

**City of Baldwin Park
2021-2029 Housing Element Update,
Public Safety Element Update, and
Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice
Element Update**

**Addendum to the 2020 General Plan
Environmental Impact Report**



Lead Agency

City of Baldwin Park
Planning Division, Community Development
14403 E. Pacific Avenue
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

Consultant

MIG
1650 Spruce Street, Suite 106
Riverside, California 92507

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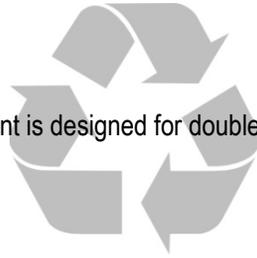


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1 PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The City of Baldwin Park is proposing to update its Housing Element, Safety Element, and the Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element of its General Plan. This report has been prepared by the City of Baldwin Park (the Lead Agency¹) as an Addendum to the 2002 Final Environmental Impact Report for the Baldwin Park General Plan (GP EIR) pursuant to the applicable provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Sections 21000-21189.3) and its implementing regulations (the CEQA Guidelines) (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Sections 15000-15387). This Addendum describes the proposed amendments to the indicated Elements of the City's General Plan (GP) ("proposed General Plan Amendments") and evaluates the potential environmental effects of such amendments in compliance with the requirements of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines.

CONTENTS

This document has been prepared to comply with Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines that sets forth the required contents of an Initial Study. These include:

- A description of the project, including the location of the project (see Section 2)
- Identification of the environmental setting (see Section 2)
- Identification of environmental effects by use of a checklist, matrix, or other methods, provided that entries on the checklist or other form are briefly explained to indicate that there is some evidence to support the entries (see Section 3 and 4)
- Examination of whether the project is compatible with existing zoning, plans, and other applicable land use controls (see Section 2)
- The name(s) of the person(s) who prepared or participated in the preparation of the Addendum (see Section 5)

TIERING

Section 15152(a) of the CEQA Guidelines defines "tiering" as a streamlining tool as follows:

- Tiering" refers to using the analysis of general matters contained in a broader EIR (such as one prepared for a general plan or policy statement) with later EIRs and negative declarations on narrower projects; incorporating by reference the general discussions from the broader EIR; and concentrating the later EIR or negative declaration solely on the issues specific to the later project."*
- This section further indicates that an EI that has been previously been prepared and certified for a program, plan, policy, or ordinance can be used for CEQA by the lead agency for a later project and can tier from the later project and should focus on only those affects which:*
 - Were not examined as significant effects on the environment in the prior EIR; or*
 - Are susceptible to substantial reduction or avoidance by the choice of specific revisions in the project, by the imposition of conditions, or other means.*

The key advantage to tiering from an earlier, related CEQA document is that it avoids redundant and unnecessary analysis of potential impacts that were adequately addressed in the earlier document.

This Initial Study for the 2021-2029 Housing Element, Safety Element Update, and Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element Update has been prepared to tier from the General Plan Program EIR of the City of Baldwin Park dated

¹ The CEQA Guidelines define the "Lead Agency" as the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project.

September 2002, as amended or otherwise supplemented. For the City of Baldwin Park, documents by which the analysis recorded herein has been tiered from are available for public review at:

City of Baldwin Park
Planning Division, Community Development
14403 E. Pacific Avenue
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

ADDENDUM

In accordance with Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines, a Lead Agency shall prepare an Addendum to an EIR if some changes or additions are necessary that will not have significant new impacts or substantially increase previously identified significant impacts. Specifically, the CEQA Guidelines state:

- The lead agency or responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred (Section 15164(a));
- An addendum need not be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the final EIR or adopted negative declaration (Section 15164(c));
- The decision-making body shall consider the addendum with the final EIR or adopted negative declaration prior to making a decision on the project (Section 15164(d)); and
- A brief explanation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162 should be included in an addendum to an EIR, the lead agency's findings on the project, or elsewhere in the record. The explanation must be supported by substantial evidence (Section 15164(e)).

When a lead agency has already prepared an EIR, CEQA mandates that “no subsequent or supplemental environmental impact report shall be required by the lead agency or any responsible agency, unless one or more of the following events occurs:

- (a) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which major revisions of the environmental impact report;
- (b) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is being undertaken which will require major revisions to the environmental impact report;
- (c) New information, which was not known and could not have been known at the time the environmental impact report was certified as complete, become available” (Cal. Pub. Res. Code, §21166).

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 clarifies that a subsequent EIR or Supplemental EIR is only required when “substantial changes” occur to a project or the circumstances surrounding a project, or “new information” about a project indicates “new significant environmental effects” or a “substantial increase in the severity of previously significant effects.”

This Addendum has been prepared in accordance with relevant provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (as amended) and the CEQA Guidelines.

This Addendum describes the details of the proposed General Plan Amendments (herein referred to as “proposed General Plan Amendments”) and compares impacts to those identified in the 2020 Draft GP EIR and the Final EIR that was certified in 2002 for the General Plan update (herein referred to as “approved General Plan”). The analysis demonstrates that the environmental impacts of the proposed GPA are within the scope of the impacts identified in the approved General Plan.

DECISION NOT TO PREPARE SUBSEQUENT EIR

As outlined in Section 15164 (Addendum to an EIR or Negative Declaration) of the CEQA Guidelines, a Lead Agency shall prepare an Addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in the CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.

As discussed in the impact analysis below, the proposed General Plan Amendments is substantially similar to the City of Baldwin Park's previously approved General Plan discussed and analyzed in the General Plan Final EIR (2002). The minor modifications between the approved General Plan and the proposed General Plan Amendments would not introduce new significant environmental impacts beyond those which have already been identified and characterized in the approved General Plan Final EIR. None of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred or would occur as a result of the proposed Specific Plan. Therefore, this Addendum to the approved General Plan's Final EIR is consistent with CEQA, and this Addendum is the appropriate level of environmental documentation to provide under CEQA. This Addendum will be considered by the City of Baldwin Park decision-making body in making a decision on the proposed General Plan Amendments.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Title

City of Baldwin Park 2021-2029 Housing Element Update, Safety Element Update, and Health, Sustainability and Environmental Justice Element Update (“General Plan Amendments”)

Lead Agency/Project Sponsor Name and Address

City of Baldwin Park
14403 E. Pacific Avenue
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER

Ron Garcia, Community Development Director
Planning Division, Community Development
City of Baldwin Park
14403 E. Pacific Ave.
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
T (626) 960-4011 ext. 475
Email: RGarcia@baldwinpark.com

THE PROJECT

This Initial Study analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with:

- Adoption of the City of Baldwin Park’s Sixth Cycle (2021-2029) Housing Element Update (HEU).
- Adoption of an update to the City of Baldwin Park Safety Element
- Adoption of an update to the Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element

These amendments are cumulatively referred to as the proposed General Plan Amendments.

