

REPORT TO THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE ISSUED: November 2, 2023

MEETING DATE: November 15, 2023 AGENDA 7
ITEM:

PROJECT NUMBER: 2019-002015-(1-5)

PROJECT NAME: Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan

PLAN NUMBER(S): Advance Planning RPPL2019003630
Environmental Assessment RPPL2019003635

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT: 1-5

PROJECT LOCATION: Unincorporated Los Angeles County

PROJECT PLANNER: Iris Chi, Senior Planner
ichi@planning.lacounty.gov

RECOMMENDATION

LA County Planning staff ("staff") recommends the Regional Planning Commission adopt the attached resolution (Exhibit A) recommending **APPROVAL** to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors of the *Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan* ("Project"), Advance Planning No. RPPL2019003630 and **CERTIFICATION** of the Final Environmental Impact Report, Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2019003635.

Staff recommends the following motion:

I MOVE THAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND RECOMMEND CERTIFICATION OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT ALONG WITH ADOPTION OF THE REQUIRED FINDINGS OF FACT, STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS, AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY 2045 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. RPPL2019003635, PURSUANT TO STATE AND LOCAL CEQA GUIDELINES.

I MOVE THAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ADOPT THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY 2045 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN, TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED AMENDMENTS TO THE AIR QUALITY ELEMENT AND ITS IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 2019-002015-(1-5), ADVANCE PLANNING NO. RPPL2019003630.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Project Scope

Project No. 2019-002015-(1-5) is an amendment to the General Plan Air Quality Element, consisting of the following:

- The Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan (2045 CAP) was developed as a comprehensive update to replace the *Unincorporated Los Angeles County Community Climate Action Plan 2020* (2020 CCAP), an implementing component of the General Plan's Air Quality Element.
- Air Quality Element goals and policies were amended to set the policy framework for the 2045 CAP.
- Implementation programs for the Air Quality Element were amended to remove completed programs, retain ongoing programs, and eliminate redundancies.

The Project is the County of Los Angeles (County)'s plan for meeting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets for unincorporated Los Angeles County by the years 2030, 2035, and 2045. It was developed with the purposes of implementing the GHG emissions reduction policies of the General Plan Air Quality Element and ensuring that the County contributes its fair share to statewide GHG emissions reductions. The Project would be implemented in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

With these purposes in mind, the objectives of the Project are as follows:

- (1) Identify detailed programs, actions, and performance goals to achieve the climate action policies of the General Plan.
- (2) Identify GHG emissions reduction targets tailored to unincorporated Los Angeles County that closely align with State and County climate goals.
- (3) Provide a road map for reducing GHG emissions to achieve the County's GHG emissions reduction targets.
- (4) Encourage sustainable housing production at all levels of affordability, including increasing housing densities near transit to the extent allowed in the General Plan.
- (5) Demonstrate a level of GHG emissions below which the County would have less than cumulatively considerable GHG impacts for future environmental review projects and provide CEQA streamlining process for development projects (serve as a "qualified CAP") via the 2045 CAP CEQA Streamlining Checklist.

Key Components of the CAP

The Project includes the following:

- A GHG emissions inventory for 2018.
- Emissions forecasts for 2030, 2035, and 2045.
- GHG emissions targets for 2030, 2035, and 2045.
- A suite of GHG emissions reduction strategies, measures, and actions to reduce GHG emissions from major sectors.
- A technical modeling appendix to explain the 2045 CAP's GHG emissions reduction estimates.
- A consideration of environmental justice and equity concerns.
- Implementation and monitoring measures to ensure successful climate action.
- A new voluntary CEQA streamlining checklist to allow future projects to streamline GHG emissions analyses pursuant to CEQA.

B. Summary of CAP

The CAP is organized by strategies, measures, and actions:

STRATEGIES: 10
Broad overarching goals within each of the emissions sectors. Strategies generally describe end result goals.
MEASURES: 25
Programs designed to be quantified to track GHG emissions reductions. Supports strategies and achieved through implementing the CAP actions.
ACTIONS: 94
Policies, programs, or tools that collectively make meaningful progress toward the associated measure and strategy.

