



Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Richard J. Bruckner
Director

**NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND AVAILABILITY
OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (SCH# 2014061043)
FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ANTELOPE VALLEY AREA WIDE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

ORIGINAL FILED

AUG 20 2014

DATE: August 22, 2014

TO: State Clearinghouse, Responsible/Trustee Agencies, and Interested Individuals **LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK**

SUBJECT: Notice of Completion and Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report

PROJECT: Los Angeles County Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan Update

LEAD AGENCY: Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.; and the "Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County of Los Angeles (County), through the Department of Regional Planning, as Lead Agency, is circulating for public review a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Los Angeles County Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan Update (Antelope Valley Area Plan Update).

PROJECT LOCATION

The Antelope Valley (Project Area) is located in the northern part of Los Angeles County, stretching from the Ventura County, Kern County, and San Bernardino County border and the Angeles National Forest (inclusive). It excludes the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale. This area covers approximately 1,800 square miles and includes over two dozen communities. The area lies completely within the Fifth Supervisorial District of the County. An interactive map of the Antelope Valley and the rest of the County is available online at <http://planning.lacounty.gov/gisnet3>.

The unincorporated areas in the northern portion of the County are covered by large amounts of sparsely populated land and include the Angeles National Forest, part of the Los Padres National Forest, and the Mojave Desert. The unincorporated areas in the southern portion of the County consist of 58 noncontiguous land areas, which are often referred to as the County's unincorporated urban islands. The County's governmental structure comprises five Supervisorial Districts with the County Board of Supervisors as the governing body responsible for making all legislative land use decisions for the unincorporated areas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is a comprehensive update of the Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan (Area Plan), and is also known as Town and Country. The Antelope Valley Area Plan Update includes updated goals, policies, and a new Land Use Policy Map for the Project Area.

The project covers the unincorporated areas of the Antelope Valley in the County and identifies 1) Rural Preserve Areas, where residential densities will be reduced in order to protect important ecological and agricultural resources as well as minimize development in very high hazard areas; 2) Rural Town Areas, where maximum residential densities and minimum lot sizes will be established to preserve rural character; 3) Rural Town Centers, where urban commercial uses will be discouraged but rural commercial uses will be incentivized; and 4) Economic Opportunity Areas, where plans for major infrastructure development are underway that may create the need for more detailed planning activities for these areas in the future. The proposed Area Plan anticipates that future planning may be needed in these areas to determine any appropriate land use and zoning changes needed when these infrastructure projects are completed.

These policies protect important ecological and agricultural resources and preserve rural character, while accommodating new housing and employment opportunities in appropriate areas of the Antelope Valley. The project will replace the adopted Area Plan.

Other components of the Antelope Valley Area Plan Update include, but are not limited to, update to the special management areas, such as agricultural resource areas, significant ecological areas and the like; amendments to existing County ordinances and/or adoption of new County ordinances as necessary to implement the updated Antelope Valley Area Plan; and rezoning as necessary to implement and/or maintain consistency with the updated Antelope Valley Area Plan.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, the following resource areas have been analyzed in the DEIR for potential environmental effects:

Aesthetic/Visual	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Population/Housing
Agriculture and Forestry Resources	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Public Services
Air Quality	Hydrology/Water Quality	Recreation
Biological Resources	Land Use/Planning	Transportation/Traffic
Cultural Resources	Mineral Resources	Utilities/Service Systems
Geology/Soils	Noise	Water Supply

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

The formal public review period for the DEIR will be from August 22, 2014 to October 6, 2014 (45 day review period). All comments received by the closing of the public review period will be considered in the Final EIR.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing on the proposed project and the DEIR will be held before the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission on Saturday, September 27, 2014, at 10 am, in the Antelope Valley College Theater, 3041 West Avenue K, Lancaster, CA 93536.

