

MEMO

Community & Economic Development Department

DATE: August 5, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 5

TO: CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: MATTHEW TAYLOR, SENIOR PLANNER

CC: MARY KOPASKIE-BROWN, CITY PLANNER

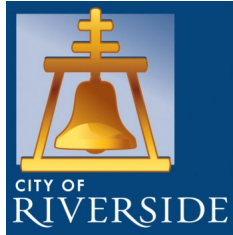
RE: WORKSHOP – DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PHASE 1 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE: HOUSING & PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT
UPDATES AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES

The purpose for this workshop is to update the Planning Commission and facilitate public input on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) prepared for the City's Phase 1 General Plan Update – Housing Element & Public Safety Element Updates and Environmental Justice Policies (the Update) and provide input opportunities. No formal action is required by the Planning Commission.

Every eight years, California state law requires that all cities and counties demonstrate how they will meet the housing needs of everyone in the community by updating the Housing Element of the community's General Plan. The State forecasts the need for housing based on population projections, and then each region must show how it will accommodate that need. Cities and counties must show the places where future housing can be built and identify the potential number of homes that can be built at those locations.

State law also requires that when a jurisdiction updates the Housing Element, they must also update plans to protect the community from hazards, like wildfires and climate disruption, and to come up with ways to ensure that everyone has access to a healthy place to live, work and play regardless of their background or circumstances. This will be accomplished by updating the Public Safety Element of the General Plan, and by establishing Environmental Justice Policies for all other Elements of the General Plan 2025. Together, these three updates comprise Phase 1 of a comprehensive update of the General Plan 2025 to set forth the vision, principles and policies that will guide the City's growth and development over the next several decades.



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On April 5, 2021, the Planning Division published a Notice of Preparation of the Draft EIR for the Update pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A virtual CEQA Scoping Meeting was held on April 22, 2021, to solicit feedback from public and private agencies and the general public on topics relevant to the Draft EIR to be prepared for the Update.

On July 19, 2021, the Draft EIR was published for the required 45-day public review and comment period. The comment period will conclude on September 2, 2021. The Draft EIR and appendices are included as Attachments 1 and 2 of this Memorandum and have also been published on the City's website and distributed in hard copy to the One Stop Shop at City Hall and all branches of the Riverside Public Library system for public review.

This Workshop will focus on the following topics:

- Project background and update – why the Update is necessary, what Riverside needs to accomplish, what is the timeframe, and progress to-date;
- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing – pursuant to Assembly Bill 686, new state law requires that the Housing Element provide an analysis and action plan for how the City will address fair housing issues; and
- CEQA and the Draft EIR – an overview of the general CEQA process for the Update, highlights from the Draft EIR, public comments, and next steps.

Attachments:

1. Draft Environmental Impact Report – Phase 1 General Plan Update: Housing & Public Safety Element Updates and Environmental Justice Policies
2. Draft EIR Appendices
3. Draft Housing Element Update – Appendix A: Housing Opportunity Sites Inventory
4. Draft Housing Element Update – Technical Background Report: Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
5. FAQ Sheet – Quick Tips to Respond to the Draft Environmental Impact Report
6. Presentation