

2019039003



CITY OF EL CAJON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: April 17, 2019

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Persons

Lead Agency: City of El Cajon, Community Development Department
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Project Title: El Cajon Climate Action Plan

Project Location: Encompasses the entire jurisdiction of the City of El Cajon

Project Applicant: City of El Cajon

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), this is to notify public agencies and the general public that the City of El Cajon, as the Lead Agency, has completed a Draft Environmental Report (Draft EIR) (State Clearinghouse #2019029154), for the El Cajon Climate Action Plan (project). The City is interested in the input and/or comments from the general public and public agencies on the program-level evaluation of environmental impacts that may result from adoption and implementation of the project.

Draft EIR Public Review Period

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than the close of the 45-day public review period on May 31, 2019 at 5:00 PM. Please send your response to the City of El Cajon Community Development Department, c/o Melissa Devine, at the above address. Public hearings will be scheduled after the conclusion of the public review period.

The Draft EIR is available for public review at the following locations:

City of El Cajon
Community Development Dept.
200 Civic Center Way
El Cajon, CA 92020

El Cajon Branch Library
201 East Douglas Ave
El Cajon, CA 92020

Fletcher Hills Branch Library
576 Garfield Avenue
El Cajon, CA 92020

The Draft EIR is also available for public review online at: www.cityofelcajon.us/cap

Project Background

The City of El Cajon proposes to adopt a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to both reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and help the community adapt to the effects of climate change in the City, consistent with State and local guidance. A CAP is a document that includes policies, measures, and strategies to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate

change, as well as to improve the health, safety, mobility, and livability of the greater community. The objectives of the CAP are to reduce GHG emissions, streamline project reviews consistent with CEQA by serving as a "qualified GHG reduction plan" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5, and provide strategies for the community to use in adapting to the effects of climate change.

Project Area

The City of El Cajon is in eastern San Diego County, east of the cities of San Diego and La Mesa, south of the City of Santee and about 15 miles inland (Figure 1).

The planning area for the CAP is the entire City of El Cajon, which encompasses approximately 14.4 square miles (Figure 2).

Project Description

The CAP has been prepared to be consistent with the requirements of AB 32 (2006), which tasked the California Air Resources Board (ARB) with developing a Climate Change Scoping Plan to establish an interim target to achieve 1990 levels of GHG emissions by 2020 and provide a path for local governments to contribute to the GHG reductions necessary to achieve the target and SB 32 (2016), which requires a 2030 statewide GHG reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels.

To achieve these objectives and align with the State's 2020 and 2030 targets, the CAP will:

- ▶ include a summary of baseline GHG emissions and forecasted growth of these emissions in 2020 and 2030;
- ▶ identify GHG emissions reduction targets and goals to reduce the City's GHG emissions in 2020 and 2030; and
- ▶ identify and evaluate strategies, measures, and actions to comply with statewide GHG reduction targets and goals.

The CAP considers GHG reduction strategies for community level actions and city operations for the following sectors:

- ▶ On-Road Transportation
- ▶ Off-Road Transportation
- ▶ Building Energy (Electricity & Natural Gas)
- ▶ Solid Waste
- ▶ Water and Wastewater

As part of ongoing implementation and monitoring of the CAP, the CAP strategies, measures, and actions will be assessed and monitored. Monitoring and reporting on the status of the actions will provide the mechanism to ensure that the City is making progress towards the CAP's stated goals.

The CAP will also be used for future project-specific environmental documents by maintaining consistency with the tiering and streamlining provisions of Section 15183.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Where projects are determined to be consistent with the CAP, the EIR provides the appropriate level of environmental review to allow future projects to tier from and streamline their analyses of GHG emissions pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(2).

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

Adoption of the CAP and Certification of the EIR

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT:

The Draft EIR prepared for the project identifies less-than-significant impacts with respect to Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural and Tribal Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Energy, Noise, and Transportation and Traffic. Environmental issues scoped out of the Draft EIR include Agricultural and Forest Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, and Utilities and Service Systems.

