

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH # 2015082014

Project Title: Gilroy 2040 General Plan

Lead Agency: City of Gilroy

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Project Location: Gilroy
City

Santa Clara
County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Gilroy 2040 General Plan will update the previously adopted Gilroy 2020 General Plan and be used by the Gilroy City Council, Planning Commission, and staff on a daily basis to make decisions with direct or indirect land use implications. It provides a framework for inter-jurisdictional coordination of planning efforts among officials, city staff and other government agencies (e.g., federal, state, and local). Gilroy residents, property owners, and businesses also use the 2040 General Plan for guidance on particular subjects of interest to them. The 2040 General Plan will provide the basis for a variety of city regulatory measures and administrative procedures.

The Gilroy 2040 General Plan is made up of two documents: the Background Report and Policy Document. The Background Report is further divided into 13 chapters so that information can be easily referenced by subject or issue. The following paragraphs provide a summary of these two component documents:

- **Background Report.** The Background Report takes a “snapshot” of current conditions and trends in Gilroy when the 2040 General Plan update process was initiated in 2014. It provides a detailed description of a wide range of topics within the Planning Area, such as demographic and economic conditions, land use, public facilities, and environmental resources. The report provides decision makers, the public, and local agencies with context for making policy decisions. Unlike the Policy Document, the Background Report is objective and policy-neutral. The Background Report also serves as the “Environmental Setting” section of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the 2040 General Plan.
- **Policy Document.** The Policy Document is the essence of the 2040 General Plan. It contains the goals and policies that will guide future decisions within the city. It also identifies a set of implementation programs that will ensure the goals and policies in the General Plan are carried out.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The General Plan Draft EIR (DEIR) has identified significant impacts related to the following issues: **Air Quality** (Inconsistent with the Clean Air Plan, Increase in Operational Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions Resulting from an Increase in Vehicle Miles Traveled Will Degrade Air Quality, Adverse Effects to Sensitive Receptors from Toxic Air Contaminants), **Biological Resources** (Adverse Effect on Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species and Protected Nesting Birds, Adverse Effect on Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waterways), **Cultural Resources** (Adverse Change in the Significance of a Historic Resource, Adverse Change in the Significance of a Unique Archaeological Resource, Disturb Native American Human Remains), **Greenhouse Gas Emissions** (Generate a Volume of GHG Emissions in 2040 That May Have a Significant Impact on Climate Change; Conflict with an Applicable Plan, Policy, or Regulation Adopted for the Purpose of Reducing GHG Emissions), **Transportation and Mobility** (Increase in Vehicle Miles Traveled).

While the policies in the draft General Plan serve to reduce impacts to less than significant where possible, the DEIR contains mitigations in the form of revisions to the General Plan's policies to improve their reduction of impacts. Despite the mitigation function of draft General Plan policies and DEIR mitigation measures, several significant and unavoidable impacts have been identified. These include: Increase in Operational Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions Resulting from an Increase in Vehicle Miles Traveled Will Degrade Air Quality; Generate a Volume of GHG Emissions in 2040 That May Have a Significant Impact on Climate Change; Conflict with an Applicable Plan, Policy, or Regulation Adopted for the Purpose of Reducing GHG Emissions; Increase in Vehicle Miles Traveled.

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If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Native American Heritage Commission (February 4, 2020)

The commission reminded the City of Gilroy to comply with the noticing and consultation requirements of AB52 and SB18. This legislation requires a lead agency to consult with California Native American Tribes that are traditionally and cultural affiliated with the geographic area affect by a project. No such tribes have requested consultation pursuant to AB52. The City of Gilroy offered consultation under SB18 and no responses were received. Therefore, the city has adequately completed with both AB52 and SB18.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bay Delta Region (February 25, 2020)

The department expressed concerns regarding possible impacts to 16 special-status animals and plants species and requested the EIR evaluate the potential impacts associated with each species. The department also expressed concern that the City of Gilroy continue to comply with the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan and address those special-status species that are not covered under the habitat plan. Section 3.4, Biological Resources, addresses all of the issues raised by the department.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District (February 26, 2020)

The air district requested the EIR include a discussion of how the proposed 2040 General Plan addresses environmental justice, specifically as it relates to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions impacts. The air district also requested that the EIR address the following: potential effects on local and regional air quality; 2040 General Plan consistency with the AB32 Scoping Plan; potential health risks to existing and future sensitive populations within and near the 2040 General Plan area from toxic air contaminants and fine particulate matter as a result of the 2040 General Plan's construction and operation; identify and evaluate all 2040 General Plan-level design features that reduce criteria pollutants, toxic air contaminants, and greenhouse gas emissions to reduce potential impacts; and the 2040 General Plan consistency with the air district's 2017 Clean Air Plan. The EIR addresses these issues in Section 3.3, Air Quality and in Section 3.7, Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Valley Water (February 28, 2020)

Valley Water requested the EIR address the following issues: storm water runoff and flooding; impacts to riparian corridors; and groundwater quality and recharge. Storm water runoff and flooding issues are addressed in Section 3.9, Storm Water and Flooding. Impacts to riparian corridors are addressed in Section 3.4, Biological Resources. Groundwater quality and recharge are addressed in Section 3.10, Groundwater.

Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County (LAFCO) (February 28, 2020)

The commission requested the EIR address the following: clarify if LAFCO is a responsible agency for future approvals pursuant to the 2040 General Plan EIR; identify all responsible agencies; indicate whether the City of Gilroy anticipates tiering from the EIR for potential projects that require LAFCO approval; and evaluate an alternative that limits development to the existing urban service area.

LAFCO is a responsible agency for urban service area amendment requests in Gilroy. Therefore, urban service area amendment requests, once approved by the City Council, would be forwarded to LAFCO for consideration. Responsible agencies are addressed in Section 2.5, EIR Uses and Approvals. As allowed and encouraged by CEQA Guidelines section 15152, Tiering, the City of Gilroy has the authority to tier environmental analysis for later projects. Tiering allows a later EIR or negative declaration to concentrate solely on the issues specific to the later project, and provide some measure of streamlining the environmental document on the later project.

Finally, Section 4.5, Alternatives, evaluates a Reduced Urban Growth Boundary, where the Urban Growth Boundary would be contiguous to the existing city limits. The city limits and the city's urban service area are nearly contiguous, with some minor exceptions where the urban service area expands beyond the city limits.

A map of Gilroy's city limits and urban service area can be viewed on LAFCO's website at <https://sccplanning.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7d5a189b138e4aa3bea6dc0514f0b85b>.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

- County of Santa Clara;
- South County Regional Wastewater Authority;
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority;
- Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency;
- Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of Santa Clara County;
- Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water);
- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board;
- Association of Bay Area Governments;
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District;
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- California Department of Conservation;
- California Department of Housing and Community Development;
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans);
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.