



CITY OF ELK GROVE
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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: December 6, 2024

TO: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY: City of Elk Grove
Contact: Carrie Whitlock, Strategic Planning and Innovation Program Manager
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

PROJECT: Climate Compass Project

APPLICANT: City of Elk Grove

COMMENT PERIOD: December 6, 2024 to January 15, 2025

In discharging its duties under Section 15021 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the City of Elk Grove (hereinafter "City" or "Elk Grove"), as lead agency, intends to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) to the General Plan Update Environmental Impact Report (GPU EIR) (SCH No. 2017062058), as updated by the General Plan Amendments and Update to Vehicle Miles Traveled Standards Subsequent EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2022020463) (hereinafter referred to collectively as the GPU EIR), for the update to its 2019 Climate Action Plan (CAP), referred to now as the Climate Compass (the "Project"). Since the City made the determination that a SEIR would be appropriate based on a preliminary review of the Project, an initial study has not been prepared pursuant with CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(a). In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, this Notice of Preparation (NOP) provides a Project Description, location, and the probable environmental effects of implementation of the proposed Project.

The NOP will be circulated for a 30-day public review and comment period, which extends from **December 6, 2024 to January 15, 2025**. The City is soliciting comments regarding the scope and content of the SEIR as they relate to other agencies' statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed Project, as well as comments from interested members of the public. The City will rely on responsible and trustee agencies to provide information relevant to the analysis of resources falling within the jurisdiction of such agencies. The City welcomes public input during the review period. If the City has not received either a response or a well-justified request for additional time by a responsible agency or the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (formerly known as the Office of Planning and Research) by the end of the review period, the City may presume that each responsible and trustee agency and the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation had no response to make (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15082(b)(2)).

Comments may be submitted in writing during the review period and addressed to:

City of Elk Grove
Office of Strategic Planning and Innovation
c/o Carrie Whitlock
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758
cwhitlock@elkgrovecity.org

This NOP is also posted at: <https://www.elkgrovecity.org/planning/environmental-review>

CEQA provides for a lead agency to facilitate one or more scoping meetings, which provide additional opportunity for determining the scope and content of the SEIR. The City will host a scoping meeting on **January 9, 2025**, from **6 pm** at City of Elk Grove, Council Chambers, 8400 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758. Information related to the proposed Project, including how to access Project documents and how to participate in the public review process will be provided at the scoping meeting.

PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING

The Climate Compass is intended to serve as the long-term climate action plan for the City of Elk Grove. The City is approximately 43 square miles and is generally bounded by Interstate 5 (I-5) on the west; Calvine Road and the City of Sacramento on the north; Grant Line Road on the east; and Kammerer Road on the south. State Route (SR) 99 runs north-south, bisecting the City near its center (refer to Figure 1). Existing land uses include a mix of agriculture, residential, nonresidential (commercial, office, and industrial), parks and open space, civic/institutional, public and quasi-public spaces, roadways, and other infrastructure, and vacant land.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City prioritizes climate action in both communitywide and in City operations. In 2013, the City adopted its first CAP as a citywide plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The 2013 CAP was updated in 2019 to incorporate state-recommended targets and monitor progress from its previous iteration. The Climate Compass is proposed as an update to the 2019 CAP.

The Climate Compass establishes a roadmap for the City to achieve its GHG emission reduction targets and includes actions and strategies to adapt to anticipated climate-related impacts. The plan intends to enhance the quality of life for all residents, promote equity, and strengthen community resilience in the face of a changing climate. In addition, the Project aligns local efforts with Assembly Bill (AB) 1279, which requires California to achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2045 and an 85 percent reduction in anthropogenic GHG emissions by 2045.

