



**CITY OF CORONA
NOTICE OF PREPARATION**

Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the City of Corona General Plan Housing Element Update Rezoning Program

TO: Reviewing Agencies and Other Interested Parties

FROM: City of Corona, Lead Agency

PROJECT TITLE: City of Corona General Plan Housing Element Rezoning Program Update

APPLICANT: City of Corona

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: July 1, 2022 through August 1, 2022

The purpose of the NOP is to notify reviewing agencies, including Responsible and Trustee Agencies that the City of Corona, as the Lead Agency will be preparing a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the City of Corona General Plan Housing Element Rezoning Program Update for the City's adopted 2021-2029 Housing Element Update.

The City is requesting comments on the scope and content of the Supplemental EIR from Responsible and Trustee agencies, interested public agencies, organizations and the general public pursuant to State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15082. The City will need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information, which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed Project. **The project description, location, and the probable environmental effects are contained in the Initial Study, which can be accessed at www.CoronaCA.gov/GPUUpdate.**

Scoping Meeting: As part of the notice of preparation process, the City will hold a public scoping meeting on the future preparation of the Supplemental EIR to the General Plan EIR to receive public comments and suggestions on information that should be included in the environmental analysis for the Project as it relates to the California Environmental Quality Act. The public scoping meeting will be held on July 20, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Corona City Hall, Multi-Purpose Room at 400 S. Vicentia Avenue, Corona, CA 92882.

Public comments can also be submitted in writing and emailed to GPUUpdate@CoronaCA.gov or mailed to CITY OF CORONA, CITY HALL, Planning and Development Department, 400 South Vicentia Avenue Corona, California 92882.

Project Location: The Project is located in the City of Corona (Corona), which is in northwestern Riverside County (County). The City is generally bordered by the City of Norco and the City of Riverside to the north and northeast, the City of Chino Hills and the City of Yorba Linda to the northwest, the City of Anaheim to the west, the Cleveland National Forest and the Santa Ana Mountains to the southwest, and

unincorporated Riverside County along the remaining City borders, as shown in Figure 1. The Project is interspersed throughout the City, which has a land area of approximately 40 square miles, as shown in Figure 2. The Project would affect specific parcels within the City, by proposing to rezone parcels to accommodate high density residential uses or an Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO) zone in order to plan for additional affordable housing units.

Project Description: The City’s 2021-2029 Draft Housing Element Update was adopted by the City Council on November 3, 2021 and has been reviewed by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The City is continuing to work with HCD on obtaining Housing Element compliance.

The General Plan Update EIR certified on June 30, 2020, anticipated an additional 5,494 residential units; however, the State’s Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation for the Housing Element Update now exceeds the City’s housing unit projection for Year 2040 in the General Plan Update. The City’s total RHNA allocation is 6,088 units with 3,888 allocated to low- and moderate-income housing units, consisting of 2,792 units and 1,096 units, respectively. Currently, the City’s RHNA allocation of 6,088 exceeds its projected housing growth by 594 units, in addition to accommodating an additional buffer.

As such, the City is now proposing a rezoning program to accommodate the planning of low- and moderate-income households as required by the state’s RHNA allocation for the City. These additional 594 housing units from the RHNA were not known at the time the General Plan Update EIR was prepared, potentially resulting in additional impacts that were not evaluated in the General Plan Update EIR. Therefore, supplemental environmental evaluation pursuant to CEQA is required to address the potential impacts from growth that could occur as a result of Project implementation.

The proposed Project is ultimately implementing the General Plan. As such, the General Plan Update EIR is incorporated by reference herein, as the evaluations of potential environmental impacts associated with adoption of the General Plan include mitigation measures and consistency evaluations which are directly applicable to the proposed Project.

The City’s Housing Element Update includes an inventory of properties that are intended to be rezoned to high density residential or an Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO) zone in order to plan for potential sites to accommodate the RHNA allocation of units that would also be suitable for low- and moderate-income units. The AHO zone is a new zone being proposed by the City to establish by-right development standards for affordable housing projects. The AHO zone will cover existing properties that are currently developed with non-residential land uses. The overlay zone will allow current uses to remain but would allow property owners the option to develop per the underlying General Plan and zoning or the AHO zone. The City is proposing to create development standards (i.e., criteria for building setbacks, parking, building height, landscaping, open space amenities, lot coverage, etc.) and architectural design guidelines for the AHO zone.

In addition to the RHNA allocation, a buffer is necessary to ensure that if one or more of the identified candidate sites are developed at lower densities or with non-housing uses, there would be remaining capacity to ensure an ongoing supply of sites for housing during the eight-year-cycle of the Housing Element. If there were no buffer provided, then the City could be obliged to identify new sites and amend the Housing Element if an identified site were developed with a non-housing project or developed at a density less than that anticipated in the Housing Element. The need for a substantial buffer is even more important during this cycle because of new rules in the Housing Accountability Act’s “no net loss”

provisions. Senate Bill (SB) 166 (2017) requires that the land inventory and site identification programs in the Housing Element always include sufficient sites to accommodate the unmet RHNA.

