

**RECIRCULATED NOTICE OF PREPARATION/NOTICE OF
SCOPING MEETING for a Draft
Program Environmental Impact Report for the
City of Carson General Plan Update**

Date: March 18, 2021

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible & Trustee Agencies, Organizations,
and Interested Parties

Subject: Recirculated Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program
Environmental Impact Report for the City of Carson General Plan
Update

Comment Period: **March 22, 2021 to April 21, 2021** comments due by 5:00 PM PST

Scoping Meeting: **April 14, 2021 at 6:30 PM PST**

Zoom Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_k2q79k0tSh2_rVI8aYUI3Q

A Recirculated Notice of Preparation (NOP) was sent out for the Project on November 8, 2017. Since that time, the City of Carson has expanded the scope for the City of Carson General Plan Update, which will now include the Housing Element Update and a new Environmental Justice Element. Therefore, the City is recirculating the Notice of Preparation and will be hosting a new Scoping Meeting.

The City of Carson is preparing a General Plan Update (Project) and has determined that a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be necessary. In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Carson will be the lead agency and will prepare the EIR for the Project. Attached are the project description, location maps, and preliminary identification of the potential environmental topics to be explored.

REVIEW PERIOD: As specified by the State CEQA Guidelines, this Notice of Preparation will be circulated for a 30-day review period. This NOP and information on the Carson 2040 General Plan can be viewed online at: www.carson2040.com. The City of Carson welcomes public and agency input during this period regarding the scope and content of environmental information that must be included in the Draft Program EIR. **Comments may be submitted orally during the virtual scoping meeting or in writing by the end of the comment period as stated above and addressed to:**

Alvie Betancourt, Planning Manager
City of Carson
701 East Carson Street
Carson, CA 90745
abetancourt@carsonca.gov

Recirculated Notice of Preparation
Program Environmental Impact Report

SCOPING MEETING: A virtual scoping meeting for the Program EIR will be held to receive comments from agencies and the public using the link and time listed above. It is not essential for you to attend the scoping meeting to provide comments. If you have questions regarding this NOP or the scoping meeting, please contact Alvie Betancourt.

Alvaro Betancourt

Alvaro Betancourt
Planning Manager

03/16/21

Date

I. Project Contact Information

Project Title	City of Carson General Plan Update
Lead Agency Name	City of Carson
Contact Person	Alvie Betancourt, Planning Manager
Address	City of Carson 701 East Carson Street Carson, CA 90745
Phone	(310)-952-1761 x1365
Email	abetancourt@carsonca.gov
Project Sponsor Name and Address (same as lead agency)	City of Carson 701 East Carson Street Carson, CA 90745

