

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED
NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held before the Planning Commission of the City of Victorville at its special meeting on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, for the purpose of considering applications for the following:

Notice of Preparation (NOP) – Draft Program Environmental Impact Report
(PEIR) for the Victorville General Plan Update

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP)
Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)
Victorville General Plan Update**

DATE: October 6, 2021

TO: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation (NOP) – Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)
for the Victorville General Plan Update

PROJECT APPLICANT: City of Victorville

LEAD AGENCY: City of Victorville
Contact: Michael Szarzynski
(760) 955-5135
mszarzynski@victorvilleca.gov

The City of Victorville (City or Victorville), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), determined that it will prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Victorville General Plan Update. The City will prepare the PEIR in accordance with CEQA, implementing CEQA Guidelines and City procedures. The purpose of this notice is (1) to serve as the Notice of Preparation (NOP) to potential responsible agencies as required by Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines and (2) to advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the preparation of the PEIR, environmental issues to be addressed in the PEIR, and any related issues from interested parties other than potential responsible agencies, including interested or affected members of the public. The City requests that any responsible or trustee agency responding to this NOP do so in a manner consistent with CEQA Guidelines, Section 15082(b). The City requests that your agency review and submit written comments on the scope and content of the environmental information provided in this NOP as relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the PEIR when considering any permits or other approvals for the project.

This NOP is available for review at the City of Victorville Development Department (Planning Division), located at 14343 Civic Drive, Victorville, California, and can be accessed online at <https://www.victorvilleca.gov/government/citydepartments/development/planning/environmental-review-notices>.

30-DAY NOP PUBLIC REVIEW: In accordance with CEQA and City procedures, your agency is requested to provide a written response to this NOP within the 30-day NOP review period between October 8, 2021 and November 8, 2021. The City will incorporate relevant issues and information into the Draft PEIR as identified in the NOP responses and throughout the PEIR process. Please note that the content and timeliness of your NOP comments may limit your ability

to challenge the PEIR. Please indicate a contact person for your agency in your response and send your response to the following:

Mr. Mike Szarzynski
City of Victorville
Development Department
14343 Civic Drive
Victorville, California 92392
mszarzynski@victorvilleca.gov

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING: A scoping meeting will be held on October 20, 2021 consisting of a brief project overview and discussion of environmental issues. The meeting will be held at Victorville City Hall, Council Chambers, 14343 Civic Drive, Victorville, California. Participating and viewing the meeting via Zoom or YouTube is also available at www.victorvilleca.gov/government/agendas. Any agencies or interested members of the public may attend to gain a better understanding of the project and to identify environmental issues of concern.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PROJECT LOCATION: The City is in the southwestern portion of the County of San Bernardino in the geographic sub-region of the southwestern Mojave Desert (known as Victor Valley or the High Desert) (see Figure 1, Regional Location, and Figure 2, Project Location). The City and its sphere of influence are accessible via Interstate 15, U.S. Route 395, State Route 18, and historic U.S. Route 66. Cities surrounding Victorville include the City of Adelanto to the northwest, Town of Apple Valley to the east, City of Hesperia to the south, and unincorporated County of San Bernardino to the southwest and north. The community of Mountain View Acres is an unincorporated area within City boundaries. The Mojave River runs through the City toward the Mojave Desert.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City is updating the Land Use Element and Safety Element and creating a new Environmental Justice Element of its General Plan, which was last updated in 2008.

Land Use Element Update

The Land Use Element provides long-term goals and policies that guide future land use and development. The Land Use Element is being updated to guide and accommodate future growth in Victorville in a manner that achieves the community's vision, enhances the community's quality of life, and provides a mix of land uses that promote sustainability and economic vitality. The proposed Land Use Element Update would provide a clear guide for the future growth identified in the Housing Element Update, which the City is currently preparing in a separate, independent process from this General Plan Update. The Land Use Element Update would ensure opportunities for a variety of housing types and affordability levels in the City.

Safety Element Update


The City is updating its Safety Element, which identifies and, when possible, reduces the impact of natural and human-made hazards that may threaten the health, safety, and property of the residents living and working in the planning area. The Safety Element Update would emphasize hazard reduction, accident prevention, responses for human-made hazards and will follow The City's update to its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). In addition, it would highlight the importance of risk reduction, disaster prevention, and preparedness and conform to new legislation that requires the inclusion of climate change adaptation and resilience in Safety Elements.

New Environmental Justice Element

The City is preparing a new Environmental Justice Element to include as a chapter in the Victorville General Plan. Environmental Justice Elements are a new state requirement for jurisdictions with disadvantaged communities and represent an opportunity to develop goals and policies that reduce the unique or compounded health risks in a community. While state requirements specify the topic areas that must be included in the Environmental Justice Element, the specific policies would be customized to the City. The Environmental Justice Element would focus on protecting the community from poor health, promoting equity, and increasing civic engagement in the public decision-making process. The Environmental Justice Element would include objectives and policies that aim to reduce pollution exposure, improve access to public facilities, promote food access, promote safe and sanitary housing, promote physical activity, promote civic engagement, and prioritize improvements and programs to address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: Based on a preliminary site assessment, the project could potentially affect the following environmental factors, each of which will be addressed in the PEIR:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Noise
- Transportation



Signature **Date**