

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A  
MASTER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND SCOPING MEETING  
FOR  
THE 2040 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD  
January 28, 2019 to February 28, 2019**

**Scoping Meeting: Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 5:00 – 7:00 PM  
Sacramento City Hall, 915 I Street, Room 1119, Sacramento, CA 95814**

**INTRODUCTION**

The City of Sacramento (“City”) is the lead agency for preparation of a Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) to evaluate changes in the physical environment that could occur as a result of adoption of the proposed City of Sacramento 2040 General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan (or proposed project), which includes a focused update of the City’s 2035 General Plan and development of a standalone Climate Action Plan. The MEIR is being prepared by the City in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to evaluate potential significant environmental effects associated with implementation of the 2040 General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan and to recommend mitigation measures, as required. A MEIR will be prepared to enable review of future proposed projects pursuant to Sections 21157, 21157.1, 21157.5, and 21157.6 of the Public Resources Code (PRC).

Under CEQA, upon deciding to prepare a MEIR, the City, as lead agency, is required to issue a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to inform trustee and responsible agencies, and the public, of the decision to undertake preparation of a MEIR. The purpose of the NOP is to provide information describing the proposed project and its potential environmental effects to those who may wish to comment regarding the scope and content of the information to be considered in the MEIR.

**PROJECT LOCATION**

The project location is the City of Sacramento and adjacent areas, collectively defined as the General Plan Policy Area (see Exhibit 1). Regionally, Sacramento is in the center of California’s Central Valley, roughly halfway between San Francisco to the west and Lake Tahoe to the east. The General Plan Policy

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Area covers a total area of approximately 102 square miles. Sacramento is the seventh most populous city in California, with a 2017 population estimate of 501,901 (2017 U.S. Census, not yet updated for 2018). Major highways providing regional access to and through Sacramento include Interstate 80 and U.S. Highway 50 (east/west), and Interstate 5 and U.S. Highway 99 (north/south). Amtrak serves Sacramento's passenger rail needs, while Sacramento International Airport provides domestic and international flights through most major airlines. Within the city and surrounding region, Sacramento Regional Transit is the primary transit provider of bus and light rail service.

## **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

A general plan is a state-required legal document (Government Code Section 65300) that guides decisions of local elected officials (decision makers) when making determinations about the allocation of resources and the future physical form and character of development in cities and counties. It is the official statement of a jurisdiction regarding the extent and types of development needed to achieve a community's vision for physical, economic, social, and environmental goals.

California state law requires that the general plan include an integrated and internally consistent set of goals, policies, standards, programs, and diagrams. State law and state guidelines require that general plans should be maintained and amended or updated periodically as conditions and needs change.

The 2030 General Plan was the City's first comprehensive revision of the city's 1998 General Plan and was adopted on March 3, 2009. The 2030 General Plan included an implementation program that calls for the City to thoroughly review the General Plan and revise and update it as necessary (2030 General Plan; Part 4; Table 4-1, Program 2) every five years.

The Sacramento City Council adopted the existing 2035 General Plan on March 3, 2015, after a two-year General Plan Update process. The 2035 General Plan set forth a roadmap to achieving Sacramento's vision to be the most livable city in America. Underlying the vision and connecting it to the roadmap is a set of six themes that thread through the General Plan: Making Great Places, Growing Smarter, Maintaining a Vibrant Economy, Creating a Healthy City, Living Lightly-Reducing Our "Carbon Footprint", and Developing a Sustainable Future. The 2035 General Plan sets out policies for land use, housing, circulation, open space, conservation, noise, and safety for the entire city. The City adopted the Sacramento Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2012. In 2015, the Sacramento CAP was incorporated into the 2035 General Plan and in 2016, the CAP for internal city operations was updated and adopted.

The key changes in the 2035 General Plan included updating the planning timeframe through 2035; integrating the 2012 CAP into the General Plan; addressing State-mandated flood risk and flood protection requirements; updating City traffic levels of service; and incorporating urban agriculture policies.

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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City is initiating the 2040 General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan, consistent with the city's requirement to revise and update the General Plan every five years, as necessary, to address significant emerging trends, recent state statutes, new issues, and to update the status of implementation measures. This review and update process encompasses the entire General Plan, including the goals, policies, and implementation programs.

As a part of the 2040 General Plan Update, a standalone community-wide CAP will be prepared that meets the CEQA requirements for a qualified CAP, including providing a framework for programmatic greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reduction plans.