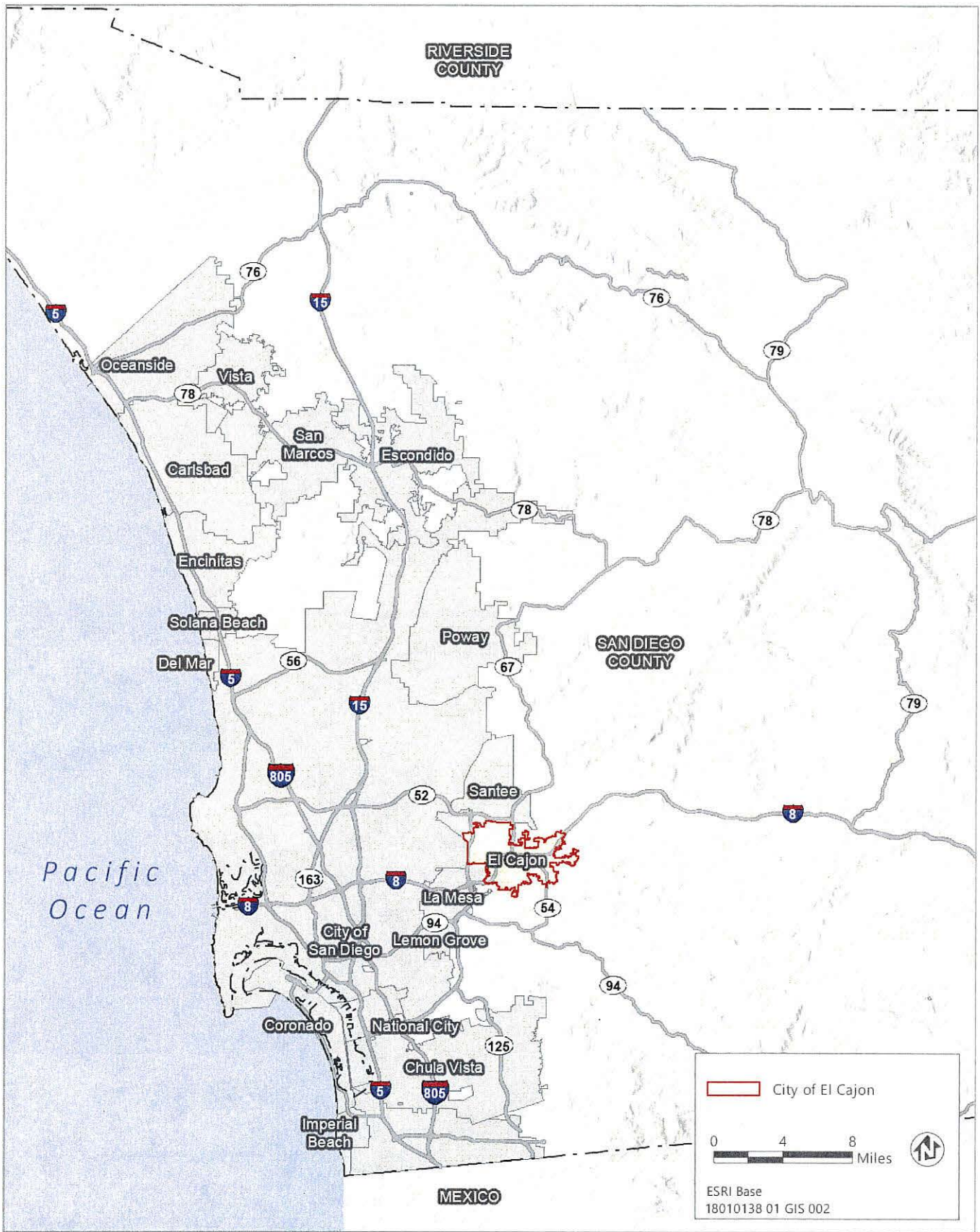


Figure 1 Regional Location

