

NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

FROM: City of Paramount Planning Department
16400 Colorado Ave.
Paramount, CA 90723

TO: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Interested Parties

DATE: January 5, 2022

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the North Paramount Gateway Specific Plan¹

The City of Paramount ("City") will be the Lead Agency and will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed North Paramount Gateway Specific Plan ("Project") described below. We are interested in your agency's views as to the appropriate scope and content of the Draft EIR's environmental information pertaining to your agency's statutory responsibilities related to the project. We will need the name of a contact person for your agency. For interested individuals, we would like to be informed of environmental topics of interest to you regarding the project.

Because the City has already determined that an EIR is required for the proposed Project, and as permitted by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(d) (Preliminary Review), the City will not prepare an Initial Study for the Project. Further, the proposed Project, its location, and its potential environmental effects are summarized for this Notice of Preparation (NOP). A copy of the NOP with figures is available on the City's website or upon request with the project planner as detailed below. The City welcomes public input during the NOP review period

Project Title: North Paramount Gateway Specific Plan

Project Number: General Plan Amendment No. 22-2; Zone Change No. 240; Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment No. 25

Project Applicant: City of Paramount

Project Location: The Project site contains approximately 279 acres in the northern portion of the city of Paramount, centered on Paramount Boulevard between Rosecrans Avenue and the city of South Gate. The site is generally bounded by Rosecrans Avenue and a Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) rail right-of-way on the south; a Metro rail right-of-way on the west; Interstate 105, the city of South Gate, and Howe Street on the north; and Anderson Street on the east.

See an expanded NOP at the Planning Department's office or online at <https://www.paramountcity.com/government/planning-department/planning-division/environmental-documents> for a location map.

Project Description: The proposed Project is the North Paramount Gateway Specific Plan, which replaces two existing specific plans within the Project site—the Clearwater North Specific Plan and the Howe Orizaba Specific Plan, both adopted by the City of Paramount in 1987. The intent of the Project is to combine the two specific plan areas into a single specific plan, slightly expand the plan area to incorporate additional key parcels along Paramount Boulevard, and develop a plan that provides long-term reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled, supports sustainability efforts, promotes community health and well-being, and strengthens the economic vitality of businesses and individuals.

The Project involves the rezoning of 279 acres from a mix of Multiple Family Residential (R-M), General Commercial (C-3), Commercial-Manufacturing (C-M), and PD-PS (Planned Development with Performance Standards) to Multiple Family Residential, Medium Density (R-M); Multiple Family Residential, High Density (R-M-HD); Mixed-Use, Medium Density (MU-1); and Mixed-Use, High Density (MU-2). The maximum residential density will increase from the current 22 dwelling units/acre (du/acre) to 30 du/ac in the R-M and MU-1 zones and 40 du/ac in the R-M-HD and MU-2 zones. Maximum heights and floor area ratios will generally remain consistent with current standards, with a 45-foot height limit and 2.0 FAR maximum for most projects. See an expanded NOP at the Planning Department's office or online at <https://www.paramountcity.com/government/planning-department/planning-division/environmental-documents> for the proposed specific plan land use map.

The projected net change in development within the Specific Plan area is 5,044 residential units and 31,171 square feet of retail and office space, which would be in addition to the existing 1,707 residential units and 159,829 square feet of retail and office space.

Environmental Issues: An Initial Study has not been prepared for the Project as the City has determined that an EIR will clearly be required (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(a)). Impacts related to agriculture and forestry resources, mineral resources, and wildfire are not expected, and these topic areas will not be addressed in the EIR. Based on the anticipated impacts, the City intends to address the following environmental topic areas in the EIR:

- Aesthetics
- Land Use and Planning

NOTICE OF PREPARATION/PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING NOTICE

North Paramount Gateway Specific Plan - General Plan Amendment No. 22-2; Zone Change No. 240; Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment No. 25

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Project Alternatives

Public Review Period: January 5, 2022, through February 4, 2022

Responses and Comments: Please send your responses and comments by February 4, 2022 to John King, Assistant Planning Director, at JKing@paramountcity.com or at the following address:

John King, Assistant Planning Director
City of Paramount Planning Department
16400 Colorado Ave.
Paramount, CA 90723

Notice of Scoping Meeting:

The Project is considered a project of statewide, regional, or areawide significance, and, therefore, the County will conduct a scoping meeting for the Project pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(c) (Notice of Preparation and Determination of Scope of EIR) for the purpose of soliciting comments of adjacent cities, responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and interested parties requesting notice as to the appropriate scope and content of the Draft EIR. The Project will have an in-person scoping meeting with details on location and time outlined below. The date and meeting details are as follows:

Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Council Chambers, Paramount City Hall, 16400 Colorado Ave., Paramount

Document Availability: *Notice of Preparation*

The expanded version of this NOP, which includes figures, can be viewed on the City's website at <https://www.paramountcity.com/government/planning-department/planning-division/environmental-documents> and in the Planning Department at Paramount City Hall, 16400 Colorado Avenue. If you require additional information please contact John King, Assistant Planning Director, at (562) 220-2049.