Specifically, the proposed project will address the following:

- **Update existing conditions information and data.** The 2035 General Plan and MEIR were based on information gathered from 2012 through 2014. Since that time, the conditions under which the 2035 General Plan was prepared have changed and several new State laws have been enacted. The 2040 General Plan and Climate Action Plan and MEIR will be updated to reflect the latest available information.
- **Update the planning horizon and revise projected growth estimates.** The 2035 General Plan and MEIR evaluated projected growth through the year 2035. Based on the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) draft regional growth projections, between 2016 and 2040 the City is estimated to grow by an additional 72,369 dwelling units and 56,695 additional jobs.
- **Address recent State mandates.** Several new laws affecting general plans have been enacted since the 2035 General Plan, including but not limited to: environmental justice [SB 1000], Vehicle Miles Traveled [SB 743], climate adaptation and resiliency [SB 379], annexation of disadvantaged communities [SB 244], and consultation with California Native American tribes [AB 52], which must be reflected in the General Plan in order for it to remain compliant with State law.
- **Update Community Plans.** There are ten existing community plans: Arden Arcade, Central City, East Sacramento, Fruitridge Broadway, Land Park, North Natomas, North Sacramento, Pocket, South Area, and South Natomas. These community plans will be updated as part of the 2040 General Plan and will include policies to address issues or conditions unique to the community plan area.
- **Revisions to the Land Use and Urban Design Element.** The 2040 General Plan Update will include preparation of a land use map, land use and urban design policies, identify Transit Oriented Development (TOD) policies, and adjust building heights, densities, and floor area ratio (FAR) to accommodate SACOG 2040 growth projections, and the market demand for different housing and employment types.
- **Incorporate age-friendly policies.** The 2040 General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan will incorporate policies to allow older residents to remain in their communities as they age. The 2040

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General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan will take initial steps for the city to join AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

- **Develop policies to address social equity, environmental justice, and community resilience.** In accordance with SB 1000, the 2040 General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan will identify the City's disadvantaged communities and will develop policies that address social equity, environmental justice and community resilience in these communities.
- **Reflect past accomplishments and incorporate adopted amendments.** Since adopting the 2035 General Plan the City has completed many of the Plan's implementation programs and amended the plan several times. All prior amendments will be incorporated into the 2040 General Plan.
- **Support adopted and ongoing plans and initiatives.** Recent 2035 General Plan implementation efforts (e.g., Planning and Development Code) and regional planning efforts (e.g., SACOG MTP/SCS) have resulted in identification of new issues and opportunities that require updates to policies and implementation programs.

## REQUESTED APPROVALS

The City Council actions that would be considered for the proposed project include, but are not limited to:

- Adopt a resolution adopting and implementing the 2040 General Plan Update
- Adopt a resolution adopting and implementing the Climate Action Plan

## MASTER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

To appropriately evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed 2040 General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan pursuant to CEQA, the City is preparing a MEIR, which will use and update information from the 2015 MEIR, as appropriate. The same as the 2015 MEIR, the updated MEIR will incorporate by reference existing setting information from the General Plan Background Report, which is being prepared simultaneously with the General Plan. The updated MEIR will extend the streamlining utility for another five years. Streamlining will include use of the MEIR for listed subsequent projects, and other CEQA opportunities, such as for Transit Priority Projects under SB 375, infill projects under Section 15183.3 of the CEQA Guidelines, and to reduce the need for a project-level traffic study.

The City will coordinate the updates of the General Plan and MEIR, such that the environmental setting updates and impact analysis can both inform the General Plan and respond to the updated policy direction to create a General Plan that mitigates physical impacts on the environment, to the extent feasible, through General Plan policies and implementation programs.

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## PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND SCOPE OF THE MEIR

The MEIR will identify and describe the potential environmental effects associated with implementing the 2040 General Plan and Climate Action Plan. The environmental analyses presented in the MEIR will describe the existing conditions in the City's General Plan Policy Area. Relevant federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including the City's updated General Plan policies, will be summarized. The methods of analysis and standards of significance used to determine project-related impacts will be described in each of the environmental analysis sections of the MEIR, including any assumptions that are important to understand the conclusions of the analysis. The standards for determining impact significance will be based on the City's current standards of significance. The standards will be used to determine both whether an impact is significant and the effectiveness of recommended mitigation.

The MEIR will also evaluate potential cumulative effects and potential growth-inducing impacts of the proposed project. The MEIR will compare impacts of the project to a range of reasonable alternatives, including a No Project Alternative, and will identify an environmentally superior alternative.

Pursuant to Section 15063 (a), of the CEQA Guidelines, an Initial Study has not been prepared because the City has determined a MEIR is clearly required to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed project. The MEIR will evaluate the full range of environmental issues contemplated for consideration under CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines. Major issues for the MEIR update include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Aesthetics/Visual Resources
- ▶ Agricultural Resources
- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Biological Resources
- ▶ Cultural Resources
- ▶ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ▶ Hazards and Hazardous Emissions
- ▶ Hydrology and Water Quality
- ▶ Land Use and Planning
- ▶ Geology, Soils and Seismicity
- ▶ Noise and Vibration
- ▶ Public Services, Energy and Recreation
- ▶ Population and Housing
- ▶ Public Utilities and Service Systems
- ▶ Transportation and Circulation
- ▶ Tribal Cultural Resources

