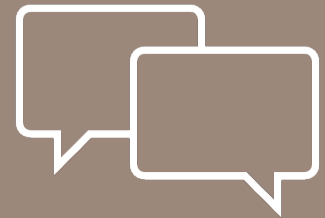




CITY OF SANTA ROSA General Plan 2050

EIR SCOPING MEETING | Monday, February 27, 2023



Agenda

I. Background

- Purpose of Scoping Meeting
- “Project” Description

II. EIR Scoping Session

- CEQA and Program-Level EIR Overview and Process
- Topics to be Evaluated
- Addressing Impacts

III. Comments

IV. Next Steps

Background

Purpose of Scoping Meeting

Receive comments from members of the public, organizations, and interested public agencies on issues related to the physical environment that should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).



The General Plan Update process, known as **Santa Rosa Forward**, provides an important opportunity to **revisit** and **rethink** community planning policies and programs.



The Proposed General Plan 2050 will...

- Guide the City's development and conservation through 2050 to implement the community's Vision for the future
- Include revisions to the policies and land use map of the existing General Plan
- Include all State-required elements and optional elements, organized in the following sections: *
 - Land Use and Economic Development
 - Housing (updated through a separate process, adopted on February 14, 2023)
 - Community Character (covering the topics of Urban Design, Historic Preservation, Art and Culture, and Hillside Policies)
 - Efficient and Sustainable Development (covering the topics of Mobility [**Circulation**], **Open Space**, and **Conservation**)
 - Climate Resilience and Safety (covering the topics of Climate Resilience, **Safety**, **Noise**, and Public Services and Facilities)
 - Health, Equity, and Environmental Justice (covering the topics of Community Health, Equity, **Environmental Justice**, Parks, and Youth and Family)



***Bold** indicates State-required elements

EIR Scoping Session

CEQA Overview

- **The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is the State’s primary environmental protection law**
- **Results in an informational document:**
 - Discloses the potential environmental impacts of projects that have a physical effect on the environment
 - Identifies mitigation measures
 - Describes feasible alternatives to the proposed project
- **CEQA does not dictate “Project” approval or denial**
- **An Environmental Impact Report or EIR is a public disclosure document that includes an evaluation of physical impacts to the environment that could occur as a result of the implementation of the project, based on specific and established criteria.**
- **The EIR is the highest-level environmental review document in CEQA**