The Housing Element is a required component of the City’s General Plan and must be updated on a regular basis, as set forth in Government Code Section 65588. The Housing Element consists of these components, as required by Government Code Section 65583, 1) housing needs, 2) constraints to housing development, 3) housing resources (available sites and funding sources), and 4) a Housing Plan.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element applies to all properties within the City of Baldwin Park on which existing General Plan land use designations and zoning allow residential and/or mixed-use development. The Housing Element does not specifically authorize the construction of any housing development nor does it indicate where and when specific housing projects would occur. The Housing Element is a policy document setting forth the City’s plan to accommodate its share of regional housing needs, as determined by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). For the 2021-2029 planning period, the City of Baldwin Park’s share is 2,001 housing units. This allocation is referred to as the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, or RHNA. The Housing Element Update identifies strategies and programs that focus on preserving and improving housing and neighborhoods; providing adequate housing sites; assisting in the provision of affordable housing; removing governmental constraints to housing development; and promoting fair and equal housing opportunities.

In conjunction with this Housing Element update, the City is also undertaking an update to the Safety Element to adopt climate adaptation strategies, and an update to the Housing, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element to comply with SB

1000 and SB 244. The General Plan Amendments include specific implementation programs that the City will undertake concurrently with and subsequent to adoption.

This Initial Study examines the potential environmental impacts at a program level for the proposed General Plan Amendments. These policy documents do not specifically authorize the construction of any development nor indicate where and when specific housing projects or other implementation actions would occur.

PROJECT LOCATION

The City of Baldwin Park ("City") is located approximately 20 miles east of Downtown Los Angeles within the San Gabriel Valley, directly to the east of the City of El Monte. The City consists of residential, commercial, and industrial land uses. The City is generally bounded by Arrow Highway to the north, Interstate 10 to the south, Azusa Canyon Road to the east, and Interstate 405 to the west. Ramona Boulevard intersects the City and runs in an easterly to westerly direction. The San Bernardino rail line has services which are available at the Baldwin Park station and is just south of Ramona Boulevard. The main existing noise sources within Baldwin Park include vehicular traffic on neighboring freeways as well as a number of major arterial streets in the City as well as from the existing Metrolink rail line.

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATIONS

The Baldwin Park General Plan provides for a range of land use designations in the City that can accommodate residential units, including: Single-Family Residential, Garden Multi-Family Residential, Multi-Family, Mixed-Use, and Specific Plans. The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose to change any particular parcel's General Plan land use designation.

ZONING DISTRICTS

Multiple residential and mixed-use zones within the City provide opportunities for development of housing projects at various densities. Residential density within the various zones is calculated at dwelling units per acre (du/acre). Residential uses are permitted in the following zones: Single-Family Residential (R-1-7,500 and R-1), Garden Multi-Family Residential (R-G), Multi-Family Residential (R-3), and Mixed Use (MU-1 and MU-2), as well as the Downtown Baldwin Park Specific Plan. The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose to change any particular parcel's zoning.

SURROUNDING LAND USES

The proposed General Plan Amendments apply throughout the City. Uses consist of a full range of suburban and rural land uses.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: HOUSING ELEMENT

REQUIREMENTS AND CONTENT

A Housing Element is one of the eight required General Plan elements. It addresses existing and future housing needs of persons of all income levels and provides policy guidance to decision-makers and City staff. The City is not required to construct housing to meet those needs, but it must create a regulatory environment that supports and encourages housing production and equal access to housing.

State law requires that all housing elements address four key topics: 1) housing needs, 2) constraints to housing development, 3) housing resources, and 4) a housing plan. Article 10.6, Section 65580 – 65589.8, Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the California Government Code establishes the legal requirements for a housing element and encourages the provision of affordable and decent housing, in suitable living environments, in all communities, in working toward statewide goals. The 2021-2029 Housing Element is the policy document that addresses current and projected housing needs consistent with State law.

HOUSING NEEDS AND RESOURCES

Several factors influence the demand for housing in the City of Baldwin Park, including population growth, the cost of housing, and housing needs of "special needs groups" that include the elderly, large families, female-headed households, households with a physically or developmentally disabled person, farm workers, and the homeless. The 2021-2029 Housing Element

examines the housing needs of different groups of people based on demographic metrics that include owners versus renters, lower-income households, overcrowded households, elderly households, special needs groups, and homeless persons.

California housing element law requires that each city and county develop local housing programs designed to meet its “fair share” of housing needs for all income groups, based on projected population growth. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), Housing Policy Division develops Regional Housing Needs Assessments (RHNA) for each region of the State represented by councils of governments. In Southern California (exclusive of San Diego County), SCAG determines the housing allocation for its member cities and Counties. SCAG has assigned the City of Baldwin Park a RHNA allocation of 2,001 housing units for the 2021-2029 planning period, divided among the household income categories identified in Table 2-1.

**Table 2-1
City of Baldwin Park Regional Housing Needs Assessment Allocation**

Income Group	Total Allocation (DU)	Income Group Ratio (%)
Extremely Low/Very Low	576	29%
Low	275	14%
Moderate	263	13%
Above Moderate	887	44%
Total	2,001	100%

Housing units that have been approved or proposed but not yet built or that are under construction as of June 30, 2021 may be credited toward the RHNA. Table 2-2 (RHNA Credits and Remaining Need) identifies RHNA credits and the remaining housing need to be accommodated by land use policy and zoning regulations.