Table 1 City of Corona RHNA Allocation & Sites Inventory

	Lower Income	Moderate Income	Above Moderate Income	Total
RHNA Allocation	2,792	1,096	2,200	6,088
Planned and Approved Units	0	92	2,110	2,202
ADUs Anticipated for Development	46	28	6	80
Remaining RHNA Units Required After Credits	2,746	976	84	3,806
Vacant Units	164	24	562	750
Nonvacant Units	82	115	255	452
Potential Rezone	149	219	0	368
Affordable Housing Overlay (60 du/ac maximum)	3,442	930	279	4,651
Total Units	3,837	1,288	1,096	6,221
Percent Buffer of Remaining Needs after Credits	39.5%	32%		
Total Unit Surplus	1,091	312	1,012	2,415

Anticipated approvals include, but are not limited to:

- 1) General Plan Amendment
- 2) Change of Zone
- 3) Amendment to Title 17, Zoning Code of the Corona Municipal Code
- 4) Amendment to various specific plans
- 5) Adoption of Design Guidelines

Public comments on the Initial Study are invited to be submitted in writing before August 1, 2022.

The document is available for review on the city’s website at www.CoronaCA.gov/GPUupdate. The document is also available at Corona City Hall in the Planning and Development Department. Comments should be sent to:

CITY OF CORONA, CITY HALL
 Planning and Development Department
 400 South Vicentia Avenue
 Corona, California 92882-2187
 Contact: Joanne Coletta, Director
 Email: GPUupdate@CoronaCA.gov
 (951) 736-2434

Figure 1 Vicinity Map

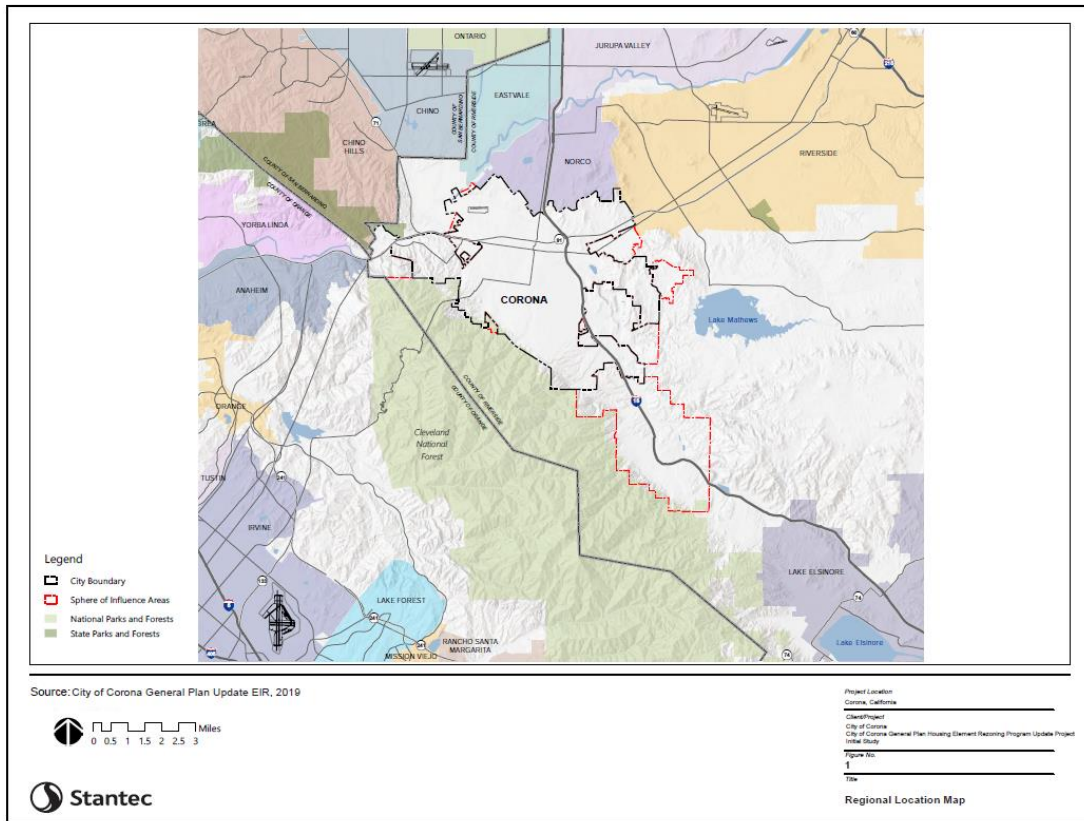


Figure 2 City of Corona Boundary and Sphere of Influence