Details by sectors are summarized below. See the 2045 CAP (Exhibit B) and 2045 CAP Appendix E (Exhibit C) for complete details.

Energy Supply Sector

The source of energy used is essential to achieving the County's goal to reduce GHG emissions associated with energy supply and consumption. This category includes a range of strategies aimed at decarbonizing the energy used throughout unincorporated Los Angeles County.

Strategy 1: Decarbonize the Energy Supply	
Decarbonizing the energy supply requires three complementary components: procuring clean renewable sources of energy, shifting building energy loads for heating and cooking (i.e., gas stoves) to electricity or renewable fuels rather than fossil fuels, and reducing energy use through energy efficiency actions. This strategy would incentivize new or upgraded energy generation and related infrastructure.	
Measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ES1: Develop a Sunset Strategy for All Oil and Gas Operations • ES2: Procure Zero-Carbon Electricity • ES3: Increase Renewable Energy Production • ES4: Increase Energy Resilience • ES5: Establish GHG Requirements for New Development 	
Actions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>ES1.1 – 1.3</u>: The three actions under Measure ES1 that would implement the development of a sunset strategy for all oil and gas operations, examination of idle and abandoned oil wells for fugitive GHG emissions, and carbon removal strategy. • <u>ES2.1 – 2.2</u>: The two actions under Measure ES2 would implement the transition of County Facilities and unincorporated communities to the 100% renewable energy service provided by electric utility providers. • <u>ES3.1 – 3.6</u>: The six actions under Measure ES3 would implement expanding local solar power generation on existing and new development and for County projects through installing rooftop solar panels. • <u>ES4.1 – 4.5</u>: The five actions under Measure ES4 would implement expanding energy storage and microgrids throughout the community and for County operations through creating resilience hubs, investing in energy storage and microgrids, and promoting energy efficiency and resilience measures for critical community services. • <u>ES5.1 – 5.3</u>: The three actions under Measure ES5 would implement developing requirements for new development to reduce GHG emissions, streamlining environmental review of GHG impacts for development projects using the CEQA streamlining checklist, and establishing an Offsite GHG Reduction Program. 	

Transportation Sector

Activities within the transportation sector are responsible for the majority of GHG emissions in unincorporated Los Angeles County, as the dominant mode of transportation is vehicles that run on fossil fuels. Land use patterns have been designed to prioritize and promote the usage of cars and trucks. The County will address transportation emissions by prioritizing public transportation, walking, biking, and active transit options, and other alternatives to single-occupancy trips. For trips requiring vehicles, the County will focus on advancing zero-emission and near-zero-emission technologies.

Strategy 2: Increase Densities and Diversity of Land Uses Near Transit

This strategy focuses on coordinating land use development that leads to outcomes associated with reduced vehicle miles travelled (VMT), such as increased densities near transit, jobs-housing balance, and strategically located land uses that can reduce travel distances for many trip purposes.

Measures

- T1: Increase Density Near High-Quality Transit Areas
- T2: Develop Land Use Plans Addressing Jobs-Housing Balance and Increase Mixed Use

Actions

- T1.1 – 1.2: The two action under Measure T1 would implement increasing housing opportunities that are affordable and near transit, to reduce VMT, through incentivizing residential and community serving uses in high quality transit areas and land use tools that increase diversity of housing types.
- T2.1: The one action under Measure T2 would implement developing community plans that will increase the percentage of residents who could live and work within the same community, and that could decrease VMT.

Strategy 3: Reduce Single-Occupancy Vehicle Trips

This strategy focuses on development of transportation networks that increase the accessibility, comfort, and convenience of active travel modes to help reduce trips made in single-occupancy vehicles.

Measures

- T3: Expand Bicycle and Pedestrian Network to Serve Residential, Employment, and Recreational Trips
- T4: Broaden Options for Transit, Active Transportation, and Alternative Modes of Transportation
- T5: Limit and Remove Parking Minimums

Actions

- T3.1 – 3.3: The three actions under Measure T3 would implement the expansion of bicycle and pedestrian networks to help shift trips away from single-occupancy vehicles.
- T4.1 – 4.10: The ten actions under Measure T4 would implement options for transit service, micro mobility services, and alternative modes of transportation through the expansion and improvement of unincorporated LA County shuttle services, and collaborations with Metro and other transit providers to expand services and improve transit infrastructure.
- T5.1: The one action under Measure T5 would implement a comprehensive parking reform strategy to help reduce VMT.