**Table 2-2
RHNA Credits and Remaining Need**

	Ex./Very Low (0-50% AMI)	Low (50-80% AMI)	Moderate Income (80-120% AMI)	Above Moderate Income (120%+ AMI)	Total
APPROVED AND PROPOSED PROJECTS					
Approved Projects	-	54	2	38	94
Proposed Projects	77	74	5	36	192
Total	77	128	7	74	286
RHNA	576	275	263	887	2,001
Remaining RHNA	499	147	256	813	1,715

State law requires that jurisdictions demonstrate in the Housing Element that land inventory is available and adequate to accommodate the RHNA allocation. The City of Baldwin Park has determined that the inventory of vacant and underutilized residential and mixed-use sites and estimated production of accessory dwelling units during the planning period is sufficient to accommodate the remaining RHNA of 1,715 units. Sites currently available and appropriate to accommodate a portion of the RHNA are categorized and summarized in Table 2-3.

**Table 2-3
Land Inventory to Meet the RHNA**

Site Type	Affordability Level				Total
	Ex./Very Low Income (0-50% AMI)	Low Income (50-80% AMI)	Moderate Income (80-120% AMI)	Above Moderate Income (120%+ AMI)	
Estimated ADU Production	43	81	4	54	182
Vacant Sites	-	-	-	7	7
Underutilized R-3 Sites	-	-	105	-	105
Mixed-Use Sites	42	24	19	63	148
Downtown Baldwin Park Specific Plan	437	212	183	663	1,495
Religious Institution Sites	63	-	41	-	104
Total Sites Currently Available	585	317	352	787	2,041
Remaining RHNA after approved/proposed projects	499	147	256	813	1,715
Updated Remaining RHNA	(86)	(170)	(96)	26	(326)
Redistributed Surplus Capacity	+86	+170	+70		+326

HOUSING CONSTRAINTS

The Housing Constraints section identifies and addresses regulations and conditions that constitute constraints to housing production and preservation, including governmental and nongovernmental regulations, infrastructure requirements and market conditions such as land, construction and labor costs as well as restricted financing availability. Where constraints were identified, programs to address those constraints were included in the Housing Plan.

AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING

New for the 6th cycle and consistent with the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) mandate imposed by AB 686, a detailed analysis of segregation/integration patterns and disparities in access to opportunity is included in the Housing Element. The City of Baldwin Park contracts with the Housing Rights Center (HRC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to affirmatively furthering fair housing choice through the provision of education and direct client services. In response to this analysis, a program was included in the Housing Plan to implement the recommendations from the 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice related to fair housing, along with multiple additional measures to enhance housing mobility and additional housing choice and affordability, place-based strategies for community preservation and revitalization, address disproportionate needs, and address displacement risk.

SUMMARY OF GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

The Housing Element includes the following goals and policies to direct housing decisions over the 2021-2029 planning period:

Goal H1.0	Conserve and improve the conditions of neighborhoods and existing housing, especially affordable housing.
Policy H1.1	Encourage the ongoing maintenance and repair of rental housing to prevent deterioration of housing in the city.
Policy H1.2	Promote the rehabilitation of substandard and deteriorating housing in areas designated for residential use.
Policy H1.3	Provide focused code enforcement and rehabilitation efforts in targeted neighborhoods to achieve substantive neighborhood improvements.
Policy H1.4	Work to alleviate unit overcrowding by facilitating the additions of bedrooms and bathrooms in existing homes and accessory dwelling units.
Policy H1.5	Cooperate with non-profit housing providers in the acquisition, rehabilitation, and maintenance of older apartment

	complexes as long-term affordable housing.
Policy H1.6	Preserve low-income housing at risk of converting to market rate by monitoring the status of pre-payment eligible projects and identifying financial and organizational resources available to preserve these units.
Policy H1.7	Encourage energy conservation and sustainable building measures in new and existing homes.
Goal H2.0	Assist in the development of housing affordable to low- and moderate- income households.
Policy H2.1	Facilitate housing development of housing affordable to lower-income households by providing technical assistance, regulatory incentives and concessions, and financial resources, as funding permits. Explore options to ensure additional affordable housing production, such as an inclusionary housing ordinance.
Policy H2.2	Encourage and provide incentives for both the private and public sectors to produce or assist in the production of affordable housing, with emphasis on housing affordable to persons with disabilities, seniors, large families, female-headed households with children, and people experiencing homelessness.
Policy H2.3	Establish partnerships with private developers and non-profit housing corporations to assist Baldwin Park in meeting its housing goals.
Policy H2.4	As funding allows, provide rental assistance to very low-income households who are overpaying for housing and support regional programs to assist prospective homebuyers.
Policy H2.5	Build upon existing efforts to convert suitable hotels and motels to permanent affordable housing, continue to pursue opportunities to acquire suitable hotels and motels.
Goal H3.0	Provide adequate residential sites through appropriate land use and zoning designations to accommodate the City's regional share of housing needs.
Policy H3.1	Provide for a range of residential development types in Baldwin Park, including low density single-family homes, small lot single-family subdivisions, medium-density townhomes, and higher-density apartments and condominiums.
Policy H3.2	Implement the Land Use Element to facilitate development of mixed-use residential projects near Downtown and along North Maine Avenue.
Policy H3.3	Maintain consistency between General Plan land use policies and the Zoning Code.
Policy H3.4	Continue to provide opportunities for infill housing development in R-3 zones, MU-2 zones, and in the Downtown Specific Plan area.
Policy H3.5	Promote mixed-use and higher-density housing in close proximity to commercial areas and transportation routes for accessibility to services.
Goal H4.0	Minimize the impact of governmental constraints on housing production and affordability.
Policy H4.1	Periodically review City regulations, ordinances, departmental processing procedures, and residential fees related to rehabilitation and/or construction to assess their impact on housing costs, and revise as appropriate.
Policy H4.2	Utilize density bonuses, fee reductions, or other regulatory incentives, as available and appropriate, to minimize the effect of governmental constraints.
Policy H4.3	Continue to identify and promote processes and procedures that streamline residential development.
Policy H4.4	Monitor State and federal housing-related legislation, and update City plans, ordinances, and processes as appropriate to remove or reduce governmental constraints.
Policy H4.5	Facilitate coordination between lending institutions, the real estate and development community, and the City to better understand and address non-governmental constraints and facilitate production of affordable housing.
Policy H4.6	Eliminate zoning and other regulatory barriers to the placement and operation of housing facilities for the homeless and special needs populations in appropriate locations throughout the City.
Goal H5.0	Promote and affirmatively further fair housing opportunities throughout the community for all residents.
Policy H5.1	Affirmatively further fair housing related to the sale, rental, and financing of housing to avoid discrimination based on race, religion, age, sex, marital status, ancestry, national origin, color, familial status, or disability, or any other arbitrary factor.
Policy H5.2	Encourage housing for low- and moderate-income households to be located in many different locations and not concentrated in any single portion of the city.
Policy H5.3	Assist in the enforcement of fair housing laws by providing support to organizations that can receive and investigate fair housing allegations, monitor compliance with fair housing laws, and refer possible violations to enforcing agencies.
Policy H5.4	Provide that displacement of low-income households is avoided and, where necessary, is carried out in an equitable manner.
Policy H5.5	Require mobile home and trailer park owners proposing park closures to adhere to State relocation requirements.

