



City of Barstow
220 East Mountain View Street, Suite A,
Barstow California 92311-2839

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: November 9, 2025
To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Interested Organizations, and Individuals
From: City of Barstow Community Development Department
Subject: **Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the City of Barstow Proposed General Plan Update and Barstow International Gateway Project**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Barstow has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Proposed General Plan and Barstow International Gateway (BIG) Project (collectively, the Project) (State Clearinghouse No. 2024020501) to address the potential environmental impacts associated with the Project. Under Public Resources Code Section 21165 and the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQA Guidelines) Section 15050, the City of Barstow is the lead agency for the Project. The purpose of this notice is to (1) serve as a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the DEIR under the CEQA Guidelines Section 15087, and (2) advise and solicit comments regarding the content of the DEIR. The DEIR was prepared in compliance with CEQA and is being circulated for public review and comment in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15087.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21083 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15087, the DEIR will be available for a 45-day public review period from **Monday, November 10, 2025, through Monday, January 5, 2026.**

The DEIR is available online at: <https://www.barstowgeneralplanupdate.com>, or can be viewed in-person at 220 East Mountain View Street, Suite A, Barstow, California 92311.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Project includes: 1) a comprehensive update to the City of Barstow General Plan to bring it current with State laws and plan for the City's overall long-term development and 2) the BIG facility and Specific Plan.

The proposed General Plan updates all of the City's General Plan Elements except for the Housing Element, which was updated in 2024. During the 25-year planning horizon of the proposed General Plan, the Plan Area could potentially result in a growth of 6,326 households, 6,608 dwelling units, 18,531 residents, 15,341,198 square feet of non-residential uses, and 10,819 jobs by 2048.



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BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) proposes the new approximately 5,000 acre BIG facility and its Specific Plan to be located partly in incorporated Barstow and partly in an existing unincorporated portion of the County, which the proposed General Plan proposes for concurrent annexation to the City. The BIG Specific Plan proposes a rail yard consisting of an intermodal facility, a “block swap” yard and ancillary rail area, as well as a transload warehouse center and a private utility (i.e., solar farm), and an approximately 680-acre area at the northern boundary of the Specific Plan area that would remain ungraded, a portion of which is proposed to be placed under a conservation easement. Additionally, to serve the proposed rail yard and transload warehouse center, BNSF proposes off-site rail improvements (i.e., lead track extensions) and off-site non-rail improvements (i.e., stormwater drainage, utilities, and circulation/roadways).

Additional information on the Project can be found here:
<https://www.barstowgeneralplanupdate.com/>.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed General Plan updates concern the City of Barstow and its Sphere of Influence (SOI), which are in western San Bernardino County and are surrounded by unincorporated San Bernardino County. Interstate 15 (I-15) bisects the City of Barstow in a southwest-northeast direction, while Interstate 40 (I-40) bisects the City of Barstow in an east-west direction. State Route 247 (SR-247), which runs in a north-south direction, terminates as it intersects I-15.

The BIG facility is proposed to be located at the western side of the City, partly in incorporated City of Barstow and partly in an existing unincorporated portion of the County, which is proposed for concurrent annexation into the City, the Barstow Fire Protection District, and the Odessa Water District.

DRAFT EIR OVERVIEW: This Draft EIR is a public information document that assesses the potential physical environmental impacts that could result from construction and use of the Project, recommends mitigation measures to lessen or eliminate adverse impacts, examines feasible alternatives to the Project, and is intended to inform City decision makers, other responsible agencies, and the general public. The Draft EIR evaluates potential physical environmental impacts that could result from the Project and identifies that the Project may have significant and unavoidable impacts in the following areas: aesthetics; agriculture and forestry resources; air quality; cultural resources; geology, soils, and mineral resources; greenhouse gas emissions; noise; transportation; tribal cultural resources; and utilities and service systems..

CORTESE LIST: There are 31 “Cortese List” hazardous waste sites that are open or inactive in the Plan Area, under Government Code Section 65962.5. Refer to Section 5.9, *Hazards, Hazardous Materials, and Wildfire*, of the DEIR.



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LEAD AGENCY: The City of Barstow is the lead agency under CEQA. This notice is being sent to Responsible Agencies and other interested parties, including persons who responded to the NOP.

ACCESSING DEIR: Copies of the DEIR and all documents referenced in the DEIR are available for public review online at online at: <https://www.barstowgeneralplanupdate.com/>. Copies are also available for public review at the following locations:

1. City of Barstow, 220 East Mountain View Street, Suite A, Barstow, CA 92311
2. Barstow Community College Library, 2700 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311
3. Barstow Branch Library, 304 E. Buena Vista St., Barstow, CA 92311

The Draft EIR and all other documents submitted to or relied upon by the lead agency in the preparation of the Draft EIR also can be accessed and downloaded from the following website: <https://www.barstowgeneralplanupdate.com/>. In addition, a document prepared by the lead agency or submitted by the applicant after the date of the release of the Draft EIR that is a part of the record of proceedings, and comments received on the Draft EIR, will be made available to the public on this same website in a readily accessible electronic format.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIR:

The City is hereby releasing this Draft EIR, finding it to be accurate and complete and ready for public review. Members of the public are invited to comment on the Draft EIR and the Project. There is no fee for commenting, and all comments received will be considered by the City prior to finalizing the EIR and making a decision on the Project. Comments on the Draft EIR should focus on the sufficiency of the EIR in discussing possible impacts on the physical environment, ways in which potential adverse effects might be minimized, and alternatives to the Project in light of the EIR's purpose to provide useful and accurate information about such factors.

Comments may be made at the public hearings described above or in writing. **The City encourages comments to be submitted electronically via the following link:** generalplan@barstowca.org

Comments may also be submitted by mail to the City of Barstow at the following address:
City of Barstow, 220 East Mountain View Street, Suite A, Barstow, CA 92311.

We ask that any person or agency wishing to comment on the DEIR provide written comments between **Monday, November 10, 2025** and the end of the public review period at 5:00 p.m., **Monday, January 5, 2026**.



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Date: November 9, 2025

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "CH Heldreth". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chris Heldreth
Community Development Director
City of Barstow