RIVERSIDE COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

John Hildebrand
Planning Director

DATE: October 9, 2026

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO.: 2019049114

PROJECT NO. AND NAME: Winchester Community Plan (GPA No. 1207)

From: Riverside County Planning Department
Contact Person: John Hildebrand, Planning Director
Phone: (951) 955-1888

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN: 5:00 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 23, 2026

Pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 1507, this notice is to advise that the County of Riverside, as lead agency, has completed and is issuing notification of the availability and completion of a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (Recirculated Draft EIR) for the project as described below.

Project Location: The Winchester Community Plan (GPA No. 1207) project (project area) is located within the southwestern portion of the County of Riverside (County). The project area is surrounded by unincorporated County land and the city of Hemet to the north and east, unincorporated County land and the cities of Murrieta and Temecula to the south, and the cities of Murrieta and Menifee to the west. The project area is almost entirely within the General Plan's Highway 79 Policy Area (49,275 acres) boundary.

Project Background and Description: The Draft EIR for the Winchester Community Plan (GPA No. 1207) project was circulated for a 45-day public review period that began on July 5, 2022 and concluded on August 19, 2022. It is noted that the County of Riverside extended the Draft EIR public review period from August 19, 2022 to September 23, 2022. Following the end of the public review period for the Draft EIR, the County prepared a Final EIR and published the Final EIR on August 16, 2024 with the State Clearinghouse. The County also published the Final EIR on the Winchester Community Plan project website and distributed a link to the document to commenters on the Draft EIR. In addition to addressing public comments, the Final EIR included minor revisions to the Draft EIR resulting from minor corrections or updates to Draft EIR information, including minor revisions made in response to several public comments submitted on the Draft EIR.

Following publication of the Final EIR on August 16, 2024, the County placed the project on hold to address regional transportation concerns raised by neighboring jurisdictions and communities. To address these concerns, the County prepared the *Transportation Analysis for the Winchester Community Plan* (Fehr & Peers, July 24, 2026). The Transportation Analysis evaluates the capacity of future transportation infrastructure within the cities of Menifee, Murrieta, and Temecula, as well as unincorporated areas of southwestern Riverside County. The analysis is intended to serve as a regional planning tool to help the County and neighboring jurisdictions identify and coordinate future transportation improvements needed to address cumulative traffic impacts associated with regional growth.

The County has also revised the Proposed Land Use Plan by modifying certain land use designations and adding/removing select parcels from the project area. These changes are a result of the public review process and would not result in population or employment levels that exceed those evaluated in the Draft EIR.

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In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21092.1 and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15088.5, the County has elected to recirculate specific portions of the Winchester Community Plan Draft EIR (SCH No. 2019049114) to incorporate the Transportation Analysis and revisions to the Land Use Plan. The information added to the Draft EIR, specifically in the Project Description and Transportation sections, does not identify a new significant environmental impact or a substantial increase in the severity of a previously identified environmental impact. Rather, the new information clarifies and refines the Draft EIR and provides additional information to the County's decision-makers and the public. Although CEQA does not require recirculation based on these changes, the County has elected to recirculate specific portions of the Draft EIR to promote full disclosure and transparency and to obtain additional public input.

Significant Impacts: The project would not result in any new significant and unavoidable impacts beyond those previously disclosed in the Draft EIR.

Document Availability: Copies of the Recirculated Draft EIR are available at the Riverside County Planning Department (4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside, CA 92501) and on the County's website (https://planning.rctlma.org/winchester-communityplan). Additionally, a USB containing the Draft EIR and Technical Appendices will be provided to the following library for public review:

- French Valley Library, 31526 Skyview Road, Winchester, CA 92596
  Hours: Sunday: Closed. Monday through Friday: 10:00 am-6:00 pm.

Public Review Period: As mandated by State law, the minimum public review period for this document is 45 days. The Recirculated Draft EIR is available for public review and comment beginning on **October 9, 2026,** and ending **November 23, 2026**. The County of Riverside is currently open Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. All comments on the Recirculated Draft EIR must be submitted in writing to the address provided below and received no later than **5:00 PM on November 23, 2026**.

Comments should be limited to the materials included in the Recirculated Draft EIR. The project name and number should be noted on all correspondence and the comments should indicate if you would like to be notified of public hearings.

All comments should be sent to the Riverside County Planning Department, Attention: John Hildebrand, Planning Director, 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside, CA 92501, or via email to jhildebr@rivco.org**.**

Public Hearings: Notification of the date, timing, and place of future public hearings will be provided in compliance with County and CEQA requirements.

Hazardous Substances or Wastes Site Listing: The project is located on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (California Department of Toxic Substances Control and State Water Resources Control Board's list of various hazardous sites).