Policy H5.6	Encourage housing construction or alteration to meet the needs of residents with special needs such as the elderly, disabled, and developmentally disabled.
Policy H5.7	Facilitate increased participation among traditionally underrepresented groups in the public decision-making process.
Policy H5.8	Provide outreach and education for the broader community of residents, residential property owners and operators regarding fair housing practices and requirements.

In addition to goals and policies, the Housing Element includes a number of implementation action programs to implement the policy direction. Many programs are included to comply with new State laws. Some of the most significant programs include:

Program H2-4: Inclusionary Housing Ordinance

- Study and, if shown to be appropriate for Baldwin Park, adopt an inclusionary housing ordinance and program. Assess any constraints such an ordinance might have on residential development in the city and modify accordingly.
- Implement recommendations from the Tri-City Cohort Homelessness Plan underway as of 2021 (a shared effort between Baldwin Park, South El Monte and El Monte), including best practices for inclusionary housing programs.
- Ensure consistency between a new Inclusionary Housing Ordinance and State density bonus regulations.
- Monitor the impact of an adopted inclusionary housing policy/ordinance on production of market rate housing in response to market conditions.

Program H3-1: Adequate Sites

The sites inventory identifies vacant and underutilized land in residential and mixed-use zones, as well as projections about accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and shows that the City can adequately accommodate the City’s RHNA under existing General Plan, Specific Plan, and Zoning Code standards.

- Continue to provide appropriate land use designations and maintain an inventory of suitable sites for residential development.
- Make the sites inventory available on the City’s website.
- Continue to track new housing projects and progress toward meeting the City’s RHNA by income level.
- Monitor and review development trends every two years. If more non-residential development is being proposed or built on mixed-use sites than residential development (over 50 percent), then within six months the City will adopt additional performance standards to ensure residential construction.

Program H3-2: No Net Loss

Government Code Section 65863 stipulates that a jurisdiction must ensure that its Housing Element inventory can accommodate its share of the RHNA by income level throughout the planning period. If a jurisdiction approves a housing project at a lower density or with fewer units by income category than identified in the Housing Element, it must quantify at the time of approval the remaining unmet housing need at each income level and determine whether there is sufficient capacity to meet that need. If not, the city or county must “identify and make available” additional adequate sites to accommodate the jurisdiction’s share of housing need by income level within 180 days of approving the reduced-density project.

- Evaluate residential development proposals for consistency with the goals and policies of the General Plan and the 2021-2029 Housing Element sites inventory, ensuring sites identified in the Housing Element are adequate to accommodate the RHNA by income level.

Program H3-4: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

Promote the development of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) as a means of providing additional housing.

- Adopt an updated ADU Ordinance to comply with Government Code Section 65852.2 that allows ADUs in mixed-use zones and removes conflicting regulations for second units and occupancy requirements and is reviewed for compliance with State law by HCD.
- As revisions to State ADU law occur, update the City’s ADU Ordinance to comply.

-
- Implement recommendations from the Tri-City Cohort Homelessness Plan underway as of 2021 (a shared effort between Baldwin Park, South El Monte and El Monte), including ADU incentives and educational programs (including pre-approved stock plans) within a year of the plan's completion.
 - Identify an ADU specialist within the Planning Department to respond to inquiries and support outreach efforts.
 - Collaborate with the San Gabriel Valley Housing Trust and local affordable housing developers to pursue grants to support low-income homeowners to construct ADUs.
 - Annually monitor ADU permit applications and approvals through the Housing Element Annual Progress Report process. If, at the midpoint of the planning period, target numbers anticipated in the Housing Element are not met, identify and implement additional incentives (such as technical assistance or expedited services) or identify alternative sites, as appropriate, to ensure adequate sites to address the lower income RHNA during the planning period.

Program H3-6: AB 1397 Reuse of Sites

AB 1397 requires that vacant sites identified in the previous two Housing Elements and non-vacant sites identified in the previous Housing Element only be deemed adequate to accommodate a portion of the housing need for lower-income households if the site is zoned at residential densities consistent with the default density established by HCD (30 units per acre) and the site allows residential use by right for housing developments in which at least 20 percent of the units are affordable to lower-income households.

- For sites identified in Appendix B as subject to AB 1397, create a housing overlay that:
 - Allows residential use by right for housing developments in which at least 20 percent of the units are affordable to lower-income households; and
 - Allows development at 30 units per acre, regardless of lot size.

Program H3-7: Implement SB 9

Senate Bill 9 (SB 9) become effective on January 1, 2022. SB 9 (1) mandates ministerial approval of duplexes on lots zoned for a single-family residence and (2) requires ministerial approval of subdivisions of a single-family lot into two lots, creating the theoretical possibility of four units on each single-family parcel in the state (with some exceptions).

- Adopt revisions to the Zoning Code to comply with and facilitate SB 9.
- Adopt clear, objective standards for housing constructed on parcels pursuant to SB 9.
- As revisions to State law occur, update the City's Zoning Code to comply.
- Develop and implement incentives and proactive outreach to property owners to further encourage the usage of SB 9.

