

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting for the Housing Element Program 10 & 11 General Plan Amendment and Rezone

DATE: January 17, 2025

TO: Reviewing Agencies and Other Interested Parties

FROM: City of Colton Development Services Department, 659 North La Cadena

Drive, Colton, CA 92323

PROJECT TITLE/SUBJECT: City of Colton Housing Element Programs 10 & 11 General Plan

Amendment and Rezone Draft Environmental Impact Report and Notice

of Public Scoping Meeting

PROJECT APPLICANT: City of Colton

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

REVIEW PERIOD: January 20, 2025 through February 21, 2025

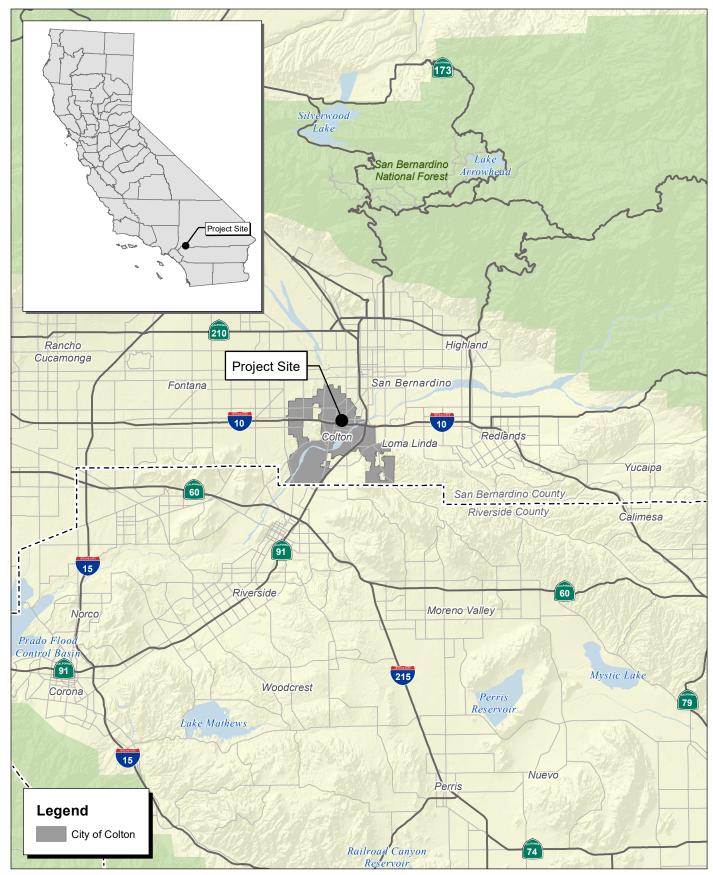
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING Location: City Council Chambers, 650 North La Cadena Drive, Colton, 92324

MEETING: Date/Time: 5:30 p.m. February 11, 2025

The City of Colton is the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Housing Element Program 10 & 11 General Plan Amendment and Rezone (proposed project). The City hereby solicits comments and suggestions from Responsible Agencies and members of the public regarding (1) the scope and content of the EIR and (2) the environmental issues and alternatives that should be addressed in the EIR (per California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines § 15082). This Notice of Preparation also provides notice to interested parties, organizations, and individuals that a public scoping meeting will be held on February 11, 2025, to gather public input on the proposed project pursuant to CEQA Section 21083.9(2). The City of Colton has determined that the proposed project may have area-wide significance.

The proposed project is briefly summarized below.

PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING: The City of Colton is located in the western portion of San Bernardino County, approximately 60 miles to the east of Los Angeles (Exhibit 1). The City is directly served by two major freeways: Interstate 10 (I-10) transverses the community, and I-215 runs along the eastern boundary. Adjacent jurisdictions include the City of Rialto to the west, the City of San Bernardino to the east, and the City of Grand Terrace to the south. State Route (SR) 60 bisects the southern portion of the City in a northwest-southeast direction. Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 depict the City's regional location and local vicinity.



