

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY **OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

The City of Palmdale has reviewed the following proposed project, conducted an environmental review, and prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR). The Draft EIR is being circulated for public review:

1. **Project Name:** Palmdale 2045 General Plan Update (Palmdale 2045)
2. **Lead Agency:** City of Palmdale
3. **Location:** The Planning Area for the proposed project includes all land within Palmdale City Limits and its Sphere of Influence (SOI), including several unincorporated Los Angeles County 'islands'
6. **General Plan Designations:** All within the City's SOI. Existing land use designations are shown on Figure 4.11-1 of the Draft EIR, and proposed land use designations are shown on Figure 2-3 of the Draft EIR
7. **Zoning Designations:** All within the City's SOI. Existing zoning designations are shown on Figure 4.11-2 of the Draft EIR. State law requires a city's Zoning Ordinance to be consistent with the City's General Plan and the Zoning Ordinance to be revised to reflect the adopted General Plan within a reasonable time from its adoption, which is typically one year
8. **Responsible and/or Trustee Agencies:**
Responsible Agencies: None
Trustee Agencies: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
9. **Project Description:**

Palmdale 2045 is a comprehensive update to the City's General Plan, the guiding document for the future of Palmdale over 23 years (2022-2045). The General Plan serves as the City's primary guide for land use and development decisions and is a key tool for influencing and improving the quality of life for residents and businesses. As such, it serves as the "blueprint" for future development and conservation of a community. Palmdale 2045 will help the City plan for important community issues such as new growth, housing and infrastructure needs, and environmental protection. It also sets the stage for future social, physical, and economic development of the City. It addresses issues that impact the entire community, such as how land is used, where buildings are constructed, and the locations of infrastructure.

According to State law, General Plans are required to cover nine topics: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, air quality, safety, and environmental justice. Jurisdictions may include any other topic that is relevant to planning its future. Palmdale 2045 is divided into 12 topical element chapters encompassing all the topics required under State law. The Housing Element update is provided under separate cover but is a part of the overall General Plan. In addition to the topics required under State law, Palmdale 2045 also covers the topics of economic development, urban design, infrastructure, military readiness, community facilities, sustainability and resilience, and climate change.

Palmdale 2045 focuses on enhancing community identity, building on planned infrastructure investments, improving multi-modal active transportation and connectivity, integrating health and equity, and capitalizing on the City's unique location in the region. Palmdale 2045's vision for the future includes the following vision themes.

- **Unified and welcoming community.** The Palmdale community values opportunity, diversity, and unity, and seeks to promote Palmdale's positive reputation while boosting community beautification
- **Active and vibrant downtown.** Palmdale residents desire a future downtown that fosters a sense of place, promotes local businesses, provides gathering spaces, and events, and improves the overall appearance of Palmdale
- **Diverse and high-quality job options.** Palmdale seeks to retain and expand its employment base through training for key industries, connecting residents to local jobs, and promoting telecommuting within the City
- **Diverse and resilient local economy.** Palmdale values its existing aerospace presence and aims to leverage and diversify new economic opportunities from expanded transportation connections
- **Safe, healthy place to live and work.** Palmdale residents want to address crime and safety, increase access to parks and open space, and support marginalized communities like foster youth and those experiencing homelessness
- **High quality medical and mental healthcare.** As a medical provider shortage area, Palmdale seeks to improve access to quality medical and mental healthcare services and facilities by attracting physicians, maintaining the Palmdale Regional Medical Center, and expanding services
- **Housing options for residents at different stages of life and ability.** The residents of Palmdale desire to preserve and expand affordable housing and diversify housing types across the City that support residents of all abilities through different stages of life
- **High quality and accessible educational opportunities.** Citizens of Palmdale seek to promote and expand educational opportunities in the City including higher education, trade school, and formal and informal training programs
- **Beautiful natural setting.** The Palmdale community values its natural setting and seeks to improve connectivity to trails and open space, maintain mountain views, healthy air quality, and dark night sky
- **Forefront of transportation innovations.** On the cusp of major regional transportation improvements, Palmdale seeks to leverage planned investments and improve local transit opportunities
- **General Plan implementation.** Residents of Palmdale value the long-term vision of the General Plan Update and desire regular review and update of the Plan including metrics for tracking implementation

Palmdale 2045 identifies major strategies and physical improvements for the City over the next 23 years. These strategies include creating a vibrant downtown near the future multimodal transit station, establishing three health and wellness districts and two education districts, transforming Palmdale Boulevard into a mixed-use corridor, promoting a diversity of housing types in the City, forming village centers that offer a mix of residential choices and daily goods and services near existing neighborhoods, and building off existing industrial and aerospace business opportunities.