Program H3-8: Hotel/Motel Conversions

Continue to pursue opportunities to acquire suitable hotels and motels to convert into permanent affordable housing. These sites can be converted into housing specifically for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Providing housing affordable to extremely low-income households has been shown to address a wide range of community aims, including improving residents' health outcomes, targeting resources to those in need, reducing commute times, enhancing broader quality of life, and others. Suitable sites include those with appropriate neighborhood amenities.

- Pursue funding when available for hotel/motel acquisition and conversion to housing.
- Identify suitable hotels/motels to convert to housing, based on access to neighborhood amenities including health services, grocery stores, public transit, pedestrian infrastructure, and parks/open space.
- Promote hotel/motel conversions in conjunction with existing plans, including the General Plan and any specific or community plans.
- Collaborate with the Tri-City Homelessness Cohort to identify optimal sites and secure capital and operating funding for hotel/motel conversions.
- Collaborate with the Cities of El Monte and South El Monte to identify capital and operational funding sources for hotel/motel conversions.

-
- Promote the use of Project Based Vouchers from the Baldwin Park Housing Authority, when available, to help fund operational costs.
 - Incentivize and create accountability for high-quality operation of hotel/motel conversions to ensure proper management of housing assets.
 - Convert at least one hotel or motel into permanent supportive housing for extremely low-income households experiencing homelessness.

Program H3-10: Development on Religious Institution Sites

SB 899 and AB 1851 (2020 legislative session) allows religious institutions to build 100 percent affordable housing projects on their properties through a ministerial process and allows for removal of existing parking areas. The City will:

- Create standards and a review process for the establishment of affordable housing via a Religious Institution Housing Ordinance or other zoning approach.
- Proactively reach out to property owners to gauge development interest and provide educational materials regarding SB 899 and AB 1859. Continue outreach and provide ongoing technical assistance for the three sites that are currently in discussions for housing development and target outreach efforts to the remaining sites identified in the Housing Element sites inventory to meet the RHNA.

Program H4-1: Mixed Use-2 Zone (MU-2)

The MU-2 zone standards encourage development of mixed-use on Maine Avenue. Sites within the MU-2 zone are identified to meet the RHNA.

- Continue to provide incentives for lot consolidation in the MU-2 zone.
- Review the existing zoning standards for the MU-2 zone and consider changes that would further encourage residential development, including a reduction/revision to the required commercial components based on location proximate to arterial streets.
- Consider revisions to the MU-2 zone that would make the standards clearer and more user-friendly.

Program H4-3: Minimum Unit Sizes

Baldwin Park adopted minimum unit sizes in the Zoning Code to address the prevailing problem of overcrowding in the city (in 2011 over a quarter of all housing units were overcrowded; as of 2018 overcrowding had decreased to 19 percent).

- Monitor the impacts of requiring minimum unit sizes on overcrowding, shifts in household composition, and affordability.
- Track developer interest in smaller units and, based on interest, consider removing the minimum unit size requirement to provide for flexibility in unit types and sizes.

Program H4-4: Zoning Code Update

The Housing Element looks to provide flexibility in residential development standards as a means of reducing the costs of development, thus enhancing housing affordability. To provide clarity to conflicting provisions and implement State laws, a comprehensive Zoning Code update is planned.

- Continue to provide flexibility in development standards such as open space, parking, setbacks, and height limits through the Administrative Adjustment and Specific Plan processes.
- Consider combining the Planned Development Overlay Zone and Small Lot Single Family development options as part of a comprehensive Zoning Code update.
- Amend the Zoning Code to add reference to California Housing Accountability Act Requirements, indicating that multi-family housing (and mixed-use buildings containing at least two-thirds residential) cannot be denied or density reduced.
- Adopt objective design standards to ensure that the City can provide local guidance on design and standards for by-right projects as allowed by State law, facilitate high-quality residential development and compliance with State objectives, and ensure provision of adequate private open space, parking, and related features, as well as architectural design.

-
- Amend the Zoning Code to define employee housing and reference the State Employee Housing Act.
 - Amend the Zoning Code to comply with AB 2097, which states that a public agency shall not impose or enforce any minimum automobile parking requirement on a residential, commercial, or other development project if the project is located within one-half mile of high-quality public transit, with a few exceptions.
 - Amend the Zoning Code to comply with AB 2011, which allows for ministerial, by-right approval for affordable housing on commercially zoned lands and allows such approvals for mixed-income housing along commercial corridors, if the projects meet specified affordability, labor, and environmental criteria.

Program H4-7: Supportive and Transitional Housing

Supportive housing provides services to residents to support them in finding jobs, mental health services, etc. Transitional housing provides longer term housing to formerly homeless individuals as a step in the continuum of care.

- Update the Development Code to comply with AB 2162 (Supportive Housing Streamlining Act), effective January 1, 2019, which requires supportive housing to be considered a use by right (ministerially permitted) in zones where multi-family and mixed use are permitted, including nonresidential zones permitting multi-family uses, if the proposed housing development meets specified criteria. Comply with AB 2162 requirements to allow for modifications for required parking for units occupied supportive housing residents that are located within one-half mile of a public transit stop.
- Review the Development Code and make any necessary changes to ensure compliance with AB 101 (Low-Barrier Navigation Centers). AB 101 requires that Low-Barrier Navigation Centers be allowed by right in areas zoned for mixed-use and nonresidential zones permitting (by right or conditionally) multi-family uses.
- Continue to allow the establishment of transitional and supportive housing that function as residential uses, consistent with similar residential uses and pursuant to SB 2.
- Prioritize projects that include special needs housing or housing for extremely/very low-income households in the development application review process.

Program H4-11: Residential Care Facilities

Ensure that permit requirements and necessary findings for residential care facilities and other housing facilities for persons with disabilities of seven or more people are consistent with state law and fair housing requirements.

- Review and revise the Zoning Code to add small residential care facilities (six or fewer persons) as a permitted use in Mixed Use zones.
- Review and revise the Zoning Code as needed to allow large residential care facilities (seven or more persons) in residential zones with objectivity and certainty, treating the use similarly to other residential uses.

Program H4-13: Downtown Specific Plan/Place-Based Strategies

The Downtown Specific Plan is a roadmap for shaping a resilient, vibrant, and inclusive downtown in Baldwin Park. It is a strategy for future growth grounded in the activation and enrichment of the public realm and an innovative and flexible land use framework.