 $Source: Census\ 2000\ Data, The\ California\ Spatial\ Information\ Library\ (CaSIL).$

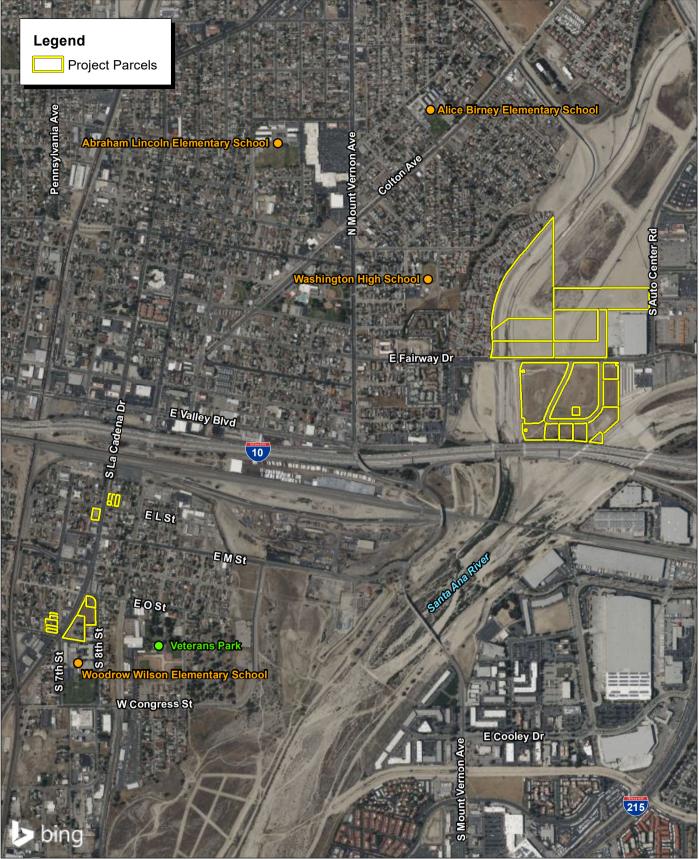


Exhibit 2 Local Vicinity Map The City has identified five areas in the City for potential rezoning and a General Plan amendment (Exhibit 3). These properties are described as part of the five areas in the City that relate to Program 10/11 of the 2021-2029 General Plan Housing Element Update. Under Program 11, rezoned sites will comply with the requirements of Government Code Section 65583.2(h), which states that cities must have a program to facilitate by-right approval for projects that include at least 20 percent of the units for lower-income housing on rezoned low-income sites. In total, 170.5 acres will be rezoned. Rezoned sites shall comply with the following:

- Permit owner-occupied and rental multi-family uses by-right for developments in which 20 percent or more of the units are affordable to lower-income households; and
- · Accommodate a minimum of 16 units per site; and
- Require a minimum density of 20 units per acre; or at least 50 percent of the lower-income need
 must be accommodated on sites designated for residential use only or on sites zoned for mixed uses
 that accommodate all of the very low and low-income housing need, if those sites allow 100 percent
 residential use, and require residential use occupy 50 percent of the total floor area of a mixed-use
 project.

EXISTING HOUSING: As of 2024, the California Department of Finance estimates that the City of Colton has a total of 16,795 housing units. The most prevalent housing type in Colton is single-family detached residences (10,012 units out of a total of 16,795 units), representing 59.6 percent of all housing units, which is higher than the 54.2 percent share of single-family detached housing in the entire Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region. Out of the total housing units in Colton, there are approximately 16,174 occupied units as of 2024, which equates to a 3.7 percent total vacancy rate.

The average household size in Colton (as expressed by the population to housing unit ratio) is 3.2 persons per household.³ Over the past two decades (2000-2020), there has been more construction of single-family residential units than multi-family residential units in Colton. Between 2011 and 2024, single-family residential units increased by 488, multi-family residential units decreased by 15, and mobile home units decreased by 36. Table 1 provides existing housing units by type for 2011 and 2024.

¹ California Department of Finance. 2024. E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2020–2024. Website: https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/estimates/e-5-population-and-housing-estimates-for-cities-counties-and-the-state-2020-2024/. Accessed September 4, 2024.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