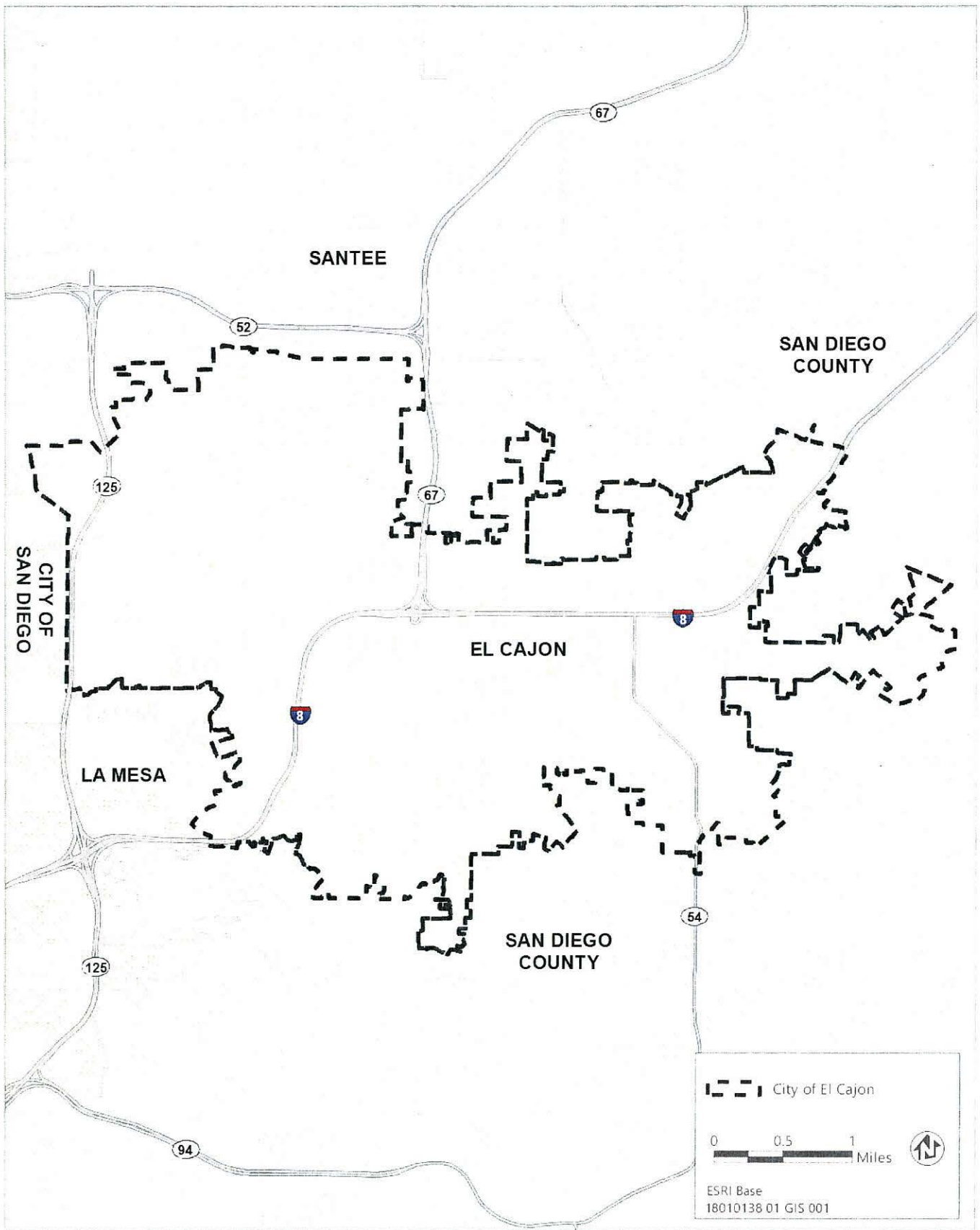


Figure 2 Planning Area