- Implement the Downtown Specific Plan, which allows maximum densities of 40 units per acre to support a variety of housing types.
- Promote the Downtown Specific Plan to developers, and especially affordable housing developers, including incentives such as increased density and flexible design standards.

Program H5-4: Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

This program provides a summary of meaningful actions to affirmatively further fair housing by enhancing housing mobility, providing additional housing choice and affordability, identifying place-based strategies for community preservation and revitalization, addressing disproportionate needs, and addressing displacement risk.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: SAFETY ELEMENT

The Safety Element is one of the eight State-mandated elements of the General Plan. The purpose of the update to the Safety Element is to comply with recent State legislation and guidelines (including Assembly Bill 162, Senate Bill 1241, Senate Bill 99, Assembly Bill 747, Senate Bill 1035, and Senate Bill 379). Technical amendments to the Safety Element are intended to achieve compliance with State, regional, and local policies and guidelines. The technical amendments incorporate data and maps, identify information relating to flood and fire hazards, and address vulnerability to climate change. The proposed Safety Element Update organizes safety goals and policies into the following sections: Emergency Preparedness and Safety Services, Natural Hazards, Transportation Incidents, Hazardous Materials, and Climate Change. The Safety Element includes the following goals and policies. Additional specific actions are included in the Element to implement these goals and policies.

Goal S-1	Ensure that Baldwin Park has a strong sense of readiness to address emergency situations and activities.
Policy 1.01	Maintain a level of preparedness to respond to emergency situations that will save lives, protect property, and facilitate recovery with minimal disruption.
Policy 1.02	Effectively coordinate with neighboring cities, regional agencies, local school districts, local businesses, and community organizations to conduct emergency and disaster preparedness exercises that test operational and emergency response plans.
Policy 1.03	Provide public education to promote community awareness and preparedness for self-action in the event of a major disaster or emergency.
Policy 1.04	Encourage emergency service providers to broadcast consistent public messaging regarding emergency situations so as not to confuse the public.
Goal S-2	Provide a safe environment for City residents, the business community, and visitors.
Policy 2.01	Periodically evaluate levels of service to ensure Baldwin Park has appropriate levels of police service.
Policy 2.02	Promote programs and partnerships that encourage residents to take a proactive role in community safety and the welfare of their neighborhoods.
Policy 2.03	Continue to cooperate with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, along with other nearby police departments, to provide back-up police assistance in emergency situations.
Policy 2.04	Promote the use of defensible space concepts (e.g., site and building lighting, visual observation of open spaces, secured areas) in project design to enhance public safety.
Goal S-3	Reduce the risk of fire and minimize consequences from fire events.
Policy 3.01	Periodically evaluate level of service to ensure Baldwin Park has appropriate levels of fire service.
Policy 3.02	Maintain fire and building code requirements for new construction to ensure provision of adequate fire protection.
Policy 3.03	Maintain mutual aid agreements with surrounding jurisdictions for fire protection.
Policy 3.04	Provide public information about fire safety and emergency preparedness to residents, schools, and organizations.
Goal S-4	Prepare the community of Baldwin Park to respond to a major seismic event and minimize risk of injury, loss of life, property damage, and social service and economic impacts.
Policy 4.01	Require all new developments, redevelopments, and major remodels to comply with the most recent California Building Code seismic design standards and applicable supplemental design criteria.
Policy 4.02	Educate the community on actions to take before, during, and after a major earthquake.
Goal S-5	Ensure resiliency against flooding hazards.
Policy 5.01	Work in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to identify and construct needed local and regional storm drainage improvements to relieve localized flooding problems.
Policy 5.02	Design storm drainage infrastructure to accommodate existing and anticipated storm flows associated with changing climatic conditions.
Policy 5.03	Monitor the work of the Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies' response plan to maintain the Santa Fe Dam and to reduce the risk of seismic failure.
Policy 5.04	Require new development, redevelopment, or major remodels to reduce on-site drainage flows below existing levels and increase groundwater recharge where appropriate.
Goal S-6	Work with transportation agencies to ensure a safe and secure transportation network.

Policy 6.01	Coordinate with local, regional, State, and federal transportation agencies to enhance the safety of highways, surface streets, and railroads.
Policy 6.02	Minimize transportation hazards to residential areas and other sensitive land uses.
Goal S-7	Reduce accidents and health risks associated with use, storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials.
Policy 7.01	Ensure that the transport, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials occurs in a responsible manner that protects residents' and businesses' public health and safety.
Policy 7.02	Require the general location and siting of facilities that involve the use and/ or storage of hazardous, highly flammable, or explosive materials to be designed in a manner that ensures the highest level of safety in strict conformance with fire codes and all other applicable codes and regulations.
Goal S-8	Respond to changing climate conditions to build a more resilient and adaptive Baldwin Park.
Policy 8.01	Design future utility and infrastructure improvements to anticipate increased demands resulting from changing climatic conditions.
Policy 8.02	Promote education and outreach to residents and businesses regarding the effects of changing climatic conditions on the economy, environment, and special populations (elderly, homeless, immuno-compromised, etc.).
Policy 8.03	Maintain and enhance the city's urban forest and shade shelter areas, including shaded playgrounds, bus shelters, etc.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: HEALTH, SUSTAINABILITY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

In 2016, the State of California passed Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000) requiring cities and counties to address Environmental Justice in their general plans. As provided by State Government Code 65302(h), the Environmental Justice Element has the same weight as the mandatory elements of the General Plan and is internally consistent with the other elements. The purpose of the Environmental Justice Element is to address public health risks and environmental justice concerns of those living in disadvantaged communities as defined in Gov. Code, §65302(h)(4)(A), many of which are the result of geographic or procedural inequities.

