



## NOTICE OF PREPARATION of an Environmental Impact Report for the Bakersfield RISE 2045 General Plan

**Date:** February 28, 2026

**To:** State Clearinghouse, Reviewing Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

**Subject:** Notice of Preparation of a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Bakersfield RISE 2045 General Plan

### Notice of Preparation

Notice is hereby given that the City of Bakersfield (City or Bakersfield), as the Lead Agency, is preparing a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Bakersfield RISE 2045 General Plan ("2045 General Plan") pursuant to Title 14, Section 15060(d) of the California Code of Regulations, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code, Division 13, Section 21000 et seq.), and the State of California CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et seq.).

The purpose of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to solicit input and feedback from the public and regulatory agencies on the proposed 2045 General Plan (the "Project" under CEQA), including Project alternatives, and environmental impacts. The intent of the NOP is to provide sufficient information to enable meaningful comments regarding the scope and content of the PEIR.

This NOP and the background documents associated with the 2045 General Plan are available for review on the City's General Plan webpage at: <https://bakersfield2045.com/>. Agencies should comment on such information as it relates to their statutory responsibilities in connection with the General Plan.

The City has determined that the 2045 General Plan may have a significant effect on the environment; therefore, an EIR is being prepared. The PEIR is intended to be a program-level document that will analyze the effects of the proposed 2045 General Plan. Program EIRs generally analyze broad environmental effects of the program, with the acknowledgment that site-specific environmental review may be required for future actions (CEQA Guidelines §15168(a)). The purpose of a programmatic EIR is to allow the lead agency to consider the overall environmental impacts, broad policy alternatives, and program-wide mitigation measures at the initial stages of the project, when the agency has greater flexibility to address cumulative impacts and general public and regulatory concerns. Because no specific development projects are being proposed as part of the update to the General Plan, the analysis in the PEIR will not be parcel specific. Rather, the analysis will focus on the reasonably foreseeable direct and indirect physical environmental effects that could result from the update to the General Plan, including proposed land use designation changes. The analysis will compare the net change of impacts as a result of the 2045 General Plan compared to existing conditions under the current General Plan. Following adoption of the 2045 General Plan, the PEIR is intended to streamline project-level CEQA review for subsequent projects that are consistent with the 2045 General Plan, as appropriate.

### Notice of Preparation Public Review Period: February 28, 2026 to March 30, 2026

The City requests your careful review and consideration of this notice, and invites any and all input and comments from interested agencies, persons, and organizations regarding the preparation of the PEIR. Comments and responses to this notice must be in writing and submitted to the Lead Agency Contact (provided below) no later than March 30, 2026. If applicable, please indicate a contact person for your agency or organization. If your agency is a responsible agency as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15381, your agency

may use the environmental documents prepared by the City when considering permits or approvals for action regarding the proposed project.

**Lead Agency Contact:**

Roque Nino, Principal Planner  
City of Bakersfield  
Development Services Department – Planning Division  
1715 Chester Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Bakersfield, California 93301

**Instructions For Public Comments:** Public comments may be provided in person at the scoping meeting, which will be held on sday, March 10, 2026, at 5:30 PM at the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 1501 Truxtun Avenue in Bakersfield. Additionally, written public comments may be submitted no later than 5:00 PM, on March 30, 2026,, by one of the following:

**Email:** [rnino@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:rnino@bakersfieldcity.us)

**Regular Mail:**

City of Bakersfield  
Development Services Department – Planning Division  
1715 Chester Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Bakersfield, California 93301

**Project Background:** The 2045 General Plan provides an update to the existing Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan as amended in 2016 and establishes a well-rounded framework for future growth and planning. The Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan was prepared as a joint planning document with Kern County and encompassed a broader metropolitan planning area that included extensive unincorporated lands. The Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan was originally adopted on December 11, 2002, and subsequently amended through multiple City Council resolutions, with the most recent update adopted on January 20, 2016. In contrast to the Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan, the 2045 General Plan revises the planning area to focus on the City of Bakersfield and immediately adjacent and enclaved unincorporated areas. As a result, growth assumptions evaluated under the 2045 General Plan are based on a different geographic scope than those in the existing Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan.