The Climate Compass is comprised of the following six chapters and appendices:

- **Chapter 1, Introduction:** this chapter provides an introduction to the Climate Compass as well as to the overall climate action planning process and key methodologies and terms. This chapter also provides an overview of the development of the Climate Compass to date, including summarizing public and agency input, as well as how the plan fits in with the State's larger climate planning efforts.
- **Chapter 2, GHG Inventory and Targets:** this chapter provides the foundation for the Climate Compass, presenting the City's GHG emissions inventory, emissions forecasts, and the targets for reducing emissions in line with State and local goals.
- **Chapter 3, Climate Action Strategies:** this chapter addresses the comprehensive strategies and actions the City would implement to reduce GHG emissions across various sectors, such as energy, transportation, land use, and waste management, while also promoting community resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts.
- **Chapter 4, City Operations:** this chapter focuses on the strategies and actions the City would adopt to reduce GHG emissions from government operations.
- **Chapter 5, Implementation and Monitoring:** this chapter details the implementation framework for the Climate Compass, including timelines, funding strategies, partnerships, and the monitoring and reporting processes to ensure the plan's success.
- **Chapter 6, Work Cited:** this chapter provides the sources used in the development of the plan.
- **Appendices** include more detailed information on GHG emissions inventories and forecasts, strategy quantification, and supporting documents, such as a cost analysis and funding and financing roadmap.

As detailed within Chapter 3, the Climate Compass includes various strategies and actions that aid in mitigating GHG emissions and promote adapting to climate impacts in the community. The strategies are centered around six focus areas and are further supported with specific actions defining activities, programs, policies, community partnerships, or projects the City would implement to achieve GHG mitigation and adaptation goals. The six focus areas and proposed strategies include:

1) Building Energy

- Strategy BE-1: Electrify and Decarbonize Buildings
- Strategy BE-2: Increase Density and Expand Affordable Housing
- Strategy BE-3: Increase Local Renewable Energy Use and Storage
- Strategy BE-4: Reduce Energy Consumption and Energy Burden

2) Transportation

- Strategy TR-1: Decrease Vehicle Miles Traveled
- Strategy TR-2: Increase Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Adoption
- Strategy TR-3: Reduce Off-Road Transportation Emissions

3) Resilience and Adaptation

- Strategy RA-1: Improve Climate and Emergency Preparedness
- Strategy RA-2: Building Capacity for Current and Future Flooding
- Strategy RA-3: Protect Populations from Wildfire Smoke
- Strategy RA-4: Reduce Exposure to Extreme Heat and Mitigate the Urban Heat Island Effect
- Strategy RA-5: Expand the Tree Canopy
- Strategy RA-6: Expand Nature-Based Solutions

4) Resource Consumption

- Strategy RC-1: Increase Organic Waste Diversion
- Strategy RC-2: Promote Circular Economy
- Strategy RC-3: Reduce Water Use

5) Green Economy

- Strategy GE-1: Support Green Businesses
- Strategy GE-2: Develop a Green Workforce

6) Climate Action Commitment

- Strategy CA-1: Conduct Meaningful Community Outreach
- Strategy CA-4: Provide Community Education on Public Health and Wellbeing
- Strategy CA-5: Provide Community Education on Water Efficiency
- Strategy CA-6: Identify Metrics for Success

While the strategies and actions included in the Climate Compass are primarily intended to mitigate GHG emissions and promote adaptation, many of them would also result in one or more co-benefits related to community resilience, economic diversity, equity, air pollution reduction, health and wellbeing, infrastructure reliability, and resource preservation.