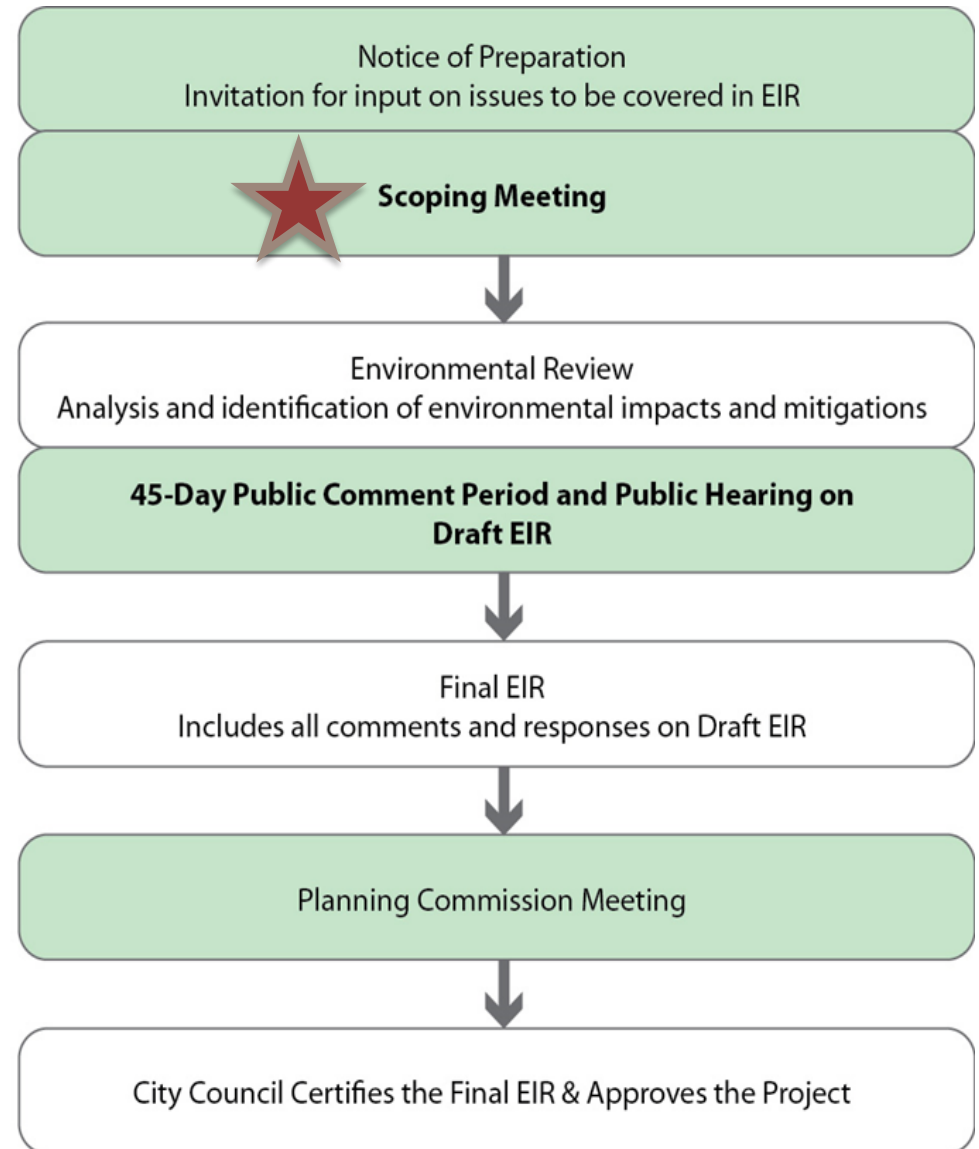
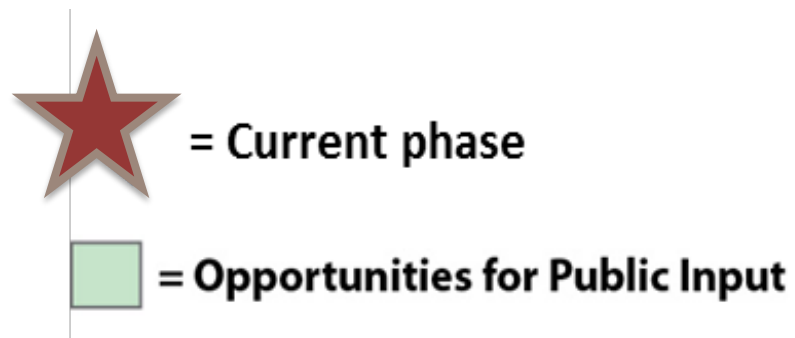
Program-Level EIR

Program-level environmental review documents are appropriate when a “project” consists of a series of actions related to the issuance of rules, regulations, and other planning criteria (CEQA Guidelines Section 15168)

- Does not evaluate impacts of future construction-level projects that are consistent with the General Plan
- Does allow the subsequent project-level environmental review for future development to tier off the Program EIR
- Streamlines future environmental review procedures

EIR Process

- This chart summarizes the EIR process mandated by State law



Environmental Topics Evaluated in the EIR

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services, Parks, and Recreation
- Transportation
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

Addressing Environmental Impacts

- **Where significant environmental impacts are identified, CEQA requires that the impact be:**
 - avoided
 - minimized
 - rectified
 - reduced or eliminated, and/or
 - compensated
- **CEQA permits the General Plan to incorporate mitigation measures as goals, policies, and actions that are designed to protect, preserve, and/or enhance environmental resources**

Receiving Comments

Scoping Comments Should Address

- Technical issues to address in the Draft EIR
- Appropriate range of alternatives to evaluate in the Draft EIR
- Potential environmental impacts of the proposed project



Submitting Scoping Comments

- **Comments due 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, by:**
 - Speaking at tonight’s meeting
 - Mail to:
 - Amy Lyle, Supervising Planner - Advance Planning
 - City of Santa Rosa
 - Planning & Economic Development
 - 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 3
 - Santa Rosa, CA 95404
 - Email: Alyle@srcity.org with “Santa Rosa General Plan 2050 EIR” as the subject line

Wrap Up

Next Steps

- **Prepare Draft General Plan**
- **Conduct environmental analysis and prepare the Draft EIR**
- **Release the Draft General Plan and EIR for public review and comment**
- **Prepare a revised Draft General Plan and a Final EIR with responses to comments on the Draft EIR**
- **Hold Planning Commission and City Council hearings to consider the certification of the EIR and the adoption of the General Plan 2050**



Thank you for attending!
Stay connected at:
<https://www.santarosaforward.com/>
Provide input along the way at:
https://www.santarosaforward.com/mail_forms

