

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining the City of Riverside Housing and Public Safety Updates and Environmental Justice Policies

Virtual Public Scoping Meeting

This meeting will begin shortly

To join the meeting via phone, please use the following dial-in information:

English

- Phone Number: +1 (213) 338-8477
- Webinar ID: 933 8088 1962
- Passcode: 5851

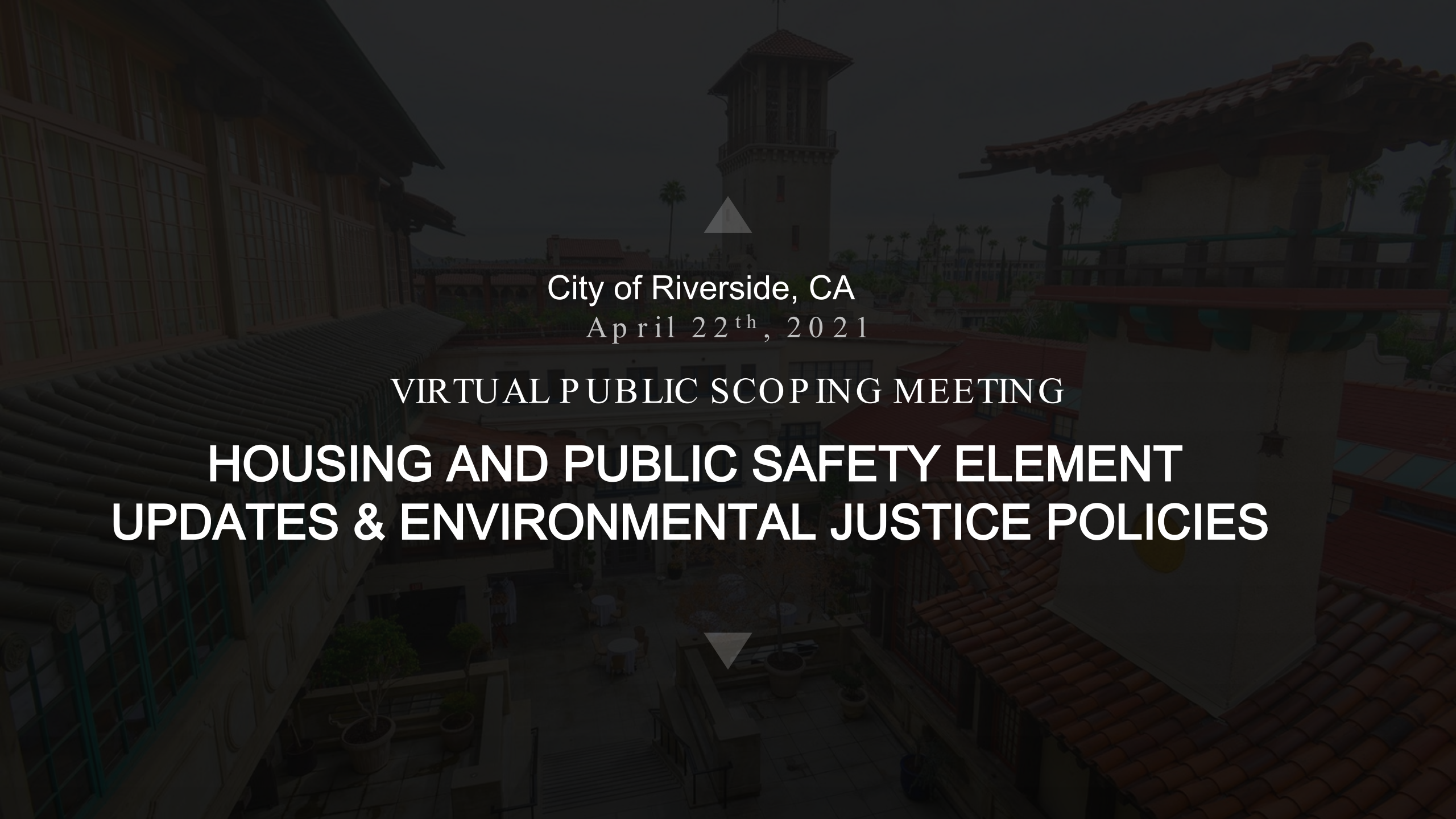
Español

- Teléfono: +1 (872) 240-3311
- Código de acceso: 269-232-901
- Línea de texto: 661-241-8994

*Aquellos que participen por teléfono pueden enviar los comentarios y preguntas por mensaje de texto al (661) 241-8994 durante la reunión.



To access additional project information, please visit [riversideca.gov/housingupdate](https://www.riversideca.gov/housingupdate)



City of Riverside, CA


April 22th, 2021

VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING


**HOUSING AND PUBLIC SAFETY ELEMENT
UPDATES & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES**

MEETING DETAILS

Spanish Interpretation

- Spanish interpretation available (if needed), click **interpretation** in your meeting controls 
- Select **Spanish**
- (Optional) To hear the interpreted language only, click **Mute Original Audio**.

Interpretación en Español

- Interpretación en español disponible (si es necesario), haga clic en **interpretación** en los controles de su reunión 
- Seleccione **español**
- (Opcional) Para escuchar solo el idioma interpretado, haga clic en “**Mute Original Audio**” o “**Silenciar audio original**”.