Strategy 4: Institutionalize Low-Carbon Transportation	
<p>Motorized vehicles that are needed for travel must transition from internal combustion engines to zero-carbon and near-zero-carbon technologies, such as electric vehicles (EVs) and zero-emissions vehicles (ZEVs). The County will work to expand access to charging infrastructure and clean transportation that include e-bikes, zero-emission buses and shuttles, and electrified trains. This strategy also aims to reduce emissions from diesel- and gasoline- powered off-road equipment, including construction, landscaping, recreational, and commercial and industrial equipment.</p>	
Measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T6: Increase ZEV Market Share and Reduce Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Sales • T7: Electrify County Fleet Vehicles: • T8: Accelerate Freight Decarbonization • T9: Expand Use of Zero-Emission Technologies for Off-Road Vehicles and Equipment 	
Actions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>T6.1 – 6.7</u>: The seven actions under Measure T6 would implement increasing the County's ZEV market share through developing a Zero Emission Vehicle Master Plan, increasing the EV charging infrastructure, expanding electric options for active transportation, and increasing the use of green hydrogen vehicles. • <u>T7.1 – 7.2</u>: The two actions under Measure T7 would implement electrifying County light-duty fleet vehicles. • <u>T8.1 – 8.5</u>: The five actions under Measure T8 would implement accelerating freight decarbonization through freight decarbonization technologies along highway corridors, requiring goods movement facilities to install alternative fueling infrastructure, and electrifying the County medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleet. • <u>T9.1 – 9.3</u>: The three actions under Measure T9 would implement increasing the availability and use of zero-emission and near-zero-emission construction, agriculture, and manufacturing equipment. 	

Building Energy and Water

Buildings are central in the County's approach to reducing GHG emissions associated with energy supply and consumption. This category includes a range of strategies aimed at reducing energy use in buildings, decarbonizing the energy and materials used in buildings, and reducing water consumption. The approach combines increasing energy efficiency, electrifying buildings, replacing fossil fuels with carbon-free and renewable fuel sources, and decarbonizing building materials. These actions must apply to both new and existing buildings.

Water consumption in unincorporated Los Angeles County has a significant carbon footprint because energy is required to collect, treat, store, and convey water to homes and businesses from distant sources. By prioritizing water conservation programs, expanding the County's efforts toward water recycling and reuse, and promoting net zero water developments, the

County will simultaneously reduce GHG emissions and lessen communitywide dependency on imported water sources.

Strategy 5: Decarbonize Buildings

Building decarbonization requires two complementary components: procuring clean, renewable sources of energy and shifting building energy loads for heating and cooking to electricity or renewable fuels rather than fossil fuels.

Measures

- E1: Decarbonize Existing Buildings
- E2: Decarbonize New Development
- E3: Other Decarbonization Actions

Actions

- E1.1 – 1.6: The six actions under Measure E1 would implement the decarbonization of existing buildings through adopting Building Performance Standards and reach codes to require zero-GHG emission appliances, increasing availability of alternative renewable energy sources, creating a funding program to support decarbonization of existing affordable housing units.
- E2.1 – 2.3: The three actions under Measure E2 would implement the decarbonization of new development through adopting zero-GHG emission and zero-net energy ordinances for applicable new buildings, and adopting green building standards.
- E3.1 – 3.4: The four actions under Measure E3 would implement reducing the life-cycle carbon intensity of building materials and phase out the use of high-GWP refrigerants through increasing levels of biomethane into the natural gas mix, adopt a concrete code for new construction that limits embodied carbon emissions, developing a refrigerant management program that establishes a phase-out timeline for high-GWP refrigerants.