2. Location and Regional Setting

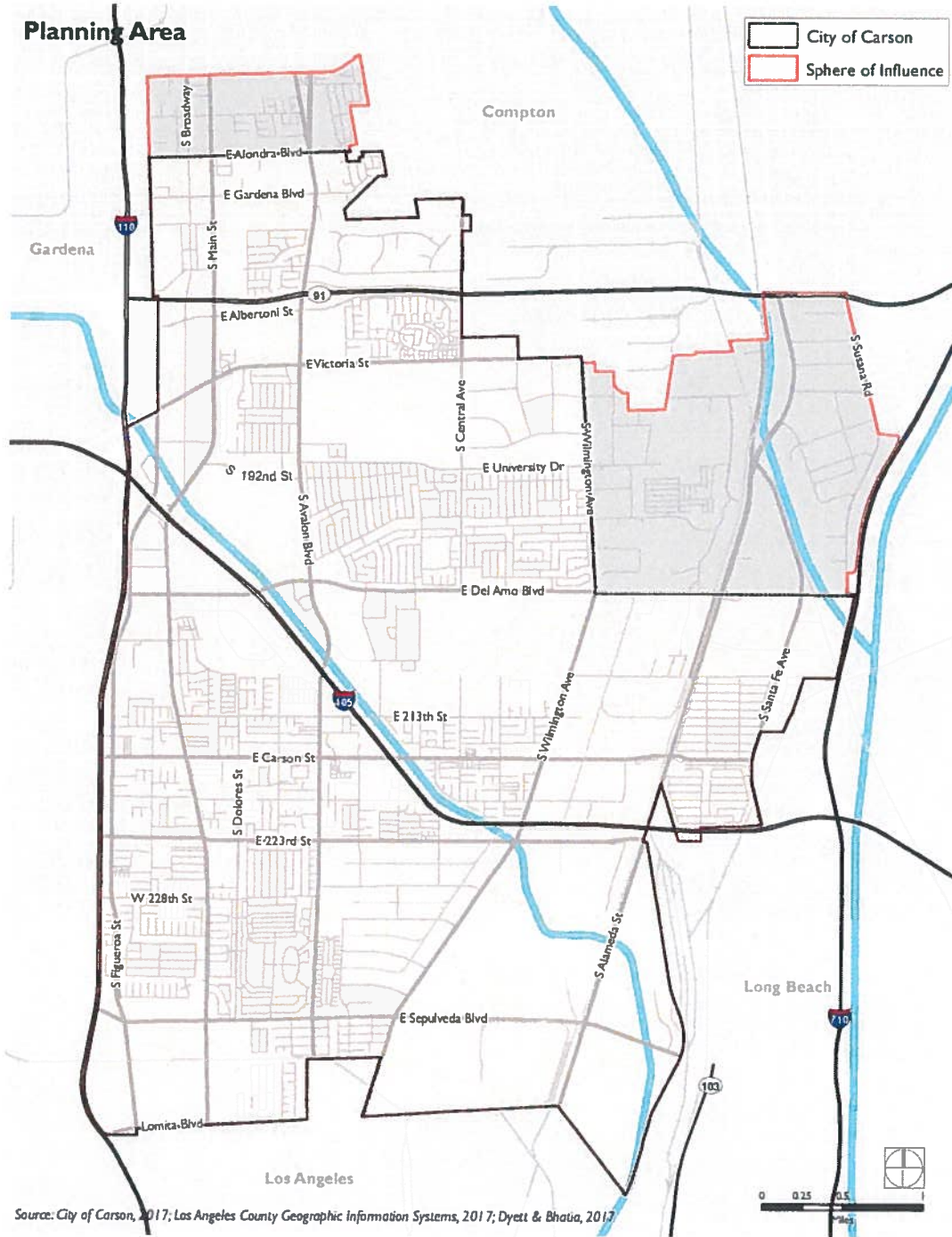
REGIONAL SETTING

Carson is located in the central portion of southern Los Angeles County. The city is located about 10 miles south of downtown Los Angeles and three miles north of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The Interstate 405 (I-405) runs through Carson, and I-110 and I-710 are located just outside the City boundaries, connecting Carson to other communities throughout the region. In addition, Carson is accessible via public transportation, including via Los Angeles Metro bus and subway lines. The regional setting is depicted in **Figure 1**.

PLANNING AREA

The General Plan Planning Area (Planning Area), as shown in **Figure 2**, includes the City of Carson and its unincorporated Sphere of Influence (SOI). As shown on the map, the Planning Area is bounded by West Redondo Beach Boulevard and the City of Compton on the north, the City of Long Beach on the east, the Los Angeles neighborhood of Wilmington on the south, and I-110 and South Figueroa Street on the west. The SOI includes a portion of unincorporated Los Angeles County, located in the northeast section of the Planning Area north of Del Amo Boulevard and east of Wilmington Avenue.

Figure 2: Planning Area



3. Project Description

The City of Carson is preparing an update of its General Plan, which will establish the City's overall approach to development, transportation, environmental quality, and other key topics through 2040. The General Plan is a statement of the community's vision of its long-term or ultimate physical form and development policies. The State of California mandates that "...each county and city shall adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the county or city, and of any land outside its boundaries which in the planning agency's judgment bears relation to its planning." (Govt. Code 65300) A city's General Plan has been described as its development constitution – the set of policies within which development regulations and decisions must fit.

Carson's current General Plan dates to 2004 and is in need of an update as new opportunities, challenges, and approaches have emerged in recent years. The updated plan will address the seven elements mandated by State law (land use, circulation, conservation, open space, noise, safety, and housing). The Housing Element was not included in the 2017 Recirculated NOP, but will now be included in the General Plan Update. In addition to the state-required elements, the General Plan will address community design, sustainability, public health, and environmental justice. The purpose of this General Plan Update is to:

- Establish a long-range vision that reflects the aspirations of the community and outlines steps to achieve this vision;
- Establish long-range development policies that will guide City departments, as well as Planning Commission and City Council decision-making;
- Provide a basis for judging whether specific development proposals and public projects are in harmony with plan policies;
- Plan in a manner that meets future land needs based on the projected population and job growth;
- Allow City departments, other public agencies, and private developers to design projects that will enhance the character of the community, preserve and enhance community character and environmental resources, and minimize hazards; and
- Provide the basis for establishing and setting priorities for detailed plans and implementing programs, such as the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, specific and master plans, and the Capital Improvement Program.

More information on the Project is available at www.carson2040.com.

A Preferred Land Use Plan has been prepared and is available on the project website <https://www.carson2040.com/preferred-plan>. The planning team is presently refining this plan, conducting further evaluation, and initiating preparation of detailed General Plan policies.

4. Environmental Impact Report

The Program EIR will fulfill CEQA requirements for environmental review of the General Plan Update. The EIR will provide a programmatic environmental assessment of the potential consequences of implementing the Carson General Plan 2040. It will discuss how land uses and policies could potentially affect the environment, identify significant impacts, and recommend measures to mitigate those impacts, if necessary.

The environmental assessment will utilize the most current statutes and guidelines for CEQA and for each issue area, including greenhouse gases and climate change. The EIR will be prepared to take full advantage of CEQA streamlining and tiering opportunities for future projects, whether in accordance with provisions of SB 375, or other tiering and exemption provisions in CEQA.

The EIR will also evaluate potential cumulative effects of the General Plan Update, as well as alternatives to the Project. The CEQA-required No Project Alternative will evaluate the impacts resulting from continued implementation of the existing General Plan. As appropriate, other alternatives that would avoid or lessen significant environmental effects related to the Project will be discussed.

5. Potential Environmental Impacts to be Considered

Preliminary issues for the EIR analysis of the Project include:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology /Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population/Housing
- Public Services and Facilities
- Public Utilities and Infrastructure
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Wildfire

The Planning Area does not contain any agricultural resources; therefore, this topic will not be fully evaluated in the EIR.