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## **SUBMITTING COMMENTS**

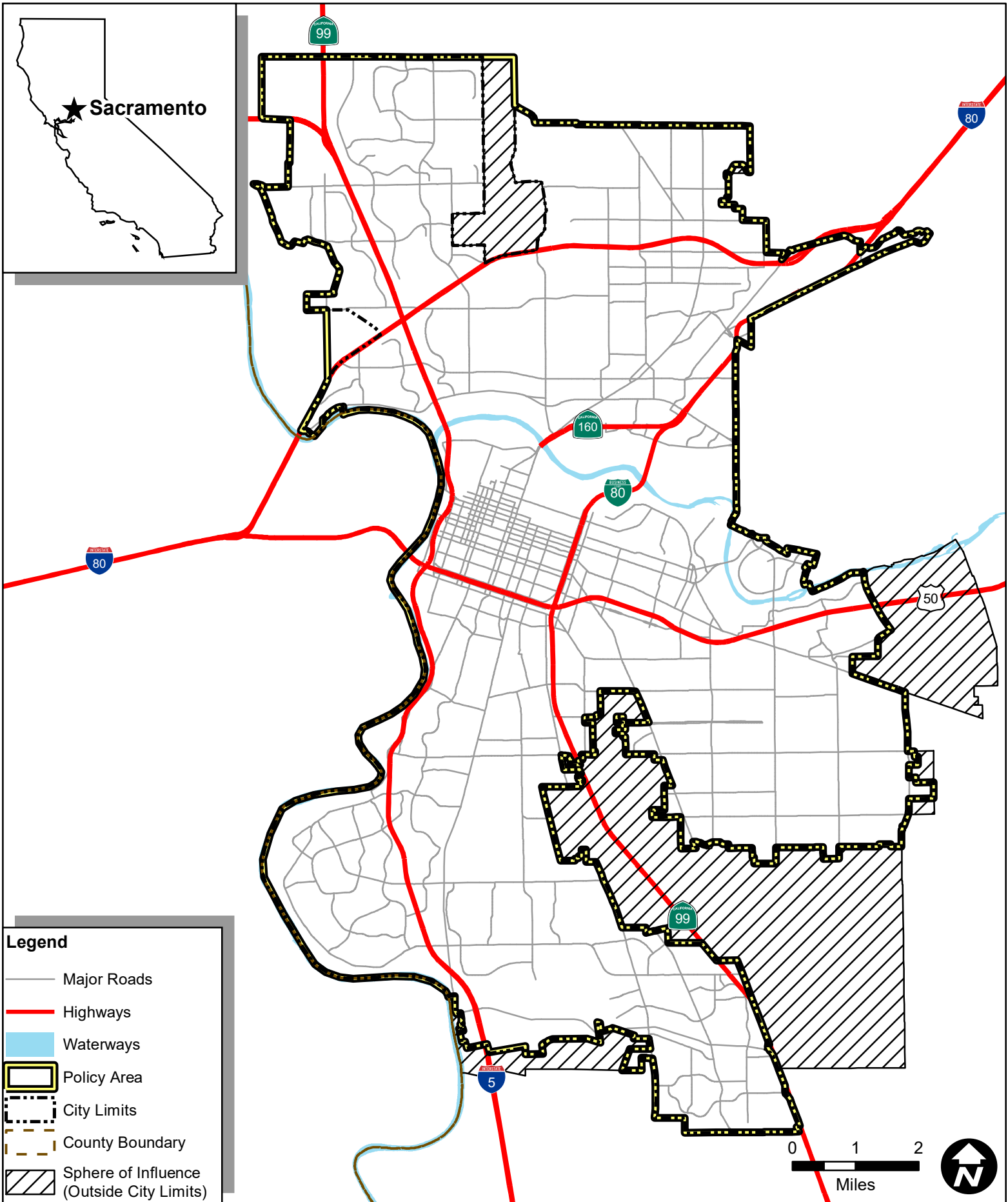
Comments as to the appropriate scope of analysis in the MEIR are invited from all interested parties. Written comments on the scope of the MEIR will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 28, 2019. Please submit comments to:

Scott Johnson, Senior Planner  
City of Sacramento Community Development Department  
Environmental Planning Services  
300 Richards Boulevard, 3rd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95811-0218  
Email: [SRJohnson@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:SRJohnson@cityofsacramento.org)

## **SCOPING MEETING**

A public scoping meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Sacramento City Hall, 915 I Street, Room 1119, Sacramento, California. Trustee and responsible agencies, as well as members of the public are invited to attend to learn more about the 2040 General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan and to provide written input on the scope of the MEIR. The scoping meeting will have an “open house” format, so participants can attend at any point during this two hour window. A brief presentation and project overview will be provided from 5:45 to 6:15 p.m. Written comments on the scope of the MEIR may be submitted at the meeting. Forms for providing comments will be available. No oral comments will be taken at this meeting, all comments are to be provided in writing.

As environmental documentation, including the NOP, for this project becomes available, it will be available for review at the City’s Community Development Department, 300 Richards Boulevard, Third Floor, Sacramento, California 95811, and online at: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Community-Development/Planning/Environmental/Impact-Reports.aspx>



**Legend**

- Major Roads
- Highways
- Waterways
- Policy Area
- City Limits
- County Boundary
- Sphere of Influence (Outside City Limits)

**City of Sacramento  
General Plan Policy Area  
(Project Location)**

**Exhibit 1**