NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: September 17, 2025
TO: State Clearinghouse, Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties
PROJECT: Site Plan Review No. 24-0027 and Zone Modification No. 24-0032 - Bakersfield Temple

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared to notify agencies, organizations, and interested parties that the City of Bakersfield (City), as Lead Agency, will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' proposed Bakersfield Temple (Project). The City is requesting input from reviewing agencies and the public regarding the scope and content of the EIR.

The Project involves the proposed development of an approximately 13.07-acre religious campus on currently vacant undeveloped land in two phases. The project site is located at the northwest corner of Stockdale Highway and Jewetta Avenue. The first phase proposes the construction and operation of a temple structure with site improvements such as parking, plazas, and gardens. The second phase proposes the construction and operation of a meetinghouse and additional improvements including an expanded parking lot and landscaping. The Project would construct a cross-lot road with sidewalks/walkways and landscaping along the northern perimeter of the Project Site to provide vehicular access to the Project from Jewetta Avenue and connecting with the existing surface parking lot and the parcel abutting to the west. The Project site is surrounded by a commercial medical facility to the west; private high school, religious uses, and commercial storage facility to the south across Stockdale Highway; 14-acre public park to the east across Jewetta Avenue; and single-family residential subdivision abutting the site to the north. The Project site is associated with Kern County Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 500-780-12 and -13. A third on-site parcel with no assigned APN consists of unrealized right-of-way.

The applications filed with the City of Bakersfield include the following:

- Site Plan Review No. 24-0027 for the development of an 13.07-acre religious campus, including a temple, meetinghouse, grounds building, clothing building, and equipment yard as well as an on-site park area with trellis and an open-air pavilion, and an associated surface parking lot.

- Zone Modification No. 24-0032 to allow steeple heights as proposed (temple: 123 feet 6 inches, meetinghouse: 66 feet 4 inches) where 60 feet is permitted in a C-O (Commercial and Professional Office) zone district.

- Vesting Tentative Parcel Map No. 12637 consisting of 3 parcels on 13.07 acres.

Scope of the EIR

In accordance with CEQA, the City requests that agencies review the description of the Project provided in this NOP and provide comments or guidance on the scope of environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of the Lead Agency. The EIR will be used by the City when considering the Project for approval and by other Responsible and Trustee Agencies to support their discretionary actions related to the Project, as applicable. The City is also seeking comments from residents, property owners, and other interested parties regarding issues they believe should be addressed in the EIR. A regional vicinity map, aerial photograph, and proposed site plan are attached.

Based on the preparation of an environmental Initial Study, the City of Bakersfield in its capacity as Lead Agency for the proposed Project has determined that the Project may result in significant impacts under the topics checked below, requiring further analysis in the EIR:

☒ Aesthetics	☐ Agricultural Resources	☒ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy

☒ Geology / Soils
☒ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials
☐ Hydrology / Water Quality
☒ Land Use / Planning
☐ Mineral Resources
☒ Noise
☐ Population / Housing
☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation
☒ Transportation
☒ Tribal Cultural Resource
☐ Utilities / Service Systems
☐ Wildfire
☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance

The Initial Study is available on the City's website at the following URL:

https://www.bakersfieldcity.us/279/Environmental-Documents

The EIR will assess the effects of the Project on the environment, identify potentially significant impacts, identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate potentially significant environmental impacts, and discuss potentially feasible alternatives to the Project that may accomplish basic objectives while lessening or eliminating any potentially significant Project-related impacts.