MEETING DETAILS

Closed Captioning

- If you need closed captioning, please visit the City's YouTube page at www.youtube.com/c/cityofriverside.



MEETING DETAILS

More Information

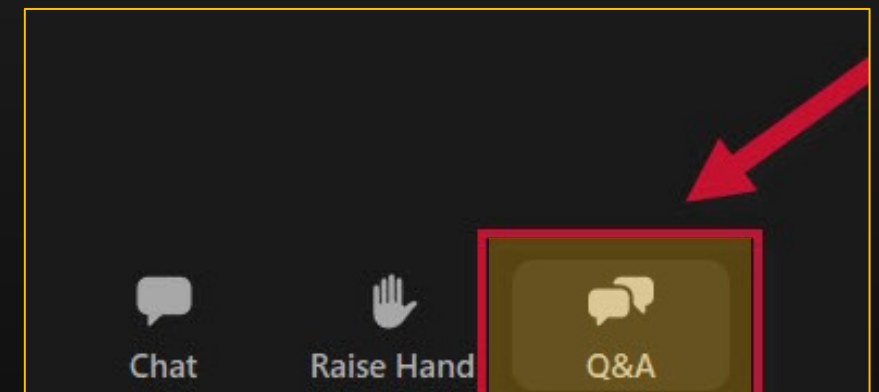
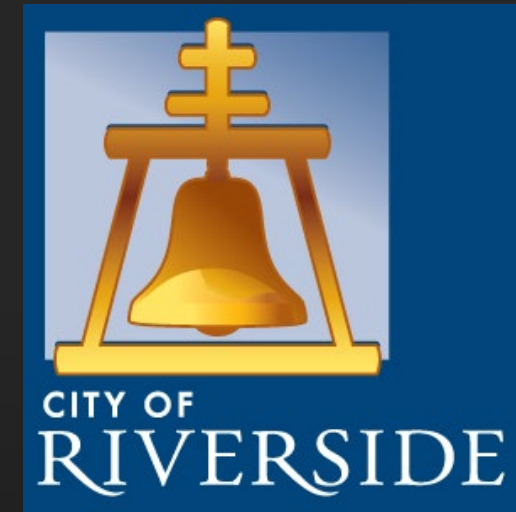
- **This meeting is being recorded** and will be posted to the project website for future review
- This is the first virtual environmental focused public meeting. The next opportunity to participate will be when the Draft Environmental Impact Report will be released in the summer.



QUESTION & ANSWER


For Questions & Comments...

- Please submit all questions and comments using the Zoom “Q&A” function.
- Questions and comments will be addressed at the end of the presentation.
- Thank you for showing respect for all and avoiding language that may be offensive, abusive, or derogatory.




OPEN DISCUSSION

Raise Hand

- Click **Raise Hand** in your meeting controls or 
- Press ***9** on the phone line
- To lower your hand, click **Raise Hand** in your meeting controls.

Levantarse la mano

- Haga clic en “**Raise Hand**” o “**Levantarse la mano**” en los controles de la reunión o 
- Presiona *** 9** en la línea telefónica
- Para bajar la mano, haga clic en “**Raise Hand**” o “**Levantarse la mano**” en los controles de la reunión.



Tonight's Agenda

1. Meeting Overview and Team Introduction
2. Purpose of CEQA and the Scoping Meeting
3. Project Overview
4. Summary of Environmental Impacts
5. Environmental Review (CEQA) Process
6. Project Next Steps
7. Public Comments
8. Stay Connected!

STAY CONNECTED!

- Visit the Housing Element Update website and join the mailing list: www.riversideca.gov/HousingUpdate
- Ask a question or provide your comments by email: MTaylor@riversideca.gov
- Online 3D Map: hla.fyi/PreferredAlt3D
- Downloadable PDF Map: hla.fyi/PreferredAltPDF
- Watch for future public meetings: [City Council Housing & Homelessness Committee - Monday, May 3, 2021, 3:30 p.m.](#)