State law mandates that general plans address the following topics, or elements: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety. In addition, cities and counties with designated disadvantaged communities are also required to adopt an environmental justice element in their general plan or integrate environmental justice policies into the elements of their general plan. Because Bakersfield includes disadvantaged communities, policies aimed at reducing inequitable impacts to those communities are included in the 2045 General Plan. Furthermore, cities and counties located in the San Joaquin Valley, including the City of Bakersfield, are required to specifically focus on improvements to air quality.

**Project Location:** The 2045 General Plan Planning Area will encompass the City of Bakersfield city limits and unincorporated areas within the City’s Sphere of Influence (SOI), as established by the Kern County Local Agency Formation Commission (Kern LAFCo). The Planning Area also includes unincorporated “county islands” and other lands within the City’s SOI, where the City is pursuing a long-term strategy to address fragmented governance by supporting future annexation of these areas. While the City’s land use authority is limited to areas within the city limits, the 2045 General Plan considers the broader Planning Area to support coordinated long-range planning. The Planning Area is shown in Figure 1.

**Proposed Project:** The proposed project consists of a comprehensive update to the Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan. The 2045 General Plan serves as a comprehensive roadmap for guiding the City's growth and development in ways that reflect community priorities, enhance livability, and promote sustainability.

The 2045 General Plan articulates a vision for Bakersfield's future, one that considers economic vitality with environmental stewardship and equitable opportunities for all residents, and establishes a framework for future growth and planning that reflects the community's vision and values.

To provide a contemporary plan that will guide the community through 2045, the 2045 General Plan reflects changes in local conditions, extensive community engagement, and evolving State requirements related to long-term growth, development, and management of the built and natural environment. The 2045 General Plan also addresses emerging issues and opportunities related to housing, mobility, economic development, environmental quality, and community health, consistent with the City's Planning Area.

The 2045 General Plan serves several purposes:

- Expresses the community's vision for a better Bakersfield
- Guides the physical development pattern of the City in a way that reflects community priorities and values
- Informs residents, developers, and decision makers of the goals and policies that guide City decision-making
- Supports coordinated planning for infrastructure, public services, and investment prioritization
- Engages the community through an extensive and inclusive public outreach process

The 2045 General Plan identifies and prioritizes opportunities to preserve Bakersfield's distinctive character, foster inclusive neighborhoods, strengthen economic opportunity, and protect environmental resources. It defines how and where Bakersfield is anticipated to evolve through 2045 by emphasizing the following strategies, which are woven throughout the goals, policies, and implementation actions of each chapter:

- Protect, enhance, and restore the Kern River and associated open space, parklands, and recreational resources
- Encourage compact, infill-focused development and revitalization of key areas, including Downtown Bakersfield and commercial corridors
- Improve mobility and connectivity through multimodal transportation options, infrastructure improvements, and reduced reliance on single-occupant vehicles
- Support a resilient and inclusive local economy by capitalizing on Bakersfield's economic assets and workforce opportunities
- Advance sustainability, environmental justice, and community health through balanced approaches to growth, resource management, and service provision

**Project Alternatives:** The PEIR will evaluate a reasonable range of proposed project alternatives that, consistent with CEQA, meet most of the proposed project objectives and reduce or avoid potential environmental effects, including a required No Project Alternative.

**Potential Environmental Effect Areas:** The PEIR for the 2045 General Plan will focus on the resource areas/issues applicable to this project. The PEIR will evaluate the potentially significant environmental impacts of the 2045 General Plan and will evaluate whether there are feasible mitigation measures that may lessen or avoid such impacts. As the 2045 General Plan does not include any specific construction or development, but rather the potential for land use changes and development to be constructed in the future, the impact analysis will be programmatic and cumulative in nature. The PEIR will also identify and evaluate alternatives to the 2045 General Plan. The PEIR will evaluate potentially significant environmental effects related to the following environmental issues:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services and Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Cumulative Effects
- Growth Inducing Effects

When the Draft PEIR is published, it will be available for review at the City's offices located at 1715 Chester Avenue, 2nd Floor, Bakersfield, California 93301 and online at:

<https://bakersfield2045.com/>

The City will issue a Notice of Availability of a Draft PEIR at that time to inform the public and interested agencies, groups, and individuals of how to access the Draft PEIR and provide comments.

If you have questions regarding this NOP or the scoping meeting, please contact Roque Nino, Principal Planner at 661-326-3671 or via email at [rnino@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:rnino@bakersfieldcity.us)

  
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Roque Nino, Principal Planner

2/28/2024  
Date

Figure 1 Bakersfield Planning Area