Opportunity for Public Review and Comment

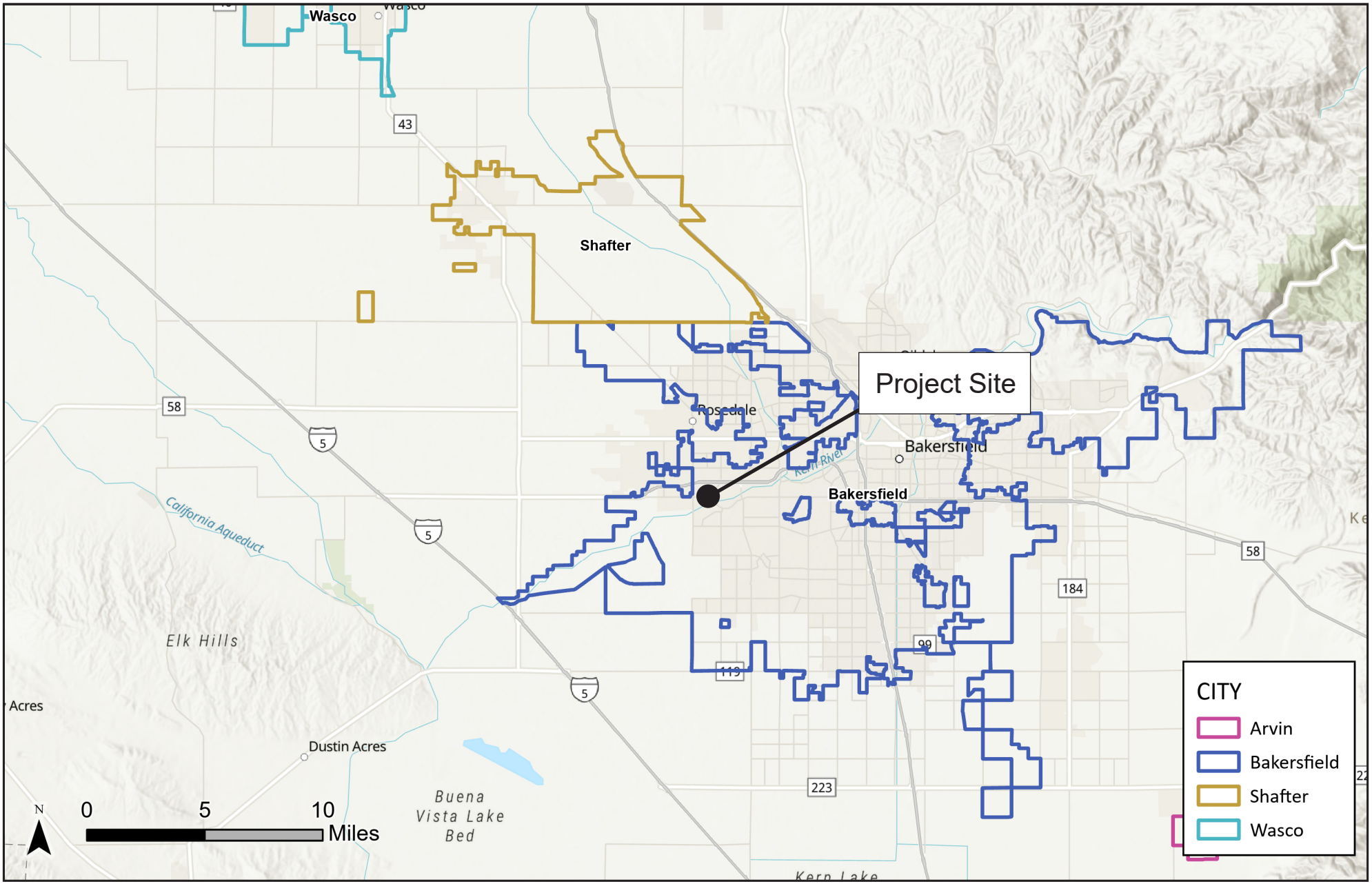
The issuance of this NOP triggers a 30-day public scoping period. The scoping period begins on **September 17, 2025,** and ends on **October 17, 2025**. Comments may be sent to the City at any time during the 30-day public scoping period. Please focus your comments on issues related to the scope and content of the environmental analysis that will be included in the EIR. All scoping comments must be received by the City or postmarked by **October 17, 2025**. Due to the time limits mandated by state law, the City recommends that your feedback is provided at the earliest possible date, but not provided later than 30 days after the date of this notice. Trustee Agencies and Responsible agencies are asked to identify their statutory authorities pertaining to the Project. If applicable, please include the name and contact information of a contact person for your agency. Direct all comments to:

City of Bakersfield
Development Services Department – Planning Division
Attn: Yazid Alawgarey, Assistant Planner
1715 Chester Avenue, 2nd Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301

An EIR public scoping meeting for the Project will be noticed separately.