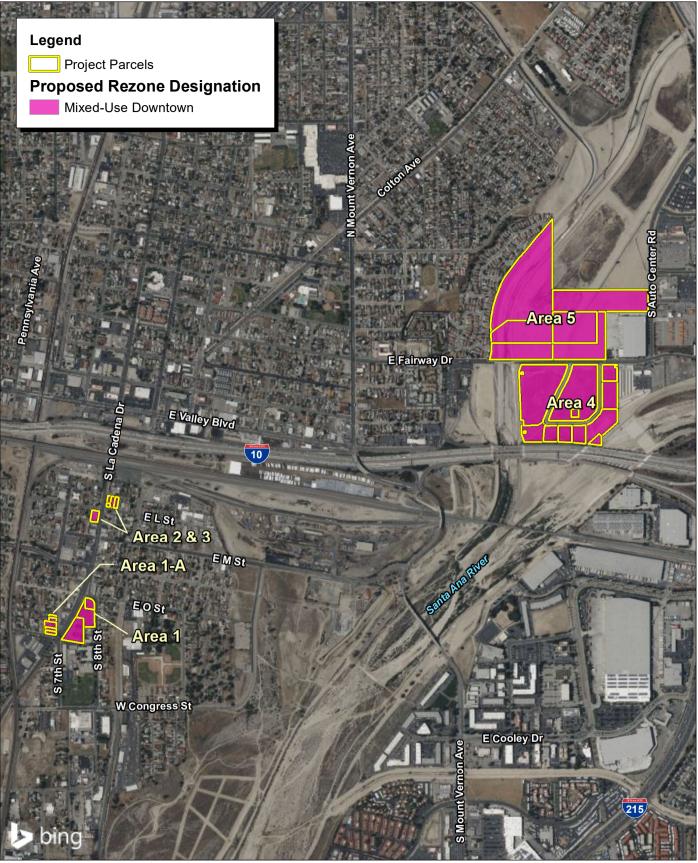


Table 1: Existing Housing Units 2011 and 2020

		2011		2020				
Unit Type	Number	Percent ¹	Vacancy Rate	Number	Percent ¹	Vacancy Rate		
Single Detached	9,559	58.4%	_	10,012	59.6%	_		
Single Attached	564	3.4%		599	3.6%			
Two to Four	1,592	9.7%		1,565	9.3%			
Five Plus	3,727	22.8%		3,739	22.3%			
Mobile Homes and Other	916	5.6%		880	5.2%			
Total	16,366	_	8.5%	16,795	_	3.7%		

Notes:

Source: California Department of Finance. 2021. E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2011-2021 with 2010 Census Benchmark. Website: https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/estimates-e5-2010-2020/. Accessed August 21, 2024.

California Department of Finance. 2024. E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2020–2024. Website: https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/estimates/e-5-population-and-housing-estimates-for-cities-counties-and-the-state-2020-2024/. Accessed September 4, 2024.

REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT: The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) is the process established in State law by which future housing needs are determined for each city and county. On March 4, 2021, SCAG adopted the final RHNA Plan, which assigns Colton's housing needs as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: 2021-2029 Regional Housing Needs Assessment, City of Colton

Housing Type									
Very Low	Low Moderate Above Moderate								
1,318	668 906		2,542	5,434					
Source: Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). 2021.									

The RHNA allocation identifies the amount of additional housing a jurisdiction would need in order to have enough housing at all price levels to fully accommodate its assigned share of the region's housing need during the 8-year planning period. The RHNA is a planning requirement based upon housing need, not a construction quota or mandate. Jurisdictions are not required to build housing or issue permits to achieve their RHNA allocations, but the Housing Element must provide an evaluation of potential capacity for additional housing based on land use designations, development regulations, other development constraints (such as infrastructure availability and environmental conditions) and real estate market trends. The analysis must be prepared at a parcel-specific level of detail and identify properties (or "sites") where additional housing could be built consistent with City regulations. This evaluation is referred to as the "sites analysis," and State law requires the analysis to demonstrate that the City has adequate sites with appropriate zoning to fully accommodate

¹ Rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent

additional housing development commensurate with its RHNA allocation in each income category. If the sites analysis does not demonstrate that adequate capacity exists to fully accommodate the RHNA, the Housing Element must describe what steps will be taken to increase capacity commensurate with the RHNA—typically through amendments to land use and zoning.⁴

In preparing the RHNA Plan, the methodology was guided by the following objectives, set forth in State law and paraphrased below:

- **Objective 1:** Increase housing supply and mixes of housing types, tenure, and affordability in all cities and counties in an equitable manner.
- **Objective 2:** Promote infill development and socioeconomic equity, protect environmental and agricultural resources, encourage efficient development patterns, and achieve greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.
- **Objective 3:** Promote improved intraregional job-housing relationship, including balance between low-wage jobs and affordable housing.
- **Objective 4:** Balance disproportionate housing income distributions (more high-income RHNA to lower-income areas and vice versa).
- Objective 5: Affirmatively further fair housing.