Strategy 6: Improve Efficiency of Existing Building Energy Use

Increasing the energy efficiency of existing buildings reduces GHG emissions by decreasing the consumption of nonrenewable energy sources, including natural gas and electricity that is not 100 percent carbon-free. Energy efficiency improvements can be achieved through a variety of methods, including energy audits, benchmarking, appliance replacements and rebates, building retrofits, and consumer education.

Measures

- E4: Improve Energy Efficiency of Existing Buildings

Actions

- E4.1 – 4.3: The three actions under Measure E4 would implement improving energy efficiency of existing buildings through adopting Building Performance Standards and an energy efficiency ordinance, and converting to cool or green spaces.

Strategy 7: Conserve Water

The GHG emissions associated with water consumption are the result of the electricity and natural gas used to pump, treat, and convey the water. This strategy aims to reduce GHG emissions by decreasing the total amount of water consumed, as well as the energy intensity of the water consumed.

Measures

- E5: Increase Use of Recycled Water and Graywater Systems
- E6: Reduce Indoor and Outdoor Water Consumption

Actions

- E5.1 – 5.5: The five actions under Measure E5 would implement increasing the use of alternative water sources through requiring dual waste piping in new residential developments for future graywater systems, and the use of recycled water and graywater for agricultural, industrial, and landscaping purposes.
- E6.1 – 6.5: The five actions under Measure E6 would implement reducing indoor and outdoor water consumption through development of a water conservation and efficiency ordinances, incentives to replace water-intensive landscaping, and integration of water-related programs that protect housing affordability.

Waste Sector

The County will reduce GHG emissions from waste in a manner that prioritizes overall environmental benefit. This starts with expanded efforts to reduce and reuse waste at the source. Incentives and educational programs will be used to increase awareness and bolster participation in recycling programs. Organic waste, which is responsible for the vast majority of GHG emissions in the waste sector, will be addressed through source reduction, donation of edible food, and composting. Organic waste will also be addressed through waste conversion technologies such as anaerobic digestion and biomass conversion, which produce biogas that can be used to produce heat and electricity, pipeline gas, and other beneficial products such as compost and fertilizer. At wastewater treatment plants, biogas will be captured and converted into electricity.

Strategy 8: Minimize Waste and Recover Energy and Materials from the Waste Stream

This strategy includes expanded efforts to reduce and reuse waste at the source. Organic waste will be addressed through source reduction, donation of edible food, and composting, as well as through waste conversion technologies such as anaerobic digestion and biomass conversion.

Measures

- W1: Institutionalize Sustainable Waste Systems and Practices
- W2: Increase Organic Waste Diversion

Actions

- W1.1 – 1.3: The three actions under Measure W1 would implement sustainable waste systems through identifying best practice waste pricing programs to help reduce waste generation, implementing the single-use plastics and expanded

polystyrene ordinance, and increasing diversion requirements for construction and demolition debris.

- W2.1 – 2.5: The five actions under Measure W2 would implement increased organic waste diversion through developing organic waste collection, management, and diversion programs; collaborating with waste and wastewater service providers to generate bioenergy, and diverting edible food from landfills.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use

The Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use sector strategies focus on conservation and restoration of existing forest lands and urban forests to sequester carbon and support local ecosystems. These strategies promote clean water, air, and food, in addition to a reduced urban heat island effect.

Strategy 9: Conserve and Connect Wildlands and Working Lands

Conserving and restoring forests, chaparral shrublands, grasslands, deserts, and wetlands keeps carbon in the ground and provides a multitude of benefits, from maintaining biodiversity in the Significant Ecological Areas to preserving the character of unincorporated Los Angeles County's rural areas.

Measures

- A1: Conserve Forests, Woodlands, Shrublands, Grasslands, Desert, and other Carbon-Sequestering Wildlands and Working Lands

Actions

- A1.1 – 1.2: The two action under Measure A1 would implement preserving, conserving, and restoring agricultural lands, working lands, rangelands, forest lands, wetlands, and other wildlands in unincorporated Los Angeles County through an open space conservation and land acquisition strategy and ecosystem-appropriate vegetation management.

Strategy 10: Sequester Carbon and Implement Sustainable Agriculture

Regenerative agriculture practices can have positive impacts for the climate, reducing GHG emissions and supporting practices that are environmentally friendly. Adding tree canopy cover and green spaces back into developed areas can help sequester carbon and reduce the urban heat island effect.

