

**Department of
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Development**

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February 9, 2024

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

and

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD FOR DRAFT CONTRA COSTA
COUNTY 2045 GENERAL PLAN AND DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024 UPDATE**

State Clearinghouse Number: 2023090467

County File Number: GP18-0001

Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code and "Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970" as amended to date, notice is hereby given that a programmatic environmental impact report (EIR) titled "Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan and Climate Action Plan Draft EIR" (hereafter referenced as "Draft EIR") has been prepared and is available for public review.

PROJECT TITLE: Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan and Contra Costa County Climate Action Plan 2024 Updates (aka *Envision Contra Costa*)

LEAD AGENCY: Contra Costa County
Department of Conservation and Development
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

CONTACT: Will Nelson, Principal Planner
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30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553
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PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: Contra Costa County is one of the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties (see Figure 1, Regional Location). The County has prepared comprehensive updates to its existing General Plan and Climate Action Plan (CAP), which are applicable to the county's unincorporated areas. The Draft EIR study area coincides with the unincorporated areas covered by the General Plan and CAP (see Figure 2, EIR Study Boundaries).

Contra Costa County's existing General Plan was adopted in 1991, with minor revisions occurring in 1996 and 2005. The overarching purpose of the General Plan update is to create a modern General Plan that articulates a long-term vision for the county's physical development, addresses challenges such as climate change and housing insecurity, and enhances quality of life for Contra Costa County residents. The updated General Plan includes broad community goals and hundreds of specific policies and implementing actions aimed at achieving those goals. The updated General Plan modernizes the County's land use policy framework consistent with the requirements of State law, with emphasis on environmental justice, economic development, community health, and sustainability. The updated General Plan also includes numerous land use changes in unincorporated communities where change or enhancement of existing uses is desired through 2045.

State law requires general plans to contain chapters, called "elements," addressing the following topics: land use, circulation, housing, open space, noise, safety, and conservation. Environmental justice must also be addressed, either in its own element or throughout a general plan (Contra Costa County is taking a hybrid approach). The content of the elements is outlined in State law and local agencies may organize them as they see fit. Local agencies may also adopt additional elements pertaining to planning issues within their jurisdiction. The Draft Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan includes the following elements:

Stronger Communities	Conservation, Open Space, and Working Lands
Land Use	Public Facilities and Services
Transportation	Health and Safety
Housing	Growth Management

The Housing Element was updated in process parallel to the rest of the General Plan update. The updated Housing Element was adopted by the County Board of Supervisors on December 12, 2023, and certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development on January 22, 2024.

The project also includes an update to the County's 2015 CAP. The CAP is a separate document that supports the General Plan by establishing goals and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in unincorporated Contra Costa County, consistent with State targets.

ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The Draft EIR identifies 18 potentially significant impacts in the following environmental topic areas:

<i>Agriculture and Forestry Resources</i>	<i>Mineral Resources</i>
<i>Air Quality</i>	<i>Noise</i>
<i>Biological Resources</i>	<i>Transportation</i>
<i>Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources</i>	<i>Wildfire</i>
<i>Geology and Soils</i>	

Twelve of the impacts are significant and unavoidable, meaning they cannot be adequately mitigated. The significant and unavoidable impacts occur in the topic areas *italicized* above.

DRAFT EIR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: There will be a 60-day public review and comment period for the Draft EIR, beginning on Friday, February 9, 2024, and closing on **Monday, April 8, 2024**. Written comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIR must be submitted by **5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024**, to:

Contra Costa County
Department of Conservation and Development
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553
Attn: Will Nelson

Written comments may also be submitted via email to AdvancePlanning@dcd.cccounty.us.

In addition, the Contra Costa County Zoning Administrator will conduct a public hearing to receive written and oral comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIR. The anticipated hearing date is **Monday, March 18, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.** Contra Costa County Zoning Administrator hearings are conducted at 30 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553 and on Zoom.com. The Zoning Administrator's hearing agenda, with instructions on how to join by Zoom, will be posted at <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/4328/Zoning-Administrator> closer to the hearing date.

Comments related to the adequacy of the Draft EIR's environmental analysis will be responded to in the project's Final EIR.

DRAFT EIR AVAILABILITY: The Draft EIR is available for public review at <https://envisioncontracosta2040.org/documents/>. Physical copies of the Draft EIR will be available for review at the following locations:

Contra Costa County
Department of Conservation and Development
Application and Permit Center
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

El Sobrante Library
4191 Appian Way
El Sobrante, CA 94803

Pleasant Hill Library
2 Monticello Avenue
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Brentwood Library
104 Oak Street
Brentwood, CA 94513

DRAFT GENERAL PLAN AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AVAILABILITY: The public review drafts of the Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan and CAP are available at <https://envisioncontracosta2040.org/documents/>. Interactive online review tools are available for both documents: <https://envisioncontracosta2040.org/feedback-gp/> (General Plan) and <https://envisioncontracosta2040.org/feedback-cap/> (CAP). Comments can also be emailed directly to email@envisioncontracosta2040.org or AdvancePlanning@dcd.cccounty.us.

