

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: April 24, 2020

PROJECT TITLE: Evaluating the Proposed Regulation and Permitting of Commercial Cannabis Activities

LEAD AGENCY: City of Fresno

OVERVIEW: Notice is hereby given that the City of Fresno is seeking written comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) (SCH# 2019070123) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This notice has been prepared in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15085 and 15087(c), which requires public notification of availability of a Draft EIR.

PROJECT LOCATION: The City of Fresno (City) is located in Fresno County and is situated in the central portion of the San Joaquin Valley, in the State of California. The City encompasses approximately 113 square miles. Fresno is the largest city in Fresno County and has a current estimated population of 536,683 residents. The topography of the City is relatively flat with little topographic variation. It occurs at an elevation of approximately 328 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The surrounding land is relatively flat with a sharp rise towards the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range to the east. State Route (SR) 99 runs northwest-southeast on the western edge of the City, connecting it with Sacramento and Bakersfield. SR-41 runs north-south through the heart of the City, connecting it with Yosemite National Park. SR-168 links the downtown to Clovis, and SR-180 runs east-west within the southern portion of the City.

The northern border of the City is largely defined by the San Joaquin River, which flows to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and San Francisco Bay. The eastern border of the City mostly abuts the city limits of the City of Clovis. The western border of the City traverses Highway 99 and passes through western rural residential and agricultural lands of the unincorporated county. The southern boundary extends as far south as Malaga Avenue.

The City center is within Township 13 South, Range 20 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian and the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Fresno South Quadrangle. The latitude and longitude of the approximate center of the City site is 36.74077° N, -119.78562° E. The Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates for the approximate center are Easting 252,462 meters and Northing 4,070,374 meters, in Zone 11S.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Fresno is proposing an amendment to Sections 15-2739 and 15-2739.1 of the Fresno Municipal Code, Article 33 to Chapter 9 of the Fresno Municipal Code, and Article 21 to Chapter 12 of the Fresno Municipal Code, relating to adult use and medicinal cannabis retail business and commercial cannabis business. A detailed Project Description can be found in Chapter 3 of the DEIR.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: CEQA Guidelines Section 15087 (c)(4) requires that the Notice of Availability list the significant environmental effects anticipated as a result of the Project. The Draft EIR identified significant and unavoidable impacts in the following areas: **Air Quality** – NOx emissions during construction would result in temporary increases above the established

thresholds. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions** - the proposed Project's preliminary GHG analysis demonstrates that the Project will not meet a 29% reduction in GHG emissions from Business As Usual. Therefore, GHG emissions would be considered significant and unavoidable.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: April 24, 2020 through June 9, 2020. Due to closures of public facilities in response to COVID-19, the Draft EIR will be available for viewing through online links to the documents as well as additional viewing methods at City Hall.

ADDRESS WHERE COPY OF DRAFT EIR IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW: City of Fresno, 2600 Fresno Street, Fresno, CA. Please contact Israel Trejo, Supervising Planner, at (559) 621-8044 or israel.trejo@fresno.gov for information on obtaining a copy of the draft EIR.

WEBSITE WHERE DRAFT EIR CAN BE FOUND FOR REVIEW:

<https://www.fresno.gov/darm/planning-development/plans-projects-under-review/#tab-08>

Written comments concerning the Draft EIR are due by 5:00 p.m., June 9, 2020 and should be submitted to:

City of Fresno
Israel Trejo, Supervising Planner
2600 Fresno Street, Room 3043
Fresno, CA 93721

Or via email to israel.trejo@fresno.gov

PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS: CEQA Guidelines Section 15087 describes the public review procedures for a Draft EIR. The Draft EIR will be subject to public review and comment for a period of at least 45 days. The City of Fresno requests that reviewers submit comments on the Draft EIR consistent with the provisions of CEQA Guidelines Section 15087.

According to Section 15202 of the CEQA Guidelines, CEQA does not require formal hearings at any stage of the environmental review process; however, it is typical to consider the EIR and its findings during public hearings required for the associated project. For additional information, please contact Israel Trejo at (559) 621-8044 or israel.trejo@fresno.gov.