Measures

- A2: Support Regenerative Agriculture
- A3: Expand Unincorporated Los Angeles County's Tree Canopy and Green Spaces

Actions

- A2.1 – 2.2: The two actions under Measure A2 would implement agricultural practices that sequester carbon and restore soil quality, biodiversity, ecosystems health, and water quality through fallow and field resting incentives and providing compost and/or organic or nonsynthetic fertilizer.
- A3.1 – 3.3: The three actions under Measure A3 would implement the creation of an Urban Forest Management Plan to plant trees, increase unincorporated Los

Angeles County's tree canopy cover, add green space, and convert impervious surfaces.

C. Project Background

In 2015, the County adopted the 2020 Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) as an implementing component of the Air Quality Element of the General Plan and set a target to reduce GHG emissions in unincorporated Los Angeles County by 11 percent by 2020. The 2020 CCAP included the County's first GHG reduction goals that aligned with Assembly Bill (AB) 32 (2006), which established a statewide goal to achieve 1990 emissions levels by 2020. Some major changes between the 2020 CCAP and the Project are:

- New GHG emissions reduction targets were identified for the Project to align with the State's more recent statewide emissions reduction targets.
- The Project includes emissions reduction actions that cover both community activities and some municipal operations. The 2020 CCAP only included implementing actions to reduce emissions from community activities.
- The Project places more emphasis on equitable implementation of the CAP actions, especially in frontline communities.

D. Importance of Climate Action Planning and Implementation

Aligning Local Efforts

The Project responds to the recent directives of the Board of Supervisors (Board) regarding climate action:

- September 4, 2018 – *Support the Paris Climate Agreement and Add LA County to We Are Still In Coalition*
 - Accelerate the implementation of GHG emissions reduction policies and programs that prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations.
 - Complete a new GHG emissions inventory, establish future emissions targets, and develop an updated climate action plan.
- September 15, 2020 – *Los Angeles County's Energy Resiliency Policy and the Impact on Disadvantaged Communities*
 - Review existing County policies, practices, and operations to ensure resiliency of the County's energy supply against climate change, natural disasters, international turmoil, power outages, cyber-attacks, transportation disruptions, and price spikes.
 - Include recommendations from the report back in the draft LA County Climate Action Plan prior to implementation of energy transition related goals.

- October 19, 2021 – *Support the Medium- and Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Act of 2021*
 - Support the Medium- and Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Act of 2021, which requires EPA to establish a rebate program promoting the purchase of electric medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and charging stations.
- March 1, 2022 – *Addressing the Need to Create Climate Resilient Communities*
 - Incubate, for up to 15 months, a Climate Resilience Initiative to implement a whole government approach to addressing climate resilience.
- March 15, 2022 – *Ensuring the Equitable Decarbonization of Buildings*
 - Determine if increased electric demand resulting from efforts to decarbonize buildings can be met with existing and planned new clean energy resources and steps to strengthen the grid.
 - Identify potential policies and programs, including funding sources, to reduce or eliminate the use of fossil fuels in existing residential and commercial buildings.
 - Provide recommendations for an ordinance or building code changes that would phase out the use of natural gas equipment and appliances in all new residential and commercial construction and substantial renovations, where feasible, starting in 2023.

Aligning with State and Federal Efforts

The Project aligns with statewide goals and related legislation. The Project's reduction targets align with Senate Bill 32 and AB 1279, which set statewide GHG emissions reduction targets for years 2030 and 2045. The Project also aligns with the Advance Clean Cars II Program, which requires all new passenger cars, trucks, and SUVs sold in the state to be zero-emissions by 2035. The implementation of the Project helps ensure that the necessary infrastructure, such as electric vehicle chargers and availability of alternative fuels, will be in place by 2035 to support the increased sales of zero-emissions vehicles.

Funding Opportunities

The Project will serve as a roadmap for budgeting and help the County secure potential funding for future CAP implementation. The Project provides a strategic policy framework for the next 22 years, with implementation actions and timeframes. This information will be used to plan for short- and long-term departmental budgets and apply for grant funding from the State and Federal governments.