PROJECT OVERVIEW and TIMELINE

2020 | 2021

HCD Deadline
October 15, 2021

Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep

Project Kick-Off
Late August 2020

Public Engagement
Jan 2020 – Mar 2021

EIR Scoping Meeting
April 22, 2021

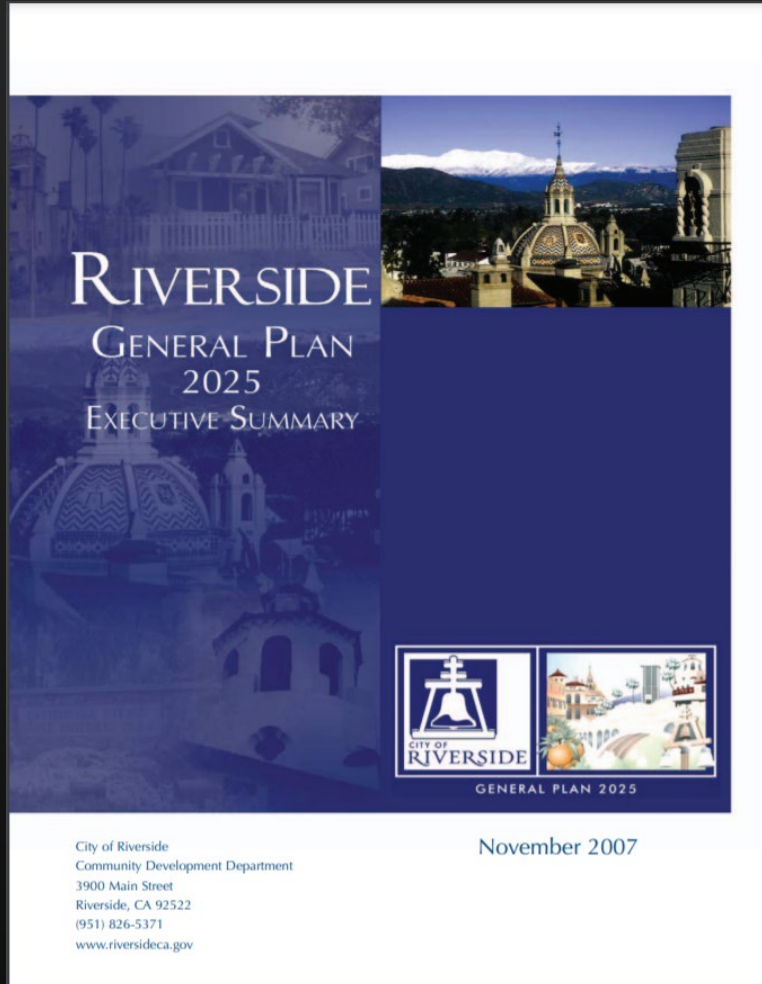
HCD Review
May to Aug 2021

Adoption Hearings
September and October 2021

Public Review:

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
Jan 7th	Jan 27th	Feb 25th	Aug	Sept
Potential Sites	RHNA Scenarios	Preferred Alternative	Final Draft of Elements	Final EIR

Relationship to General Plan



1. Every city in California must create a General Plan that acts as a roadmap for the future growth of the City.
2. General Plans must address key topic areas, called Elements, that cover things like housing, land use, transportation, services, and infrastructure.
3. Each element establishes broad objectives, focused policies and specific actions the City will take to achieve its goals.
4. Environmental Justice policies are now required to be included in General Plans.

SCOPING MEETING OBJECTIVES



Provide an introduction to the CEQA process and describe purpose of the scoping meeting



Summarize the description of the proposed Project and CEQA process to date



Request input regarding the scope of the EIR and outline “next steps” in the CEQA process



CEQA PURPOSE AND SCOPING MEETING

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)



The primary purposes of CEQA are to:

- Inform the public and decision makers about the Project and about the potential environmental impacts.
- Identify how to avoid or reduce impacts.
- Prevent environmental damage through mitigation or alternatives.
- Foster interagency coordination in review of projects.
- Provide an opportunity for the public and local/state agencies to comment on the environmental issues.

PURPOSE OF THE SCOPING MEETING

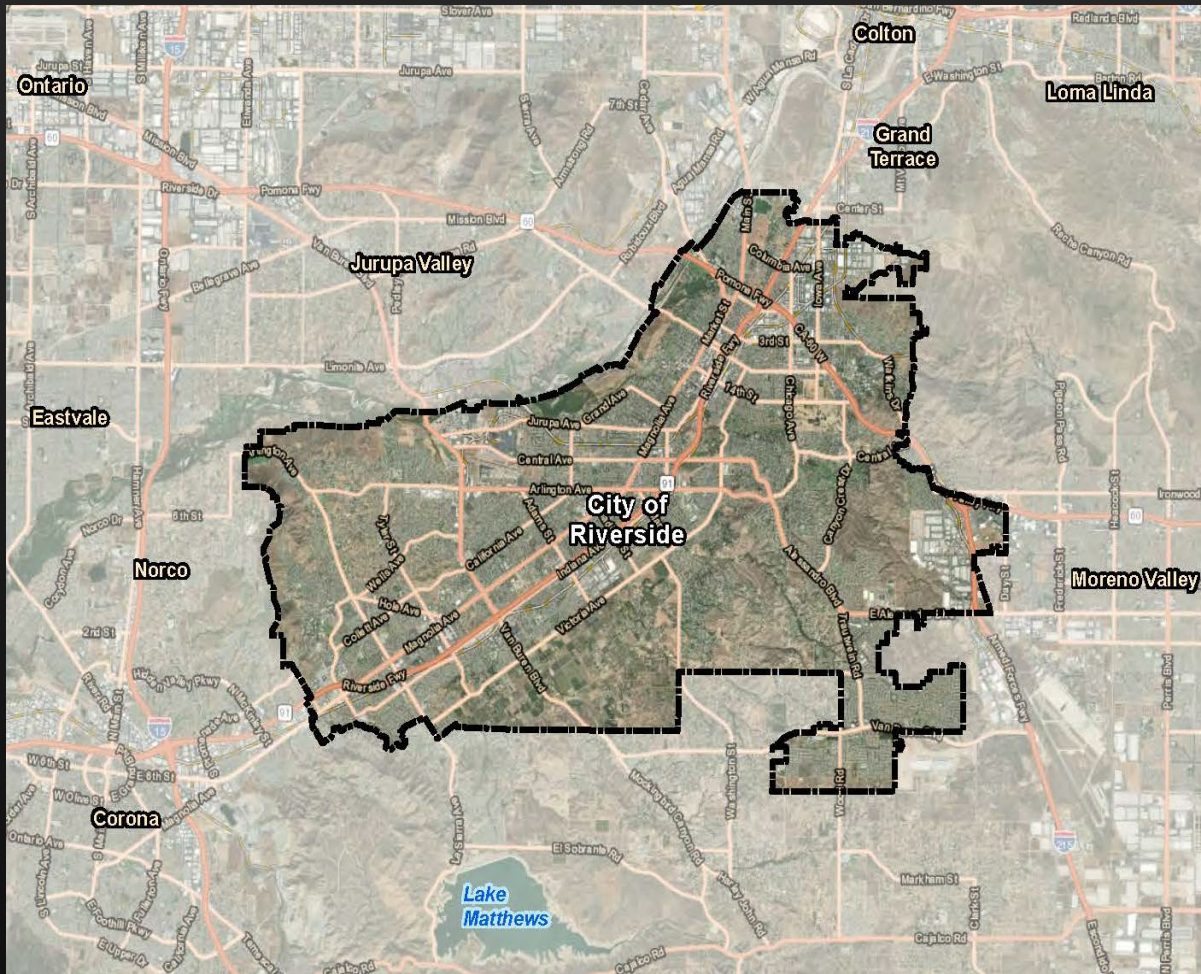
- The main purposes of the scoping meeting are to:
 - Notify the public that as lead agency under CEQA, the City of Riverside Community & Economic Department, Planning Division will prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Riverside Housing and Public Safety Element Updates and Environmental Justice Policies (proposed Project).
 - Provide information about the proposed Project.
 - Identify potential environmental issues to be analyzed in the EIR.
 - Receive public input on the scope and content of the environmental issues to be studied.





PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROJECT LOCATION



- City of Riverside is in western Riverside County, California
- Major roadways include State Routes 91 and 60 and Interstate 215
- City's total Planning Area encompasses approximately 92,224 gross acres
 - City's existing corporate boundaries include approximately 51,310 gross acres
 - Northern Sphere of Influence (SOI) encompasses approximately 4,088 gross acres
 - Southern SOI encompasses approximately 36,826 acres

Summary of Project Components

- The Program EIR will evaluate these key project components:
 - Housing Element Update
 - *General Plan Amendments*
 - *Zoning Code Updates*
 - *Specific Plan Amendments*
 - Public Safety Element Update
 - Environmental Justice Policies within the two updated elements
- The EIR will also evaluate full buildout of up to 30,190 dwelling units throughout the City.



Project Objectives

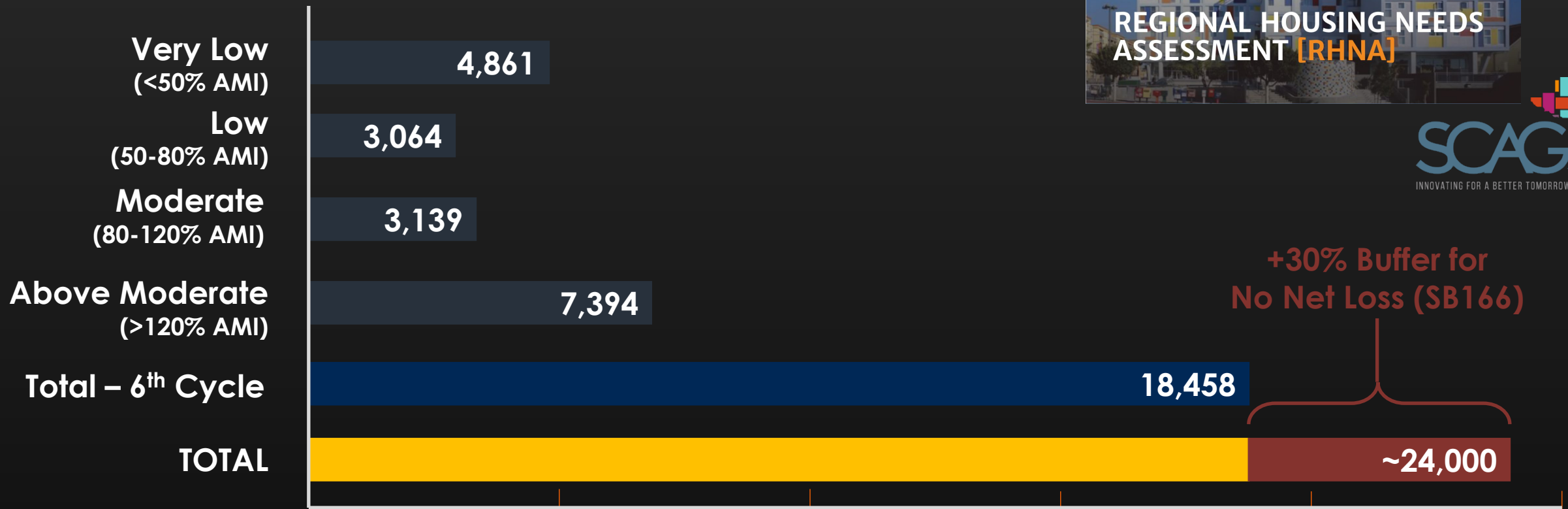
- Plan for approximately 24,000 new housing units by 2029 across the City to meet the City's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) obligation.
- Affirmatively further fair housing and identify potential environmental justice and social equity issues to support positive economic, educational, and health outcomes for low-income families—particularly long-term outcomes for children.
- Ensure affordable housing is added in many areas across the City and not concentrated in areas with lower access to amenities or near sources of pollution.
- Add a variety of housing opportunities that will make Riverside a more accessible and resilient community.
- Locate new housing in areas readily accessible to services, parks and other amenities, transit, jobs, and activity centers.
- Identify vacant or under-developed sites, meaning sites with substantial unused land or development potential.
- Limit or prevent housing development in areas with development constraints, such as agricultural and conservation lands, airport influence areas, and, to the extent feasible, fire and flood hazard zones.
- Address public safety and public health needs and concerns of its residents, businesses, institutions, and visitors, and set forth a proactive and coordinated program of protection for all foreseeable natural and human-caused hazards.
- Reduce potential adverse impacts of housing near undesirable land uses, along major corridors or near similar uses.