In 2015, Baldwin Park adopted a Health and Sustainability Element to proactively support a healthier, greener, and stronger Baldwin Park. The 2015 Health and Sustainability Element addressed the reduction of pollution exposure and air quality improvements, promotion of public facilities, food access, and physical activity. Consistent with requirements of SB 1000, as part of the proposed General Plan Amendments, the City is updating the Health and Sustainability Element to identify disadvantaged communities, also known as Environmental Justice Communities, within the City's General Plan planning area and develop goals, policies and implementation programs to address the needs of the environmental justice communities within Baldwin Park. This update will change the Element's title to Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice. Proposed new implementation programs focus on encouraging civic engagement, increasing air quality, promoting safe, healthy, and affordable housing options for residents, and enhancing the local quality of life. Added text is underlined while deleted text is shown in strikeout:

Goal HS-2	Facilitate inclusive and meaningful public participation into the decision-making process.
Policy 2.01	<u>Provide accessible, culturally appropriate, and equitable engagement opportunities for residents.</u>
Policy 2.02	<u>Support opportunities to build capacity and leadership skills for residents and community-based organizations.</u>
Action HS-2.1	<u>Build partnerships with community-serving organizations (faith-based, community-based, advocacy, service), and provide opportunities to support and/or conduct outreach efforts.</u>
	<u>Provide City announcements in languages reflective of the linguistic needs of the community being served, and offer translation services at meetings.</u>
	<u>Ensure that public engagement events are held at accessible locations and times with considerations for childcare, food, ADA accommodations, and technology access.</u>
	<u>Utilize a variety of platforms to host and advertise outreach events, disseminate local information, and connect with community members.</u>
	<u>Support and expand opportunities for residents to engage in community services.</u>
	<u>Explore and support opportunities to develop community members leadership skills so that they can become better advocates for their communities.</u>

	<u>Ensure that enough time and budget are allocated for outreach efforts of critical planning processes.</u>
	<u>Maintain communication with community members after a planning process is completed so that they remain informed of the outcomes of said efforts.</u>
Goal HS-9	Achieve a high level of water conservation, and continue to improve the quality of local groundwater.
<u>Action HS-9.15</u>	<u>Work closely with the Valley County Water District to implement the Urban Water Management Plan, and continue to actively participate in the periodic updates to the plan.</u>
Goal HS-11	Improve indoor and outdoor air quality.
<u>Action HS-11.9</u>	<u>Update as appropriate air filtration and containment standards, acknowledging that areas with high air pollutant exposure require more stringent standards. Use Code Enforcement efforts to monitor indoor air pollutants related to car and truck exhaust, especially in residential areas near freeways, major arterials, and freight routes.</u>
<u>Action HS-11.10</u>	<u>Use available funding to provide financial assistance for the installation of high efficiency air filters in residential homes.</u>
<u>Action HS-11.11</u>	<u>Consider requiring street trees to be planted, when necessary, anytime a residential or commercial property is sold.</u>
<u>Action HS-11.12</u>	<u>Promote anti-idling in schools and city facilities by posting idling reduction signs in parking lots, drop-off/pick-up areas, and other vehicle areas.</u>
<u>Action HS-11.13</u>	<u>Consider implementing an Ozone Action Days, where the city develops procedures for reducing emissions of ozone-forming compounds during ozone season. Ozone season is when the EPA forecasts elevated ozone concentrations in a region. Actions could include limiting vehicle and equipment use, rescheduling nonessential operations, practice energy conservation, and more.</u>
Goal HS-21	Provide healthy and safe housing for all residents and tenures.
<u>Policy 21.01</u>	<u>Promote and further fair housing policies and programs.</u>
<u>Policy 21.02</u>	<u>Provide opportunities for more affordable housing options to reduce the prevalence of cost-burdened and overcrowded households.</u>
<u>Action HS-21.1</u>	<u>Support and promote programs that encourage the rehabilitation of substandard housing conditions.</u>
<u>Action HS-21.2</u>	<u>Promote building code education and regulations as a means of improving unsafe and unsanitary housing conditions, focusing on trash, dumping, overcrowding, and graffiti.</u>
<u>Action HS-21.3</u>	<u>Support the weatherization of homes through technical assistance, particularly for low-income households.</u>
<u>Action HS-21.4</u>	<u>Continue to support the development of affordable housing for a variety of income levels located within proximity to community services and amenities.</u>
<u>Action HS-21.5</u>	<u>Promote accessible resources and supportive resources for tenants and homeowners, including connections to landlord tenant mediation services.</u>
<u>Action HS-21.6</u>	<u>Consider, in conjunction with new intensive development, community benefits agreements that ensure more equitable development that enables existing residents to benefit from new activity and opportunities.</u>

GENERAL PLAN AND DOWNTOWN SPECIFIC PLAN BUILDOUT

The Baldwin Park General Plan was last comprehensively updated in 2002 with a buildout horizon of 2020. In September 2002, the City of Baldwin Park (the City) certified the Final Environmental Impact Report for the GP EIR. The GP EIR addressed the environmental implications of a comprehensive General Plan update for the City of Baldwin Park. The project addressed in the GP EIR established new land use, economic development, circulation, urban design, air quality, noise, open space and conservation, and public safety regulations for a 20-year planning period. The GP EIR addressed the following environmental topics:

- Land Use and Planning
- Population and Housing
- Air Quality
- Transportation and Traffic
- Noise
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Recreation
- Mineral Resources

- Geology and Soils

Other topics were addressed and found not to be significant in the Initial Study and thus not studied in the EIR (aesthetics, biological resources, hazards and hazardous materials, public services, agricultural resources, cultural resources, and hydrology/water quality); the Initial Study is included as an Appendix to the Final GP EIR. A complete, verbatim listing of the impact and mitigation conclusions of the GP EIR has been prepared for each environmental topic and is available for review on the City's website at <https://www.baldwinpark.com/online-documents/community-development/planning/environmental-documents/2030-feir-general-plan-2020/file>.

The GP EIR included assumptions regarding the development potential of the General Plan, assuming an increase in single family units (net 2,200 units) in the Single Family Designation and an increase in units in Mixed Use Designations (358 units), with a concurrent decrease in units in the Garden Multi-Family Zone (net 733 units) and Multi-Family Residential Designation (66 units). As a result, the GP EIR assumed a net increase of 1,759 units by 2020. The General Plan EIR also assumed an increase of 3.37 million square feet in commercial and industrial square footage, from 9.88 million square feet in 2002 to 13.25 million square feet in 2020. Table 2-4 shows the buildout expected under the General Plan as described in the General Plan EIR. The GP EIR identified that realistic 2020 build out of general plan land use policy would result in an estimated total of 19,183 units within the planning area. As of 2020, the Department of Finance estimated that there are 18,048 units in the City of Baldwin Park.² As such, as of 2020, there was remaining capacity within the original General Plan build out assumptions for 1,135 units. As of 2022, the Department of Finance estimates 18,270 units in Baldwin Park, resulting in a remaining capacity within the original General Plan build out assumption for 913 units.