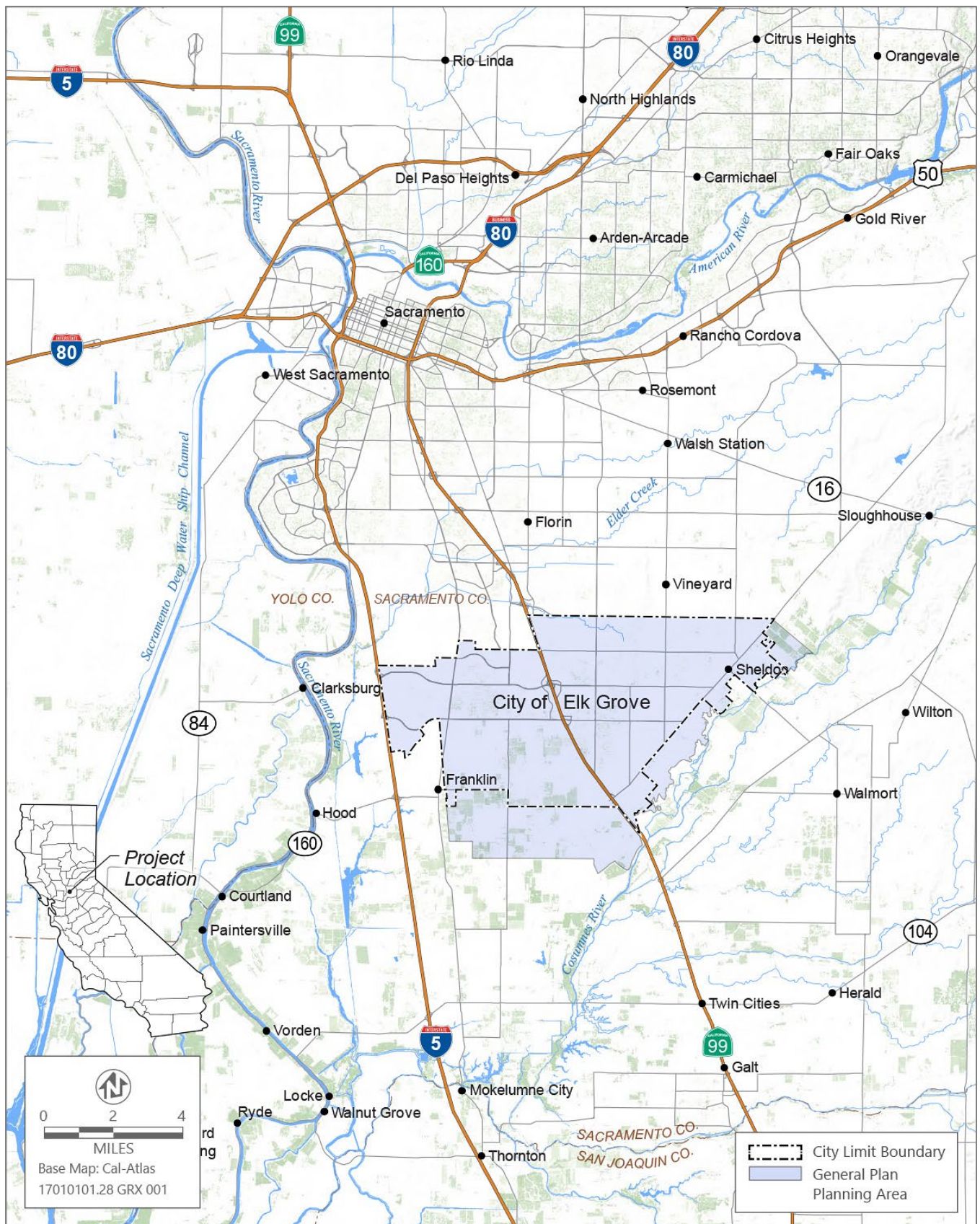
PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The Draft SEIR to the City's GPU EIR will evaluate whether implementing the proposed Project would potentially result in one or more significant environmental effects. Due to the nature of the proposed Project, the following issue areas will be addressed in detail within the Draft SEIR:

- ▶ energy, and
- ▶ greenhouse gases emissions and climate change.

In regard to all other environmental issue areas, the Project is not anticipated to result in new significant impacts or substantially increase the severity of significant environmental impacts evaluated in the GPU EIR. For this reason, the following environmental issue areas will be briefly discussed within the Draft SEIR to disclose the rationale why the proposed Project would not result in foreseeable significant environmental impacts from those disclosed in the GPU EIR:

- ▶ aesthetics;
- ▶ agricultural resources;
- ▶ air quality;
- ▶ biological resources;
- ▶ archaeological, historical, and tribal cultural resources;
- ▶ geology, soils, mineral resources, and paleontology;
- ▶ hazards and hazardous materials;
- ▶ hydrology and water quality;
- ▶ noise and vibration;
- ▶ population and housing;
- ▶ public services and recreation;
- ▶ utilities and service systems;
- ▶ transportation; and
- ▶ wildfire.



Source: adapted by Ascent in 2024.

Figure 1 Project Location