unincorporated areas.

The Draft Kern County Housing Element 2024 – 2031 is available online here:

<http://kernplanning.com/housing-element/>

Specific recommendations for revisions to the County’s Housing Element programs are described in the proposed Housing Element Update and include new staffing and programs for implementation. No changes are proposed to the County’s land use regulations nor are any specific projects proposed in the Housing Element Update. Zoning Ordinance changes would be minor and are mainly proposed to update the Zoning Ordinance to existing State requirements, which the County currently complies with. No changes in existing land use zones or densities are proposed.

While many of the County of Kern housing programs benefit residents in the incorporated jurisdictions, the purview of the Housing Element is on the unincorporated County. Each city and County jurisdiction in the State is required to prepare and adopt its own Housing Element as part of the local General Plan.

**DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:** The draft Negative Declaration and the documents referenced in it are available for review at the Planning and Natural Resources Department, which is located at 2700 "M" Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301 or on the Department’s at:

[https://psbweb.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/he/KCHE\\_MND.pdf](https://psbweb.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/he/KCHE_MND.pdf)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The required draft Negative Declaration public review period is 30 days.

**February 2, 2024 – March 4, 2024**

**Written comments** may be submitted to the project planner identified below prior to the close of the draft Negative Declaration public review period on **March 4, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** to:

**Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department**  
**ATTN: Craig Murphy, Assistant Director**  
**2700 “M” Street, Suite 100**  
**Bakersfield, CA 93301**  
**Phone: (661) 862-8600**  
**E-mail: [MurphyC@kerncounty.com](mailto:MurphyC@kerncounty.com)**

LHO:CMM:cc (01/29/2024)

cc: County Clerk (2) (with fee)  
Environmental Status Board  
LiUNA  
All Supervisorial Districts