



NOTICE OF TIME EXTENSION OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE CITY OF FRESNO GENERAL PLAN PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

On March 6, 2020, a Notice of Availability (NOA) was given that the City of Fresno (City), as the Lead Agency, had completed a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the General Plan. The Draft PEIR was distributed to public agencies and interested parties for public review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the California Public Resources Code, starting a 46-day public comment period set to conclude on April 20, 2020.

Due to closures of public facilities in response to COVID-19, this notice is to announce that the public comment period has been extended by 15 days to May 5, 2020, to allow public agencies and interested parties a total of 61 days to review and submit comments on the Draft PEIR. In re-noticing the Draft PEIR, the City continues to provide online links to the documents as well as information on additional viewing methods of the Draft PEIR.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project location is the Planning Area of the City of Fresno. This is the geographic area for which the General Plan establishes policies about future growth, and includes all areas within the City's current city limits, including the Fresno-Clovis Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility (RWRF), the areas within the current Sphere of Influence (SOI), and an area north of the city's most northeasterly portion (referred to as the North Area). The Planning Area is generally bounded by the San Joaquin River to the north, American Avenue to the south, Garfield Avenue to the west, and McCall Avenue to the east, with the RWRF generally located with Jensen Avenue to the north, American Avenue to the south, South Chateau Fresno Avenue to the west, and Cornelia Avenue to the east.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2014 the City of Fresno adopted the Fresno General Plan and certified the accompanying Master Environmental Impact report (MEIR). In order to be in conformance with State law and consistent with recent legislative changes, the City is updating the MEIR and converting it to a Program EIR (PEIR). The update, consistent with Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines, is intended to streamline implementation of the General Plan's programs and projects by supporting them with updated environmental analysis, regulatory framework, and mitigation measures, pursuant to CEQA. Two major goals of updating the EIR include complying with new legislation as it relates to various resource topic area as defined by CEQA; and updating the technical analyses to reflect the current baseline conditions of 2019.

This update will include the following components:

- **Incorporation of New local, State and/or federal regulations.** Since adoption of the Fresno General Plan in 2014, several new regulations have taken effect, including:

- Climate Action Plan Legislation. The City has updated the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan that was prepared for the MEIR (Appendix F-2) taking into account Executive Order S-03-05 (2005), SB 32 (2006), and Executive Order B-30-15 (2015);
- Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) Legislation – SB 743 (2013);
- Tribal Consultation, Assembly Bill (AB) 52 (2014);
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) (2014);
- Cooperative Agreement between the City of Fresno Irrigation District and City of Fresno for Water Utilization and Conveyance (2016);
- 2017 Housing Package as described by the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development, <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/lhp.shtml#summary>;
- **Corresponding technical revisions to the Mobility and Transportation Element of the Fresno General Plan. Specific changes include, but are not limited to, the following:**
 - Add Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) policies consistent with the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 743; and
 - Revise text relating to Level of Service (LOS) metrics to update applicability.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

At the start of the public comment period beginning on March 6, 2020, the Draft PEIR was available for public review at City Hall and all public libraries in the Planning Area of the Fresno General Plan. However, due to closures of all public facilities in response to COVID-19 that took effect in mid-March 2020, the Draft PEIR is no longer available for review at public libraries or at Fresno City Hall.

The Draft PEIR document is available on the City’s website at:

<https://www.fresno.gov/darm/planning-development/plans-projects-under-review/#tab-07>

For information on additional viewing methods of the Draft PEIR, please contact Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager, via her contact information below.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The City of Fresno will receive public comments on the Draft PEIR from March 6 through May 4, 2020. Written comments should be received no later than 5 pm (PST) on May 4, 2020. Please send your written comments to Sophia Pagoulatos and include your name, address, and phone number and/or email address so that we may contact you for clarification, if necessary. Comments may be made in person, by first class mail, facsimile or email to:

City of Fresno
 Planning and Development Department
 2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
 Fresno, CA 93721
 Attention: Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager

Telephone: (559) 621-8062 Fax: (559) 488-1020
Email: Sophia.Pagoulatos@fresno.gov

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The Draft PEIR identifies potential significant effects in the following areas:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Noise
- Public Services and Recreation
- Transportation
- Utilities and Service Systems

Mitigation measures identified in the Draft PEIR would reduce these potentially significant effects to a less-than-significant level in all areas except Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Noise, Transportation, and Utilities and Service Systems. There are currently 17 contaminated sites within the Planning Area that are identified as cleanup sites consistent with Government Code Section 65962.5.