ANALYSIS

A. General Plan Consistency

The Project is consistent with the following applicable goals of the General Plan:

Land Use Element

- Goal LU 3: A development pattern that discourages sprawl, and protects and conserves areas with natural resources and SEAs.
- Goal LU 4: Infill development and redevelopment that strengthens and enhances communities.
- Goal LU 5: Vibrant, livable and healthy communities with a mix of land uses, services and amenities.
- Goal LU 11: Development that utilizes sustainable design techniques.

Mobility Element

- Goal M 2: Interconnected and safe bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly streets, sidewalks, paths and trails that promote active transportation and transit use.
- Goal M 4: An efficient multimodal transportation system that serves the needs of all residents.
- Goal M 5: Land use planning and transportation management that facilitates the use of transit.
- Goal M 6: The safe and efficient movement of goods.
- Goal M 7: Transportation networks that minimize negative impacts to the environment and communities.

Conservation and Natural Resources Element

- Goal C/NR 1: Open space areas that meet the diverse needs of Los Angeles County.
- Goal C/NR 2: Effective collaboration in open space resource preservation.
- Goal C/NR 3: Permanent, sustainable preservation of genetically and physically diverse biological resources and ecological systems including: habitat linkages, forests, coastal zone, riparian habitats, streambeds, wetlands, woodlands, alpine habitat, chaparral, shrublands, and SEAs.
- Goal C/NR 4: Conserved and sustainably managed woodlands.
- Goal C/NR 8: Productive farmland that is protected for local food production, open space, public health, and the local economy.
- Goal C/NR 9: Sustainable agricultural practices.
- Goal C/NR 12: Sustainable management of renewable and non-renewable energy resources.

Public Services and Facilities Element

- Goal PS/F 2: Increased water conservation efforts.
- Goal PS/F 3: Increased local water supplies through the use of new technologies.
- Goal PS/F 5: Adequate disposal capacity and minimal waste and pollution.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

A Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) was prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and County CEQA guidelines. The Project evaluated in the PEIR includes the 2045 CAP, as well as associated updates to the Air Quality Element and General Plan implementation program for the Air Quality Element. The EIR Notice of Preparation was available for public review from January 3, 2022 to February 1, 2022. On January 13, 2022, staff held a scoping meeting to provide project information and receive public comments. To protect public health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, the scoping meeting was held via the Zoom virtual platform.

Based on comments received on the Draft PEIR circulated between May 25, 2022 to July 18, 2022, and due to the adoption of Assembly Bill (AB) 1279 during that period, the 2045 CAP was revised to include an additional emissions reduction target for 2045, consistent with AB 1279. A new Alternative 3 that includes the minimum targets needed to “align” with California’s codified statewide targets for 2030 and 2045 was included in a Recirculated Draft EIR, along with other content to address issues raised by public comments on the Draft PEIR.

The Recirculated Draft PEIR was released for a 45-day public review period from March 30, 2023 to May 15, 2023. The Recirculated Draft PEIR (Exhibit E) concludes that the Project would result in less than significant impacts after applicable mitigation measures to certain impacts within the following environmental resource areas: Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Population and Housing, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire.

Certain impacts to Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Noise, and Utilities and Service Systems were determined to be significant and unavoidable, requiring a Statement of Overriding Considerations (Exhibit G).

The Final PEIR presents responses to public comments on significant environmental issues received on the Recirculated Draft PEIR during the March 30, 2023 to May 15, 2023 comment period. A total of 21 correspondences were received in response to the Recirculated Draft PEIR Notice of Availability. None of the comments or revisions made to the Recirculated Draft PEIR resulted “significant new information” as defined by CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5 being added to the EIR. For example, none of the comments or revisions resulted in new significant impacts; a substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact identified in the Recirculated Draft PEIR; or brought forth a feasible project alternative or mitigation measure that is considerably different from those set forth in the Recirculated Draft PEIR.