These strategies will support existing and future employees, businesses, and residents by improving quality of life in Palmdale.

The following actions will be taken by the City in connection with Palmdale 2045 and were also analyzed in the Draft EIR:

- Adopt the General Plan Update (Palmdale 2045)
- Adopt the Climate Action Plan
- Adopt any Zoning Ordinance Amendments required to make the Zoning Ordinance consistent with the General Plan Update
- Adopt the HCD-certified Housing Element Update, in compliance with the requirements of State Housing Element law
- Adopt revisions to the Palmdale Transit Area Specific Plan to slightly expand the boundary of this Specific Plan. Currently, many of the parcels along the external boundary of the Specific Plan area have split zoning because they are partly inside and partly outside the Specific Plan area. This proposed expansion would fully include these parcels within the Specific Plan area. Because the Specific Plan area is in the core of the city, this action would not affect the Planning Area of the proposed General Plan Update or require annexations.

Palmdale 2045 also includes an update of the City's Housing Element, in compliance with the requirements of State Housing Element law, which required the City to adopt an updated Housing Element by October 2021. A description of City actions taken to date in connection with the Housing Element Update is included in Section 2.3.2 of the Draft EIR. While an Addendum was prepared for the Housing Element Update, the Housing Element Update is also analyzed in the Draft EIR, as necessary, in the context of the overall Plan. The Housing Element Update was adopted in early 2022 by the Palmdale City Council and will be readopted by the City Council as part of the Plan after certification by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

The Draft EIR found that the proposed project would result in the following significant and unavoidable environmental effects:

- Air Quality Impact AQ-1. Individual development projects carried out under the Plan would generate construction and operational-related emissions. Such emissions may conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District's Ozone Attainment Plan. Implementation of Plan policies, compliance with existing regulations, and implementation of mitigation would reduce construction and operational emissions, but not below applicable emissions thresholds.
- Air Quality Impact AQ-2. Individual development projects facilitated by the Plan would generate construction and operational emissions. Such emissions may result in adverse impacts to local air quality. Implementation of Plan policies and compliance with existing regulations would reduce emissions, but not below applicable levels of significance.
- Utilities and Service Systems Impact U-1. Development facilitated by the Plan would create additional demand for water supply and wastewater facilities, which would require the construction or relocation of new or expanded water and wastewater facilities. Sufficient water supplied by Palmdale Water District and Los Angeles County Waterworks District 40 would not be available to serve the Plan and reasonably foreseeable future development. The Plan would also exceed capacity of local wastewater treatment facilities.

The Draft EIR also found that the proposed project would result in impacts that would be less than significant with incorporation of mitigation measures described in the Draft EIR in the following areas: Biological Resources (nesting birds and associated habitat); Cultural Resources (archaeological and historical resources); Geology and Soils (paleontological resources); Noise (construction vibration); and Tribal Cultural Resources. A summary of all impacts and mitigation measures is shown in Table ES-1 of the Draft EIR.

The public review period for the Draft EIR runs from Thursday July 14, 2022 to Monday August 29, 2022. The Draft EIR and all documents referenced in the Draft EIR are available for public review on the project website at (<https://www.palmdale2045.org/>) or at the following locations:

- City of Palmdale Planning Division, 38250 Sierra Highway, Palmdale, CA 93550 Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm
- City Hall Counter, 38300 Sierra Highway, Palmdale, CA 93550
- Palmdale City Library, 700 E Palmdale Boulevard, Palmdale, CA 93550
- City of Palmdale Department of Recreation and Culture, 827 E. Avenue Q-9 Palmdale, CA 93550

The public is encouraged to submit written comments to Megan Taggart, Planning Manager, City of Palmdale Planning Division, 38250 Sierra Highway, Palmdale, CA 93550 no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 29, 2022. Alternatively, you may e-mail your comments to Ms. Taggart at mtaggart@cityofpalmdale.org.


Megan Taggart, Planning Manager


Date