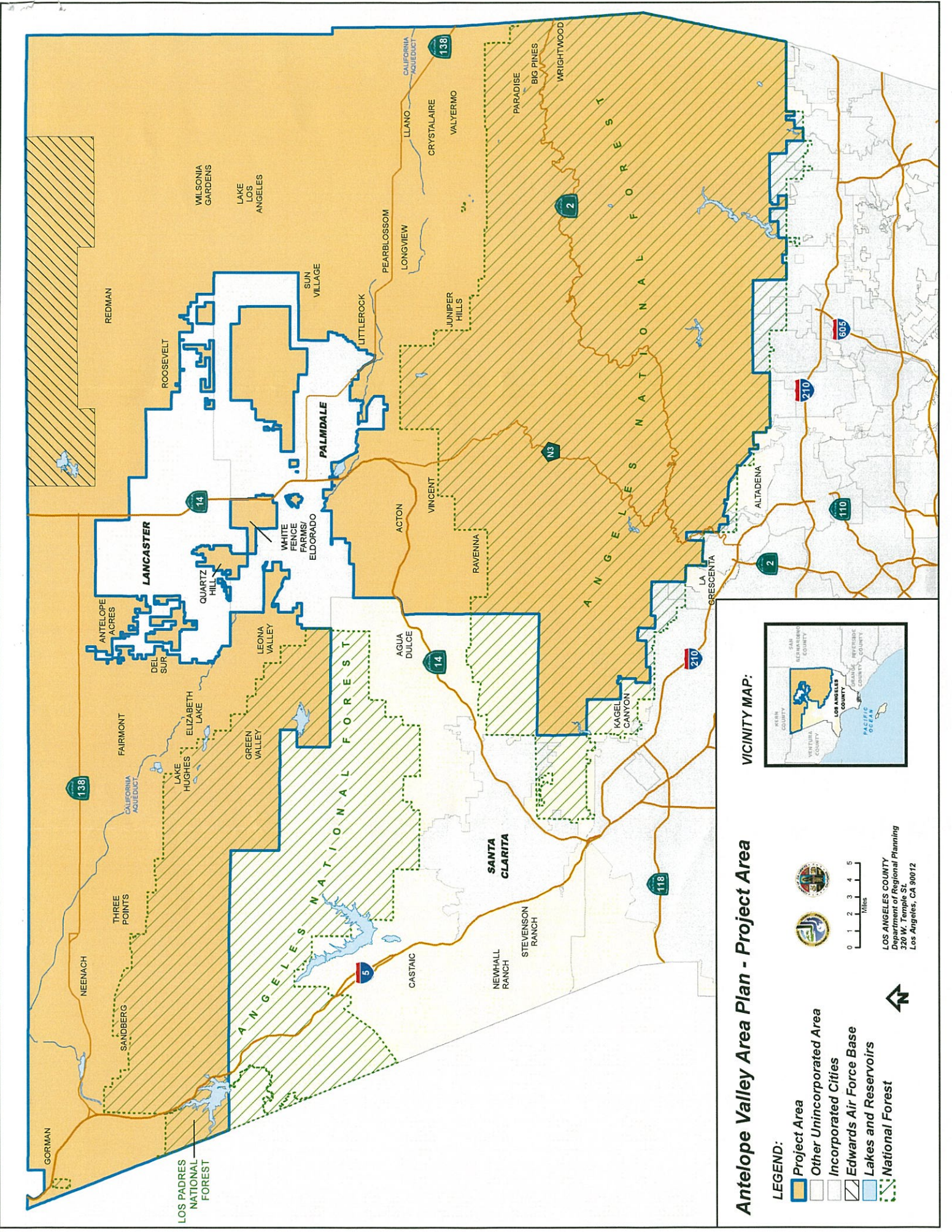
REVIEWING LOCATIONS

To ensure public access to the DEIR, copies of the document are available for review on the Department's website at <http://planning.lacounty.gov/tnc/environmental>. Copies will be made available at the Department's main office and the Antelope Valley field office location listed at the following link: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/locations>; and all County libraries in the Antelope Valley and the Palmdale City Library located at 700 East Palmdale Boulevard, Palmdale, CA 93550.

All comments and responses to this notice should be submitted in writing to:

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Email: tnc@planning.lacounty.gov

Should you have any questions, please call (213) 974-6476. Si necesita informacion en español por favor llame al (213) 974-6427.

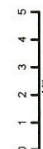


Antelope Valley Area Plan - Project Area

LEGEND:

- Project Area
- Other Unincorporated Area
- Incorporated Cities
- Edwards Air Force Base
- Lakes and Reservoirs
- National Forest

VICINITY MAP:



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