The Draft 2045 General Plan and Draft CAP have been available for public review since October 2023. The remainder of the review and comment period for these documents is running concurrently with the review and comment period for the Draft EIR and will close on **Monday, April 8, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.** Comments already submitted Draft 2045 General Plan and Draft CAP need not be resubmitted.

NOTICE OF PRESENCE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES AND FACILITIES: The Draft 2045 General Plan and Draft CAP are applicable to unincorporated Contra Costa County. As such, hazardous waste sites and facilities exist within the area analyzed by the Draft EIR. These topics are discussed in Draft EIR Section 5.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For more information on the documents referenced in this notice, please contact Will Nelson, Principal Planner, at (925) 655-2898, or by email at will.nelson@dcd.cccounty.us or AdvancePlanning@dcd.cccounty.us.

NOTICE ISSUED 2/9/24

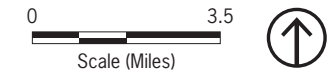
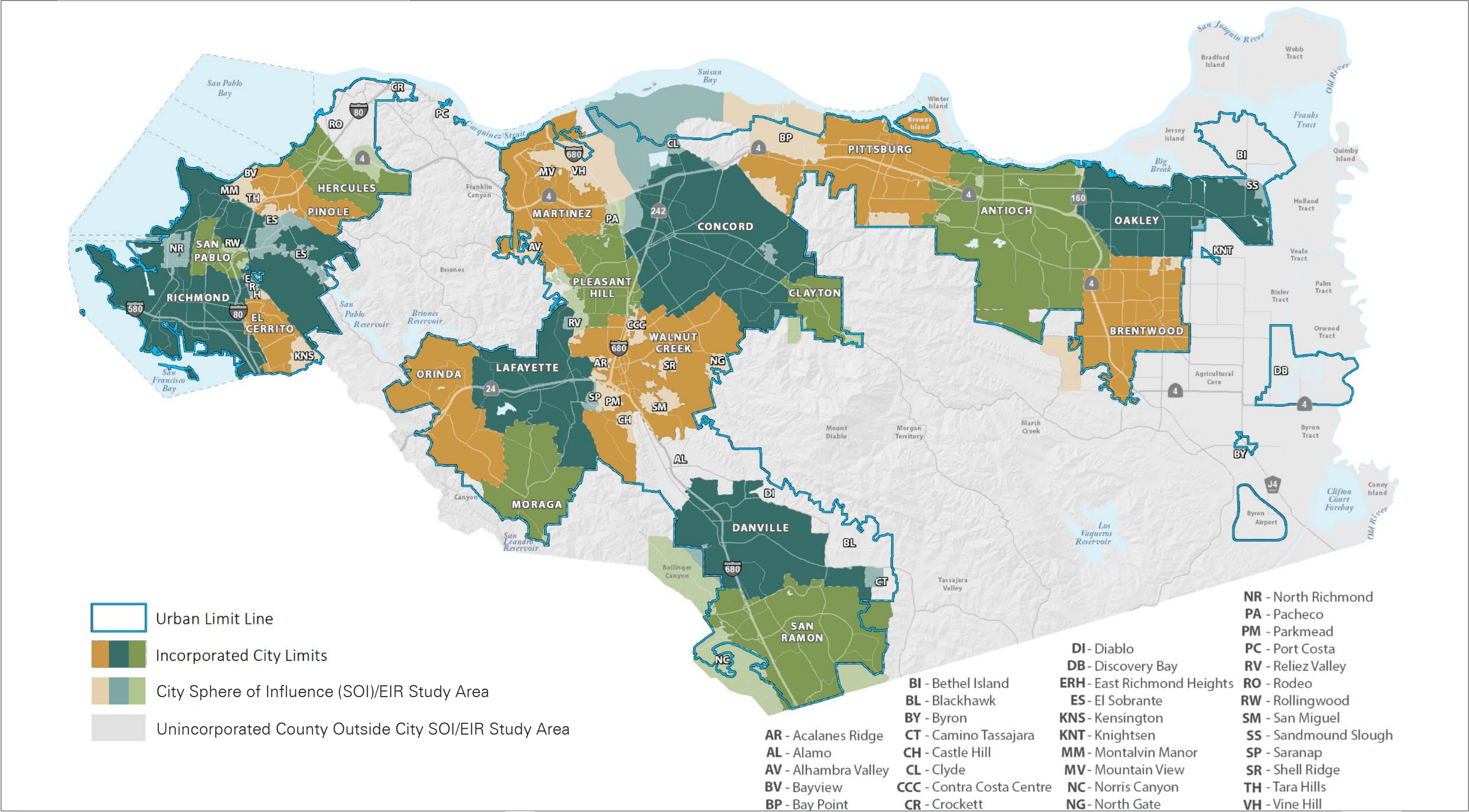


Figure 2
EIR Study Boundaries