Project Component: Housing Element

- Provides an assessment of the City's housing needs and how best to accommodate the housing needs of existing and future residents
- Sets citywide goals, policies and actions for housing, and identifies housing conditions and needs within the community
- RHNA is a minimum of 18,458 dwelling units (du) but includes a buffer (potential build-out of up to 31,900 du)
- Must be updated every 8 years according to statutory deadline. Riverside County – October 15, 2021
- Must be reviewed for compliance by State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
- City's new Environmental Justice policies will be included in the Housing Element.

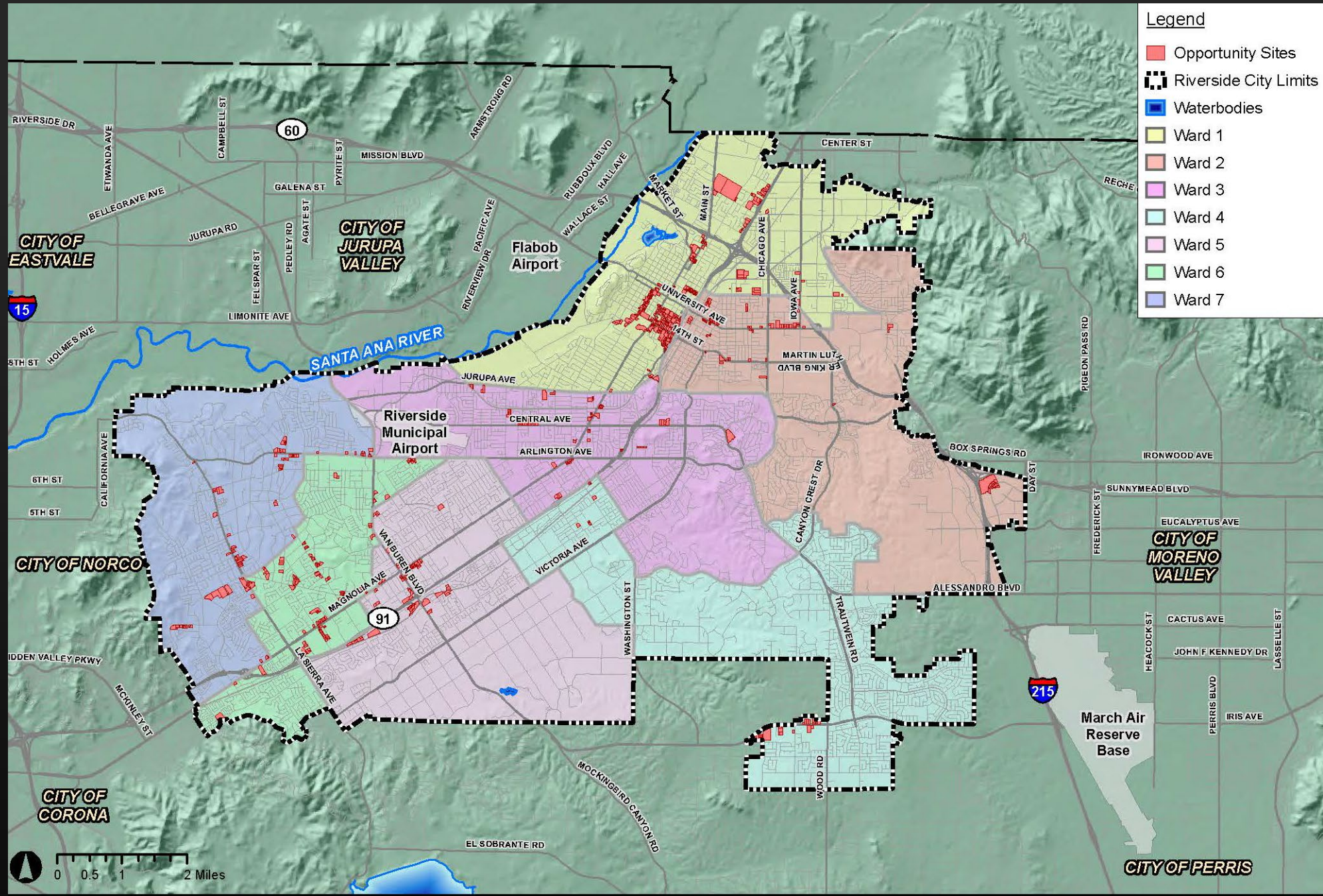


6th -Cycle RHNA Allocation

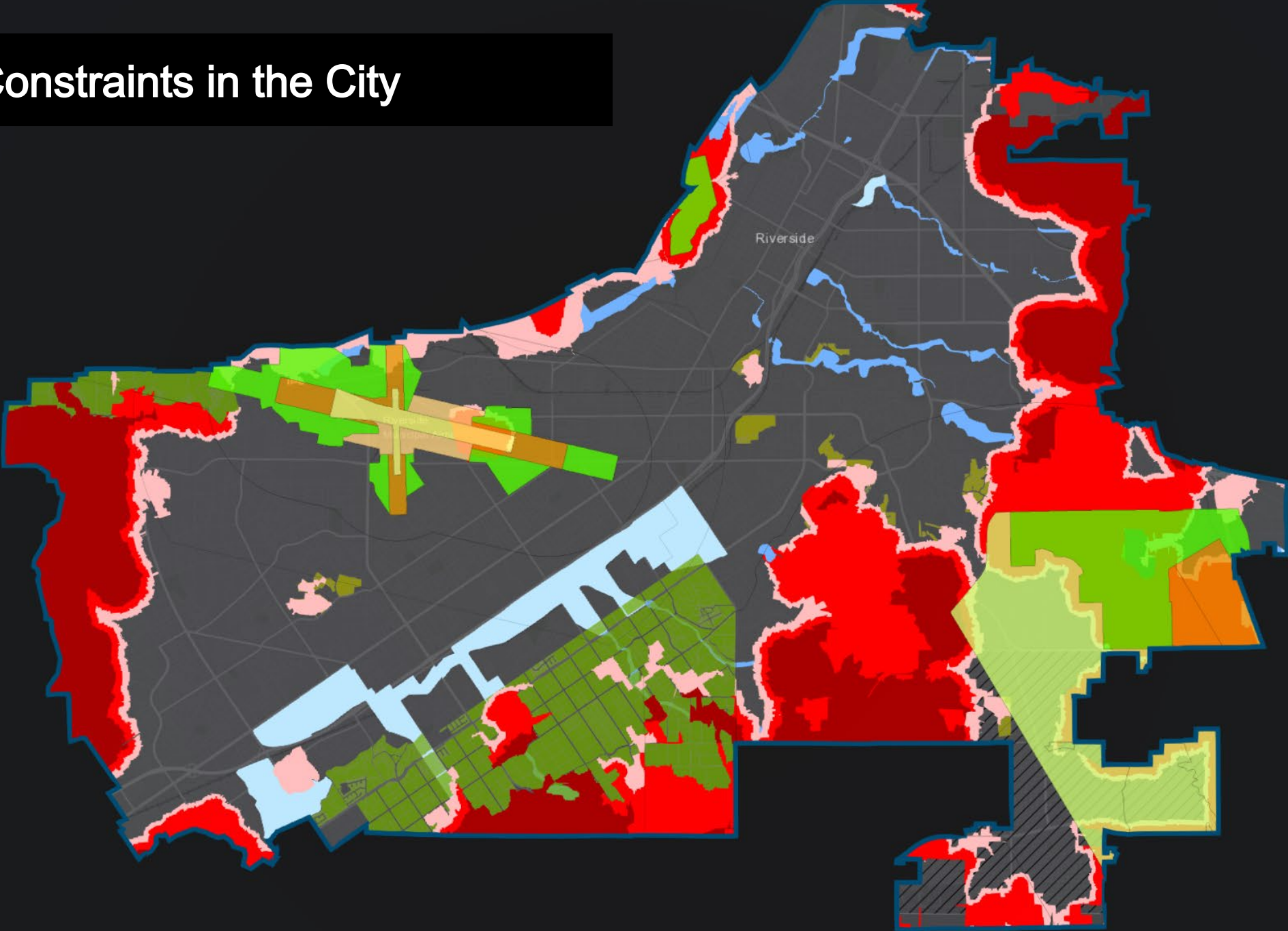


18,458 minimum + approx. 30% 'no net loss' buffer = 24,000; Total buildout is approximately 31,900 units.

Opportunity Sites



Known Constraints in the City



Potential Housing Programs and Policies

Some potential / example strategies:

- Provide protections for existing tenants
- Promote rehabilitation of currently affordable units
- Facilitate more ADU development
- Address barriers to housing development by streamlining approvals
- Inclusionary zoning for minimum % of affordable units in new projects
- By-right approval of residential projects when 20% of units are affordable
- Establish minimum densities that support development of affordable housing
- Provide density transfer or in-lieu fee to build below allowable or assumed Housing Element density





Project Component: Public Safety Element Update

- Senate Bill 1035, passed in 2018, requires that on the next revision of the housing element, the safety element shall be reviewed and updated to address the risk of fire for land classified as state responsibility areas
- Senate Bill 379 requires the safety element to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies and any risks that climate change poses to that city
- The Public Safety Element will be comprehensively updated to identify natural and human-caused hazards and include polices and actions to proactively plan and respond to hazards
- The overall purpose of this Element is to ensure that the City takes all necessary proactive measures to reduce the risk of hazards and adequately, expediently and efficiently respond to immediate safety threats