The final RHNA methodology includes three primary components: (1) baseline allocation, (2) factors and weights, and (3) equity adjustment. The equity adjustment was incorporated as part of the draft RHNA methodology approved in January 2021. The baseline allocation correlates to each jurisdiction's percentage of the region's total households in the year 2050, taking into consideration the number of households currently living in a jurisdiction and the number of households expected to be added within the next several decades. With respect to factors and weights, each factor represents data related to policy priorities set forth in the final RHNA methodology, including access to high opportunity areas and proximity to jobs and transit, and the weight determines the share of a region's housing needs assigned by that particular factor.

The City's sites inventory consists of four components: projects that have been approved but are not yet built; vacant sites with potential for residential development; previously developed properties that are underutilized and have potential for additional residential development or redevelopment; and future accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Table 3 shows that based on the proposed rezone strategy, there are adequate sites to meet the RHNA.

Table 3: City of Colton Sites Inventory to Meet the RHNA

	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Above Moderate	Total
Approved Projects	_	12	140	374	526
Vacant Sites	1,356	657	1,102	1,583	4,698

Because of a shortfall in sites with appropriate zoning to accommodate the RHNA, the Element includes a program to rezone approximately 170.5 acres at 48 locations, including 34 parcels in the Hub City Centre Specific Plan (HCCSP), which are the subject of separate environmental review.

	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Above Moderate	Total				
Underutilized Sites	210	141	36	1,234	1,621				
ADUs	20	31 31		7	89				
Total Capacity	1,586	841	1,309	3,198	6,934				
RHNA + 20% Buffer	1,582	802	1,087	3,050	6,934				
Additional Surplus	4	39	222	148	_				
Source: City of Colton General Plan 2021-2029 Housing Flement 6th Cycle.									

POTENTIAL SITES FOR REZONE: Pursuant to Housing Element law, a housing element must identify potential sites suitable for redesignation and/or rezoning to accommodate housing needs for all segments of the community. The potential sites for rezoning were developed consistent with provisions of Government Code Section 65583.1, which states, in part, that:

The Department of Housing and Community Development, in evaluating a proposed or adopted housing element for substantial compliance with this article, may allow a city or county to identify adequate sites, as required pursuant to Section 65583, by a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, redesignation of property to a more intense land use category and increasing the density allowed within one or more categories.⁵

The site inventory analysis has been conservative in identifying Mixed-Use/Downtown (M-U/D) properties to accommodate a portion of the City's RHNA allocation for lower-income housing, and only those parcels with the greatest potential for residential development have been included in the site inventory. If developers choose not to pursue projects at these particular sites, ample additional affordable housing development opportunities are available on other properties within the M-U/D zoning district and on other vacant and underutilized parcels that have been identified by the City as candidates for rezoning. The City is committed to maintaining no net loss of capacity to accommodate for the entire RHNA.

The proposed project sites are not listed on the "Cortese List" of hazardous waste sites (Government Code § 65962.5). The environmental analysis will evaluate the potential for construction activities and project operations to result in impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials.

DENSITIES AND AFFORDABILITY ASSUMPTIONS: State Housing Law provides for a series of "default densities" which are zoning minimums that, if applied, can be assumed to yield lower-income housing units. For Colton, the minimum default density for units to be counted as lower-income units in the inventory is 30 dwelling units per acre (du/ac). For the proposed M-U/D zone, maximum density would be 40 du/ac, with an estimated yield density of 24 du/acre. Per Government Code Section 65583.2I(3)(B), with proposed rezoning strategies, the City's Mixed-Use zone is consistent with the

⁵ California Legislative Information. No date. California Government Code Article 10.6. Housing Elements [65580-65589.11]. Website: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=1.&title=7.&part=&chapter=3.&article=10.6. Accessed August 21, 2024.

^{6 &}quot;No net loss" provisions are a component of the Housing Accountability Act, which, whenever a project is approved with few units, or less affordability than cited in the Housing Element, requires findings to be made that adequate zoning capacity remains in the inventory to accommodate the units not built or for the City to rezone additional sites to accommodate that number of units.