Comments may also be emailed to yalawgarey@bakersfieldcity.us

Attachments:
Figure 1 – Regional Vicinity Map
Figure 2 – Aerial Photograph of the Project Site
Figure 3 – Conceptual Site Plan



SOURCE: Esri, 2025

FIGURE 1

Regional Vicinity Map

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SOURCE: Esri, 2025

FIGURE **2**

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Aerial Photograph of the Project Site

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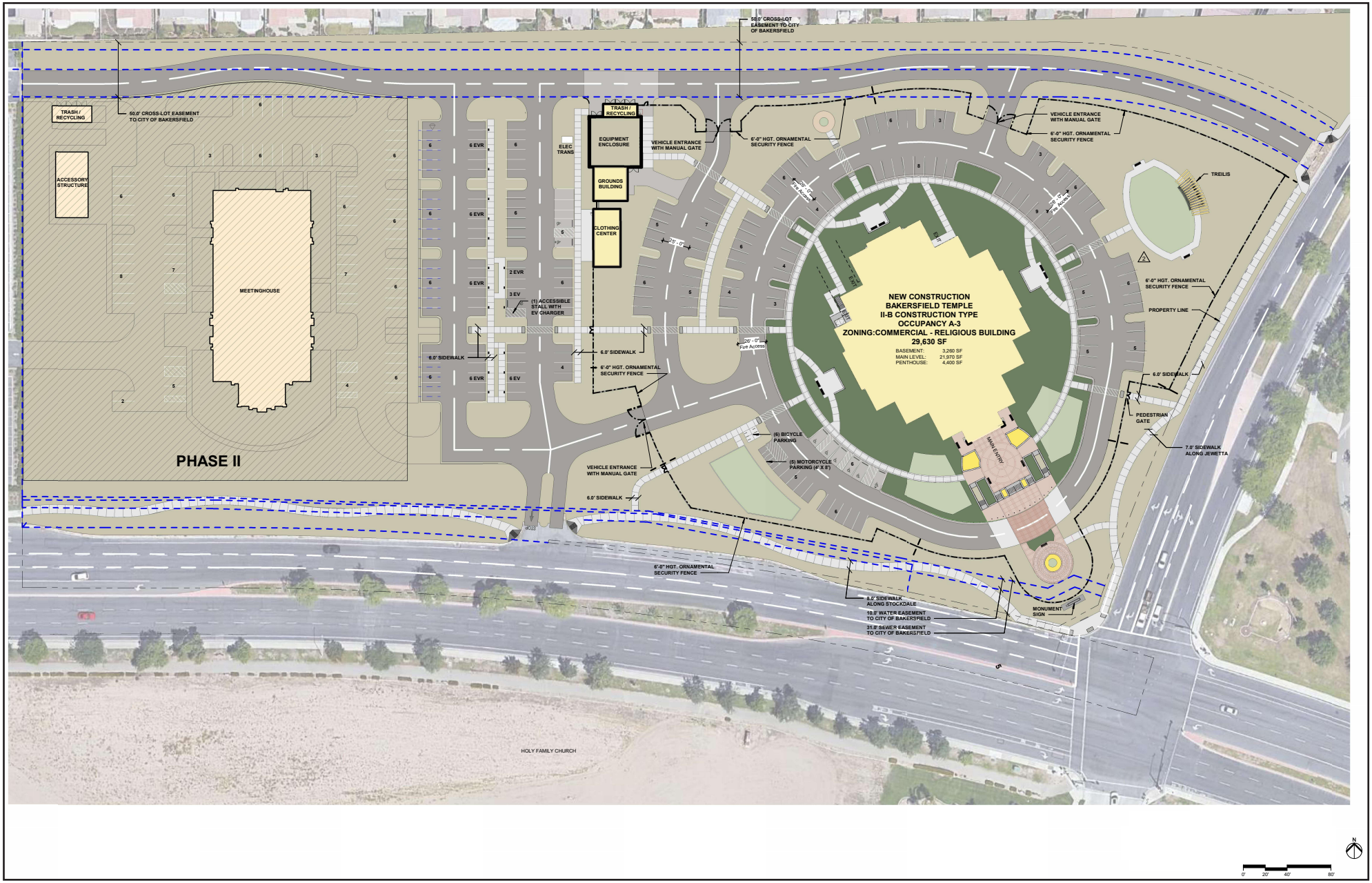

SOURCE: HKS, 2025

FIGURE **3**

Conceptual Site Plan

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