Project Component: Public Safety Element Update



- The Public Safety Element will identify public safety issues and needs anticipated to be of ongoing concern to Riverside
- This Element describes the major hazards that might affect the City, as well as the resources available to respond when an accident or emergency occurs
- This Element update will include, among other things:
 - Information regarding fire and flood hazards
 - Identification of existing and planned essential City public facilities for hazard response
 - Pathways to climate adaptation and resiliency
 - Set of policies and actions for the protection of the community including pandemic planning and response
 - City's new Environmental Justice policies will be included in the Public Safety Element.
- The Element sets forth policies and action items to address foreseeable public safety concerns, including for the following topics: geologic conditions, seismic activity, flooding, structural and wildland fires, air and ground transportation, emergency services, pandemic preparedness and response, and climate resiliency and adaptation



Environmental Justice Policies

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

- SB 1035 requires environmental justice goals, policies and objectives to be integrated into the General Plan and to include disadvantaged/Environmental Justice (EJ) communities within the area covered by the General Plan
- The General Plan will identify policies and actions to reduce health risks in EJ communities including, but not limited to, reduction of pollution exposure and promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity
- Environmental Justice policies and actions will be incorporated into the Housing and Public Safety Elements with recommendations for updates to other elements of the General Plan



SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



All CEQA Environmental Topics Considered

The Initial Study (IS) and Environment Impact Report (EIR) will evaluate each of these environmental topics:

- Aesthetics & Visual Quality
- Agriculture & Forestry Resources
- Air Quality Emissions
- Biological Resources
- Cultural / Tribal Resources
- Energy
- Geology, Soils, & Seismicity
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Mineral Resources
- Land Use & Planning
- Noise
- Paleontological Resources
- Population/Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation & Circulation
- Utilities & Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Alternatives
- Cumulative Impacts

Environmental Topics Considered Not Significant

Through the evaluation of the proposed Project in the IS, these environmental topics will not result in significant impacts or require preparation of EIR sections:

- Aesthetics & Visual Quality
- Agriculture & Forestry Resources
- Energy
- Geology, Soils, & Seismicity
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Mineral Resources
- Wildfire





Environmental Topics to be Addressed in the Draft EIR

Potentially significant impacts could result for these environmental topics and the following EIR resource sections will be prepared:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Land Use & Planning
- Noise
- Paleontological Resources
- Population/Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation & Circulation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities & Service Systems

CEQA Alternatives



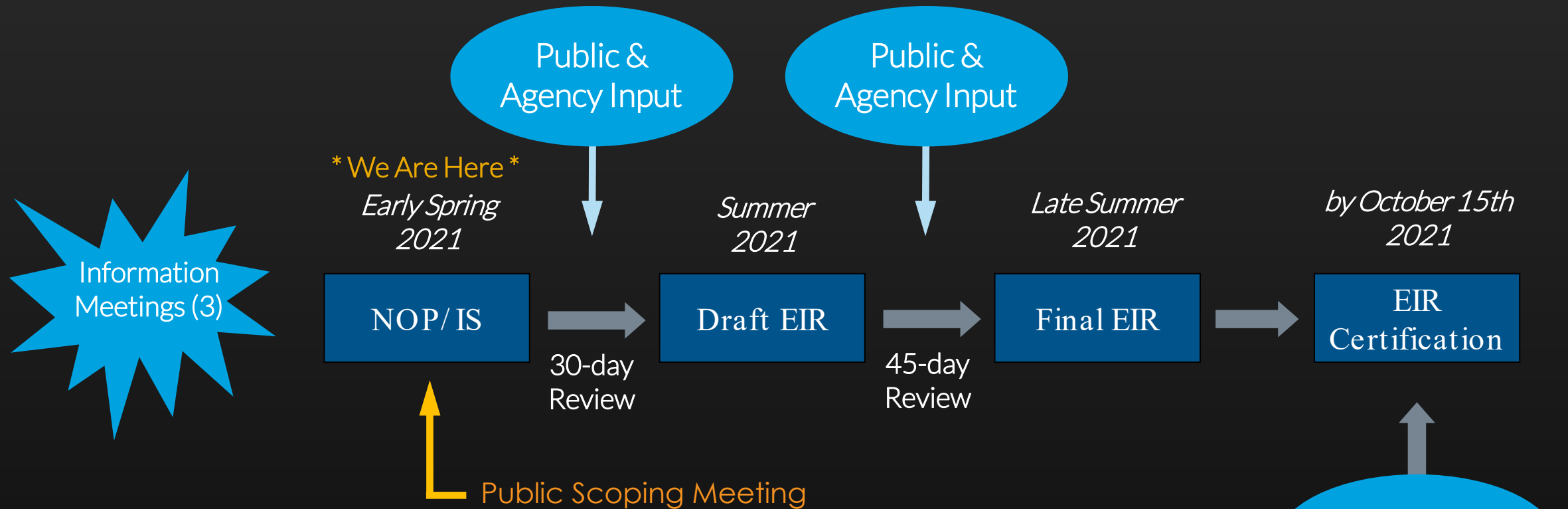
The following Alternatives to the proposed Project will be considered in the forthcoming EIR:

- **No Project Alternative.** No changes to existing zoning or allowed development on preliminary opportunity sites would occur. This scenario would not meet the City's RHNA goal of 24,000 units.
- **Dispersed Growth Alternative.** Housing development would be spread more widely across almost all opportunity sites, generally at lower densities, resulting in less intensive but more widespread land use changes. This would exceed the City's goal of 24,000 RHNA units.
- **Focused Growth Alternative.** Housing development is limited to strategic locations with superior access to transportation, employment, services, and amenities, generally at higher densities and more intensive land use changes. This scenario would also exceed the City's RHNA goal of 24,000 units.
- **Limited Opportunity Sites.** Alternative would involve selection of a reduced number of the opportunity sites on location of future housing development, focused on meeting but not exceeding RHNA allocation.