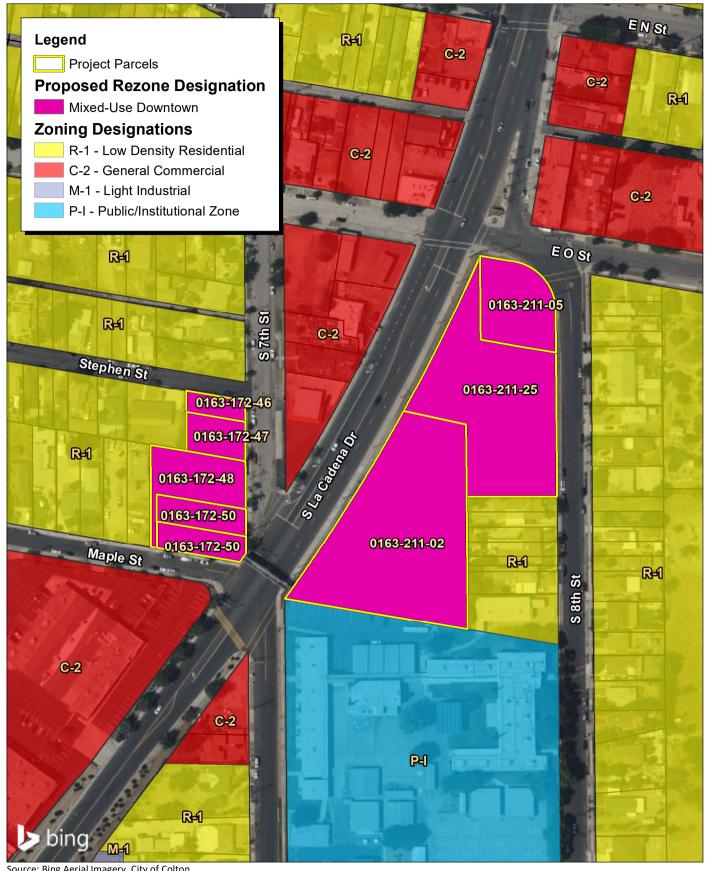
default density standards and is therefore considered appropriate to accommodate housing for lower-income households.

Moderate-income housing can be accommodated through medium- and higher-density zones, with maximum densities ranging from 15 to 30+ du/ac. These densities support a variety of multi-family housing typologies, including townhomes and garden-style apartments, which may be affordable to moderate-income households.

Above moderate-income housing needs may be met through lower density, single-family typologies, typically in the 0 to 15 du/ac range; however, higher density housing may also be suitable to meet the above moderate housing needs.

The potential rezone sites were conservatively assumed to be developed at a yield of 70 percent of the maximum density to account for potential commercial or other uses of the sites, although the M-U/D zone allows for fully residential development. These assumptions provide a realistic estimate for the sites based on current development trends and recent conversations with property owners and developers in the City. The assumptions also account for development standards such as lot coverage requirements, parking, setbacks, open space, infrastructure, and public facilities.

Table 4 summarizes the five areas where sites have the potential for rezone and includes the existing and proposed General Plan land use and zoning designation for each site, as well as the range of densities that would be allowed and the maximum capacity for residential units. Exhibits 3 through 6 provide illustrations of the areas proposed for rezone under Program 10 & 11.