The Project has economic, legal, social, technological, environmental, and other benefits that outweigh the significant and unavoidable environmental effects as described. The Project will provide benefits to Los Angeles County and the region as follows:

1. Improves Regional Air Quality
2. Increases Community Resiliency
3. Promotes Green Jobs
4. Lowers Energy Costs
5. Fights Drought
6. Improves Active Transportation
7. Improves CEQA Streamlining
8. Achieves Statewide Climate Goals
9. Encourages Green Investment
10. Promotes Environmental and Social Justice

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

A. County Department Comments and Recommendations

County departments including Public Works, Fire, Public Health, and Parks and Recreation were consulted throughout the preparation of the 2045 CAP. Comments received from the departments were considered and incorporated into the 2045 CAP.

B. Project Outreach and Engagement

Engagement for the Project commenced in 2019 and continued throughout the public review period for all three draft versions of the Project. Although initial outreach events were conducted in-person, most of the events were conducted online during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff conducted outreach at a total of 38 different Parks After Dark events throughout Los Angeles County. General information on the Project was provided to attendees, and staff held conversations on the importance of climate action.

Staff also engaged with community groups and residents from each of the supervisorial districts throughout the planning process of the Project. Staff gave 15 presentations at various community group meetings. In addition, staff hosted 20 stakeholder meetings. Initial stakeholder meetings were held in a workshop format for stakeholders to provide input to help develop the CAP strategies. As the Project progressed and draft versions of the Project were made publicly available, the stakeholder meetings were hosted for groups and organizations of specialized fields ranging from environmental justice, housing advocacy, building industry, resource conservation, and labor unions.

In March 2022, staff distributed the 2045 CAP Community Survey to gather feedback on prioritizing climate actions for unincorporated communities. The survey results were used to shape the overarching strategies in the Project. In January 2023, staff distributed a second survey, the Home Energy Survey, to collect information from residents on completed and/or planned home energy retrofits. The information from the Home Energy Survey will be used to inform Project implementation.

In September 2023, staff focused on engaging youth on climate action, including presenting and engaging with the Los Angeles County Youth Climate Commission and students from Whittier College.

In addition, staff distributed a semi-monthly newsletter via email, maintained a project website, and disseminated notices, documents and updates to a list consisting of 619 email addresses for residents and other interested parties. Staff also met with members of the public via virtual appointments, phone calls, and emails. For more details on the Project outreach efforts, please refer to Exhibit K.

Furthermore, in September 2023, staff emailed a courtesy RPC public hearing notice (Exhibit I) to interested parties, local agencies, and local organizations. Staff also noticed the RPC public hearing in fourteen local newspapers, including the Spanish language newspaper La Opinión.

Changes between Revised Draft 2045 CAP and Public Hearing Draft 2045 CAP


During the development of the Project, three draft versions were made available for public review. The Revised Draft 2045 CAP was the last version available for public review. Some changes made to the Public Hearing Draft proposed for adoption include:

- Deleted several proposed Air Quality Element Implementation Programs in Chapter 16 of the General Plan to eliminate redundancies and completed programs.
- Revised reference of building electrification to decarbonization in 2045 CAP actions and Air Quality Element policies.
- Clarified the CAP Consistency Checklist to be a CEQA Streamlining Checklist.
- Accelerated the timeframes of three 2045 CAP actions to ensure appropriate implementation sequencing.

C. Public Comments

At the time of staff report preparation, staff has received one letter via email. See Exhibit J for copies of correspondence(s).

Report
Reviewed By:


Thuy Hua, Supervising Regional Planner

Report
Approved By:


Connie Chung, Deputy Director

LIST OF ATTACHED EXHIBITS	
EXHIBIT A	Draft Resolution of the Regional Planning Commission
EXHIBIT B	2045 Climate Action Plan
EXHIBIT C	Appendices of 2045 Climate Action Plan
EXHIBIT D	General Plan Amendment
EXHIBIT E	Final PEIR and Appendices, Recirculated Draft PEIR and Appendices
EXHIBIT F	CEQA Findings of Fact
EXHIBIT G	Statement of Overriding Considerations
EXHIBIT H	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
EXHIBIT I	Notice of Public Hearing
EXHIBIT J	Public Correspondence
EXHIBIT K	2045 CAP Outreach Summary