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

CEQA Environmental Review Process



- Round 1 Initial Sites
- Round 2 Scenarios / Alternatives
- Round 3 Preferred Alternative

NOP = Notice of Preparation of Draft EIR
IS = Initial Study
EIR = Environmental Impact Report



PROJECT NEXT STEPS

CEQA Next Steps and Opportunities for Input

- Released Notice of Preparation/Initial Study
 - 30-day public review period (Apr 5-May 5, 2021)
- Hear public comments during **Scoping Meeting** (Tonight) and evaluate scoping comments
- Prepare Draft EIR to address scoping comments
- Distribute Draft EIR for public review
 - 45-day public review period (Summer 2021)
- Hear public comments during **Planning Commission Hearing** (Jul/Aug 2021)
- Respond to comments and distribute Final EIR
 - 10-day public review period (Late Summer 2021)
- Hear public comments during **Planning Commission Hearing** (Sep 2021)
- Consideration of Project approvals and certification of the Final EIR during **City Council Hearing** (Oct 2021)



Project Next Steps

- Take comments heard today and complete the Draft EIR for the proposed Project and release it for public review in the summer.
- Complete drafts of the Housing Element, Public Safety Element, and Environmental Justice Policies.
 - Submit the first draft of the Housing Element to the Department of Housing and Community Development for review.
 - Update the Public Safety Element to identify public safety issues and develop policies and actions to reduce and respond quickly to hazards and safety threats.
 - Prepare Environmental Justice policies to identify disadvantaged communities to address issues related to public health, social equity and environmental justice.
- Workshops for housing, public safety and EJ policies coming soon.

What Information Are We Seeking?

- Aspects of the human environment that warrant examination and any baseline information that could inform the analyses.
- Information about the Opportunity Sites in your neighborhoods.
- Direct, indirect, and/or cumulative impacts related to the proposed Project.
- Information about measures that can be implemented to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts.
- Whether there are connected, similar, or reasonably foreseeable cumulative actions (i.e., current or planned activities).
- Other alternatives to study.
- Any other environmental concerns that should be considered.



We'd Like Your Comments

- Oral comments during tonight's meeting
- Comments providing in the Zoom Chat function
- Submit comment letters by mail or email to:

Matthew Taylor, Senior Planner

City of Riverside Community & Economic Development Department
Planning Division

3900 Main Street, 3rd Floor

Riverside, CA 92522

Email: mtaylor@riversideca.gov

- Comment Period Closes May 5, 2021



Planning / Riverside Housing and Public Safety Updates and Environmental Justice Policies

Build Riverside
Forms
City Plans -
Zoning Code And Regulations
Development Projects And CEQA Documents
Historic Preservation -
Agendas & Schedules
Boards & Commissions Archives
Contact
EPlan Review
Public Permit Portal
Riverside Housing & Public Safety Element And Environmental Justice Approach

Riverside Housing and Public Safety Updates and Environmental Justice Policies

Welcome to the City of Riverside's Housing, Public Safety Updates and Environmental Justice Policies project site. Here you will find the latest project news, information on upcoming community events and resources to track the progress of the update of the Housing Element, Public Safety Element and Environmental Justice Policies of the City's General Plan 2025.

Available Now!
Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Initial Study

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been published for the Update, along with an Initial Study (IS) describing the environmental issues that will be examined in greater detail in the forthcoming EIR. We want to hear from you about what you think the EIR should address - see below for information on how to submit your written comments, or for information about a public Scoping Meeting that you can attend to hear more about the EIR process and share your thoughts on the environmental review for the Update.

[NOTICE OF PREPARATION](#) [INITIAL STUDY](#)

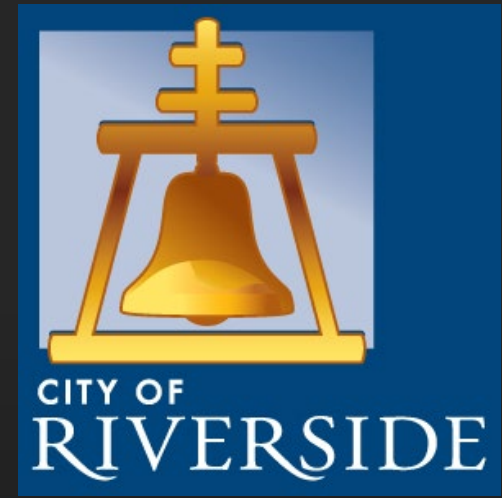
We are accepting written public comments on the NOP and IS until 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Submit your comments in writing to:



PUBLIC COMMENTS

STAY CONNECTED!



- Visit the Project website and join the mailing list: www.riversideca.gov/HousingUpdate
- Ask a question or provide your comments by email: MTaylor@riversideca.gov
- Complete the online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YC97HBC>
- Online 3D Map: hla.fyi/PreferredAlt3D
- Downloadable PDF Map: hla.fyi/PreferredAltPDF
- Watch for future public meetings: [City Council Housing & Homelessness Committee - Monday, May 3, 2021, 3:30 p.m.](#)

THANK YOU!