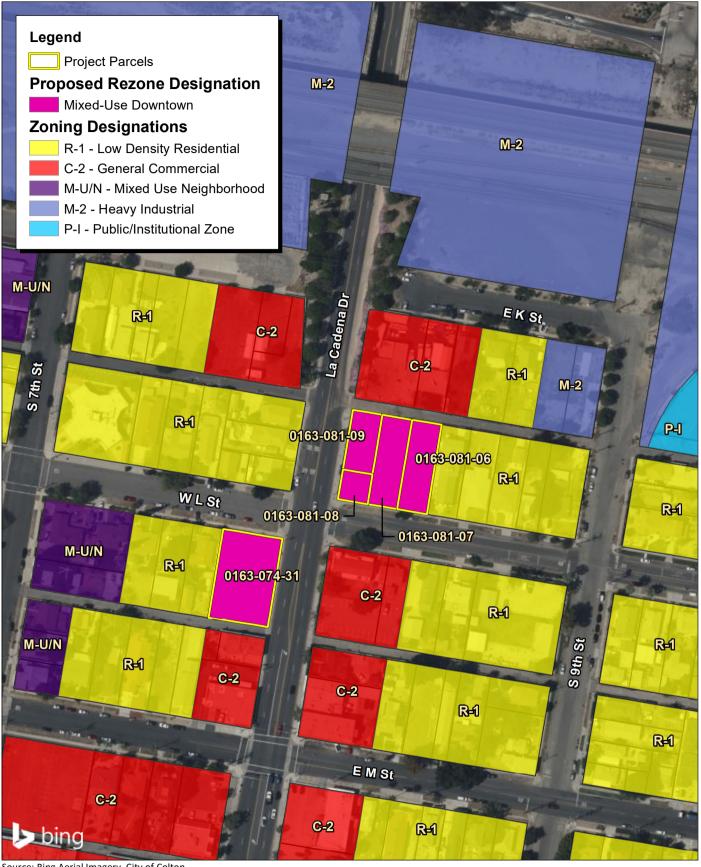
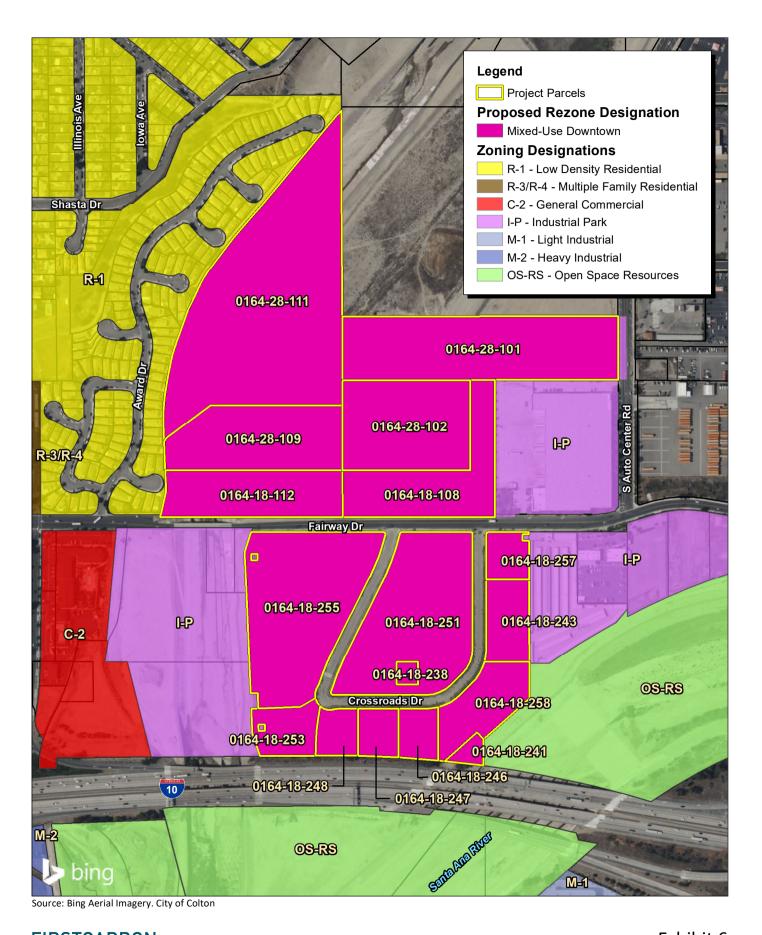


Exhibit 5 Area 2 and 3 Proposed Rezone



FIRSTCARBON SOLUTIONSTM 450 225 0 450 Feet

Exhibit 6 Area 4 and 5 Proposed Rezone

Table 4: Potential Sites for Rezone under Program 10/11 Rezone/GPA

Area No.	Address	No. of Parcels	Assessor's Parcel No.	Area (acres)	Existing GP Land Use Designation	Proposed GP Land Use Designation	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Residential Density Range (per acre)	Residential Maximum Capacity	Realistic Yield (based on 24 DU/acre)*
1	500 South La Cadena Drive 530 South La Cadena Drive 660 South La Cadena Drive	3	0163-211-02 0163-211-05 0163-211-25	1.7 0.4 1.2	GC	M-U/D Res Overlay Res Overlay	C-2	M-U/D Res Overlay Res Overlay	20-30	51 12 36	41 10 29
Totals	_	3	_	3.3	_	_	_	_	_	99	80
2	233 South La Cadena Drive	1	0163-074-31	0.3	GC	Res Overlay	C-2	Res Overlay	20-30	9	8
Totals	_	1	_	0.3	_	_	_	_	_	9	8
3	158 South La Cadena Drive 170 South La Cadena Drive 115 East L Street 131 East L Street	4	0163-081-06 0163-081-07 0163-081-08 0163-081-09	0.2 0.2 0.1 0.1	GC	Res Overlay	C-2	Res Overlay	20-30	6 6 3 3	5 5 3 3
Totals	_	4	_	0.6	_	_	_	_	_	18	15
4	1202 East Fairway Drive 1300 East Fairway Drive 1500 East Fairway Drive 1200 Crossroads Drive 1250 Crossroads Drive 1300 Crossroads Drive 1350 Crossroads Drive 1400 Crossroads Drive 1500 Crossroads Drive	11	0164-182-38 0164-182-41 0164-182-43 0164-182-46 0164-182-47 0164-182-48 0164-182-51 0164-182-53 0164-182-55 0164-182-57 0164-182-58	0.2 0.4 1.8 1.0 1.0 0.97 8.2 1.6 8.8 1.0 2.6	IP	MU	I-P	MU	20-40	8 16 72 40 40 39 328 64 352 40	5 10 44 24 24 24 197 39 212 24 63
Totals	_	11	_	27.57	_	_	_	_	_	1,103	662
5	1201 East Fairway Drive	6	0164-281-01 0164-281-02 0164-281-09	8.88 5.8 3.96	IP	MU	I-P	MU	20-40	356 232 159	214 140 96

