Fresno General Plan Program EIR Scoping Meeting
Agenda

- Scoping Meeting Purpose
- Project Overview
- Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
  - What is an EIR?
  - EIR Process
  - Environmental Topics to be Addressed in the EIR
- Scoping Meeting Comments
- Next Steps
Scoping Meeting Purpose

- Provide first opportunity for **public participation** in the overall California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process for the Program EIR

- Allow the public to **identify environmental issues** to be analyzed in the Program EIR
Background

• Every California city is required to have a General Plan

• The Fresno General Plan was last updated and adopted in 2014
Background

• Every General Plan is required to have an environmental analysis

• Fresno General Plan had a Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR)
Background

• An MEIR needs to be updated every 5 years

• This project is to update the MEIR and convert it to a Program EIR
The **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)** is the State’s primary environmental protection law.

CEQA requires that public agencies **disclose the potential environmental impacts** of projects that have a physical effect on the environment. The proposed updates to the City’s General Plan constitute a project under CEQA.

The City is **updating the existing MEIR to a Program EIR** to allow for continued use for future environmental reviews.
Project Overview

- The City is updating the existing General Plan Master EIR (MEIR) and converting it to a Program EIR to be in conformance with State law and consistent with recent legislative changes.
- This update is intended to streamline implementation of the General Plan’s programs and projects by supporting them with updated environmental analysis, regulatory framework, and mitigation measures, pursuant to CEQA.
- This update will incorporate new local, State and/or federal regulations.
Project Overview

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan will be updated to taking into account AB 32 (2006) and SB 32 (2016)
Project Overview

Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT)
Legislation – SB 743 (2013)
Project Overview

Tribal Consultation, Assembly Bill (AB) 52 (2014)
Project Overview

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) (2014)
Project Overview

Cooperative Agreement between the City of Fresno Irrigation District and City of Fresno for Water Utilization and Conveyance (2016)
Project Overview

2017 Housing Package as described by the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development.
Project Overview

This update will also include technical revisions to the Mobility and Transportation Element of the General Plan, including:

- Addition of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) policies consistent with the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 743;
- Revision of text relating to Level of Service (LOS) metrics to update applicability; and
- Update to Figure MT-1: Major Street Circulation Diagram and Figure MT-3: Regional Transportation.
Make Minor Revisions related to traffic analysis

Update and Convert to a Program EIR
EIR Process

Notice of Preparation
Invitation for input on issues to be covered in EIR → Scoping Meeting → Environmental Review
Analysis and identification of environmental impacts and mitigations → Minimum 45-Day Public Comment Period and Public Hearing on Draft EIR

Final EIR
Includes all comments and responses on Draft EIR → Planning Commission Hearing → City Council Hearing

= Opportunities for Public Input
Environmental Topics to be Addressed in the EIR

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry
- 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
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire
Scoping Meeting Comments

When submitting written comments, please write legibly and include the following information:

- Name
- Comment subject(s)
- Comment

The EIR is a public document and your name and comments will be displayed in the Draft EIR.

Comments are due prior to the close of the Scoping Period on June 17, 2019.
Scoping Meeting Comments

Written comments should be submitted to:

Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager
Development and Resource Management
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065
Fresno, CA 93721
Email: Sophia.Pagoulatos@fresno.gov
Next Steps

- Prepare Draft EIR
  - Summer 2019

- Publish Draft EIR for 45-day Public Comment Period
  - Fall 2019

- Publish Final EIR
  - Winter 2019

- Project Approval/Final EIR Certification
  - Winter 2019/Spring 2020
Public Comments
LSA CONTACT INFORMATION

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Plan Areas with Environmental Impact Reports In Progress
Development and Resource Management Department

Legend:
- General Plan
- Specific Plan of the West Area
- South Industrial Priority Area
- Central Southeast Specific Plan Area

Boundaries:
- City Limits
- Planning Boundary

Note: This map is intended to provide general information and should not be relied upon as a precise representation of the areas. Additional details and updated information may be required.