Area No.	Address	No. of Parcels	Assessor's Parcel No.	Area (acres)	Existing GP Land Use Designation	Proposed GP Land Use Designation	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Residential Density Range (per acre)	Residential Maximum Capacity	Realistic Yield (based on 24 DU/acre)*
			0164-281-11 0164-181-08 0164-181-12	16.85 4.7 2.77						674 188 111	405 113 67
Totals	_	6	_	42.96	_	_	_	_	_	1,719	1032

Notes:

GC/C-2 = General Commercial

GP = General Plan IP/I-P = Industrial Park

MU = Mixed Use

M-U/D = Mixed-use/Downtown Source: City of Colton. 2024.

*Rounded up

GENERAL PLAN/ZONING CODE AMENDMENTS: The Draft Program EIR will identify, evaluate, and disclose the potential environmental impacts related to implementation of the proposed Program 10 & 11 Rezone/GPA and associated land use and zoning revisions. In accordance with State law, the City proposes to adopt a General Plan Amendment as part of the proposed Program 10 & 11 Rezone/GPA to update the General Plan's existing Land Use and Zoning Maps. The City proposes corresponding revisions to the General Plan Land Use Element to ensure consistency between it, the Housing Element, and the changes proposed under the Program 10 & 11 Rezone/GPA. The revisions include updating the General Plan land use plan to expand the inventory of land available for the development of new housing within the City, and making text amendments to ensure density ranges for Mixed-Use designated projects are consistent with those described in the Land Use Element.

In addition to revision of the General Plan Land Use Map pursuant to Programs 10 & 11, the City's Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 18), would be amended to align the text with the General Plan map changes. These changes affect Sections 18.16, 18.23, 18.23.1, 18. 18.23.2, and 18.58.

The City would also rezone the sites identified in Table 4 sufficient to meet the remaining unmet housing need.

REQUIRED PROJECT APPROVALS: If this Draft Program EIR is certified by the City Council, several actions may be undertaken by the City Council, including implementation of Program 10/11 of the Housing Element and adoption of the amendments and rezonings to implement the Housing Element Update programs to increase the inventory of land available for the development of housing. These actions could occur after any required review by the Planning Commission. Individual housing development projects would be reviewed and approved as required by the procedures of the City's Municipal Code and may require additional CEQA review, as appropriate.

The City anticipates that the certified Final Program EIR would be utilized in conjunction with existing streamlining provisions provided by CEQA, emerging streamlining techniques, such as those related to implementation of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (Public Resources Code [PRC] § 21155), and other streamlining procedures including those that may become available in the future. To promote the effective use of City resources, the analysis in the Draft Program EIR may be considered the first tier of environmental review, and it is the intent of the City that future project-specific and/or site-specific CEQA documents may utilize this analysis as appropriate. Tiering refers to a multilevel approach to preparing environmental documents that is codified in Public Resources Code Section 21083.3 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15152.

The Draft Program EIR will consider the reasonably anticipated environmental effects related to the implementation of Program 10 & 11 of the 2021-2029 Housing Element and associated land use and planning revisions. Additional environmental review under CEQA may be required for subsequent projects based on project-specific characteristics. Future analysis may tier from the certified Final Program EIR as provided by CEQA and would be generally based on the subsequent project's consistency with the Housing Element Update and the analysis in the certified Final Program EIR, as required under CEQA.

It may also be determined that some future projects or infrastructure improvements may be exempt from additional environmental review. When a subsequent project or activity is proposed consistent

with the Housing Element Update, the lead agency that would approve and/or implement the individual project would examine the project or activity in light of the certified Final Program EIR (see, e.g., CEQA Guidelines Sections 15152, 15168, and 15183). If the project or activity would have no significant effects beyond those disclosed in the certified Final Program EIR, no further CEQA compliance would be required.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS, PERMITS, AND APPROVALS:

City of Colton

The City of Colton City Council, as the legislative body, is the approving authority for the Housing Element Update. As part of the approval, the City Council will consider the following discretionary actions:

- Adoption of the City of Colton 2023-2031 (6th Cycle) Housing Element Update.
- Certification of the City of Colton 2023-2031 (6th Cycle) Housing Element Update Program EIR.
- Approval of amendments to the General Plan Land Use Element, including modifying the General Plan land use map to indicate applicable designations for each housing site, and rezoning of land consistent with the programs contained in the Housing Element Update to expand the inventory of land available for the development of housing. Pursuant to State law, the City has up to three years following adoption of the Housing Element Update to rezone any identified sites. Conservatively, this Program EIR assumes that rezoning would occur at the time of adoption of the Housing Element Update.
- Approval of amendments to various Chapters and Sections of Title 18 (Zoning Code) to ensure consistency with the General Plan Land Use Element Map, and associated text changes to ensure consistency with State law as related to residential project approvals.

Subsequent actions that may be taken by the City with respect to the Housing Element Update include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Approval of subsequent development applications for residential and mixed-use development, such
 as Planned Unit Development approval, and project-related approvals such as growth management
 approval, design review approval, tentative map approval, final map approval, and grading and
 building permit approval.
- Implementation of the programs set forth in the Housing Element Update.
- Approval of subsequent public facility and roadway improvement projects in support of such residential and mixed-use development.

Other Government Agency Approvals

Additional subsequent approvals and permits that may be required for future residential development projects from local, regional, State, and federal agencies include, but are not limited to the following:

- South Coast Air Quality Management District (SQAQMD)
- California Department of Transportation

- Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
- City of San Bernardino
- City of Loma Linda
- City of Riverside
- City of Rialto
- City of Jurupa Valley
- City of Grand Terrace
- San Bernardino County Flood Control
- San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
- San Bernardino County Public Works Special Districts
- Colton Unified School District
- City of Colton Fire Department
- San Bernardino Regional Parks District
- Omnitrans Transit Agency
- San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)
- San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA)
- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

NOTICE OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT: The City of Colton has determined that the proposed project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts and therefore will prepare a Draft Program EIR to evaluate the potential physical environmental impacts of the project. The Lead Agency has determined that the following environmental considerations may result in potentially significant effects as a result of the proposed project:

Aesthetics Land Use and Planning

Air Quality Noise

Biological Resources Population and Housing

Cultural Resources Public Services
Energy Recreation
Geology, Soils, and Seismicity Transportation

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Tribal Cultural Resources
Hazards Utilities and Service Systems

Hydrology and Water Quality Wildfire

As required pursuant to CEQA, the EIR will analyze those potential impacts, identify mitigation measures, and indicate whether the proposed mitigation measures would reduce potentially significant environmental impacts to a less than significant level. The Draft Program EIR will also evaluate a no project alternative, which will assume that no changes would occur to existing conditions at the project sites, as well as additional project alternatives that could potentially reduce or avoid any significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. As part of the review process under CEQA, the City will convene a public scoping meeting where public comments will be solicited on the issues to be covered in the Draft Program EIR.

NOP COMMENT PERIOD AND DEADLINE: Because of the time limits mandated by State law, responses must be received at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. Please send your written comments (including name, affiliation, telephone number, and contact information) on or before February 21, 2025, by 5:00 p.m. to the Lead Agency contact listed below. The comments received during the public scoping process will be considered during preparation of the Draft Program EIR.

City of Colton
Planning Division
659 North La Cadena Drive
Colton, CA 92324
Attn: Mario Suarez, Planning Manager
msuarez@coltonca.gov; 909.370.5523

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING: Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, the City of Colton will conduct a public scoping meeting to solicit written and oral comments regarding the scope and content of the Draft Program EIR from public agencies and interested parties or persons. The public scoping meeting will be held, in person only, on Tuesday February 11, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the following location:

Colton Council Chambers 650 North La Cadena Drive Colton, CA 92324

Date: __January 15, 2025

Signature:

Title: Planning Manager