**Table 2-4
2002 General Plan EIR Buildout Development Potential (Year 2020)**

Land Use Designation	Dwelling Units (du) or Square Feet (SF) of Development		Net Change in du or sf
	Existing (2002)	General Plan Expected (2020)	
Single Family Residential	11,705 du	13,905 du	2,200 du
Garden Multi-Family	2,615 du	1,882 du	(733 du)
Multi-Family Residential	3,104 du	3,038 du	(66 du)
Neighborhood Commercial	280,000 sf(du)	275,996 sf	(4,004 sf)
General Commercial	2,200,000 sf	2,402,661 sf	202,661
Mixed Use			
Commercial	0	726,929 sf	726,929 sf
Residential		358 du	358 du
Commercial/Industrial	0	2,568,646 sf	2,568,646 sf
General Industrial	4,400,000 sf	4,757,013 sf	357,013 sf
Public Facility	3,000,000 sf	2,519,946 sf	(480,054 sf)
Total	17,424 du 9,880,000 sf	19,183 du 13,251,191 sf	+1,759 du +3,371,191 sf

However, the Downtown TOD Specific Plan, which was adopted 14 years later in 2016, allows for additional residential capacity beyond the General Plan assumptions. While the 2002 GP EIR assumed 358 units in all mixed-use areas (including Downtown and areas outside of Downtown on North Maine Avenue), the City adopted a new Downtown TOD Specific Plan in February 2016 that increased capacity for residential and mixed-use development in Downtown. The Specific Plan covers an area of 115 acres and seeks to revitalize activities in the Downtown area and improve access to all modes of transportation and facilitate development, especially residential development, in the Downtown area proximate to the Metrolink Station. The

² Southern California Association of Governments, 2021. Pre-Certified Local Housing Data for the City of Baldwin Park. <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/baldwin-park-he-0421.pdf?1620801451>

2016 Specific Plan EIR evaluated potential environmental consequences of implementation, and alternatives and mitigation measures were identified to reduce or avoid potential adverse environmental effects associated with its development. The policies of the approved Specific Plan would avoid or eliminate all potentially significant impacts associated with its implementation. The implementation of the 2016 Specific Plan would accommodate up to 833 new residential units, for a total of 934 residential units, and a non-residential capacity increase of 289,135 square feet (SF) for a total of 1,175,673 SF of non-residential capacity (Table 2-5). In 2016, the City certified the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Baldwin Park Downtown TOD Specific Plan (DTSP EIR). The DTSP EIR consisted of two volumes: (1) an August 2010 Draft EIR, and (2) an October 2015 Final EIR.³

Subsequently, the Downtown TOD Specific Plan was updated (in 2022) to increase allowed densities, remove barriers to development, and incentivize redevelopment of underutilized uses. The Specific Plan, adopted in 2022, is designed to be implemented over a 14-year span (2021-2035) and further increases the anticipated buildout of residential development with a related decrease in anticipated commercial development. An Addendum to the 2015 Final DTSP EIR was completed for the 2022 Downtown Specific Plan project, which concluded that no new or substantially more severe effects would occur as compared to the original Specific Plan, and no new mitigation measures would be necessary. Table 2-5 describes the buildout of the 2016 Specific Plan compared to the 2022 Specific Plan.

The following project design features are also included as part for the adopted 2022 Specific Plan:

1. Residential development under the proposed Specific Plan would not allow gas or propane fireplaces to be developed.
2. All new development under the proposed Specific Plan would incorporate outdoor electrical outlets to accommodate the use of electric landscape equipment.
3. As part of the proposed Specific Plan, a minimum of 150 electric charging stations which would provide service to 300 parking spots, would be installed throughout the Specific Plan area. Electric vehicle charging stations may be installed on the specific project site or, through coordination with the City, can be installed in other public parking areas within the City.

**Table 2-5
Comparison of 2016 and 2022 Downtown Specific Plans**

Project Characteristics	Net Development under 2016 Specific Plan ^{1,2}	Net Development under 2022 Specific Plan ³	Difference Between 2016 and 2022 Specific Plans
Plan Area (acres)	115	122	+7
Residential Units	833	1,745	+912
Non-Residential (SF)	289,135	186,981	(-102,154)

¹ 2016 Approved Specific Plan (City of Baldwin Park and Metro 2016)

² Accounts for the 101 existing residential units and 886,538 SF of existing non-residential uses within the Approved Specific Plan area.

³ 2022 Approved Specific Plan (City of Baldwin Park 2022)

As outlined above, the term “buildout” is typically used to indicate the amount of growth anticipated under the General Plan (i.e., from 2002 to 2020). However, it is more correct to refer to 2020 within that timeframe as a “horizon year” rather than actual buildout of the City. Department of Finance data indicates the City in 2020 had a total of 18,048 units, which is 1,135 units less than the City was expecting at this time when the 2020 GP and EIR were approved in 2002. As of 2022, the remaining capacity within the original General Plan build out assumption is estimated at 913 units (given Department of Finance estimates of 18,270 units in Baldwin Park in 2022).

Table 2-6 summarizes the General Plan buildout assumptions and the Downtown Specific Plan buildout assumptions and compares those cumulative assumptions to the HEU anticipated units on sites to meet the RHNA (“Inventory Sites”). A majority (1,495 units of underutilized sites and 63 units on religious institution sites out of a total 2,041 total units identified to

³ <https://www.baldwinpark.com/planning>

meet the RHNA) of the 2021-2029 HEU Inventory Sites are located within the Downtown Baldwin Park Specific Plan area. The buildout assumptions for the Downtown Specific Plan allow for additional development beyond the originally envisioned buildout of the General Plan.

**Table 2-6
Comparison of General Plan and Downtown Buildout and HUE Sites to Meet RHNA**

	DT Capacity (units)	Outside DT Capacity (units)	Total GP + DT Capacity
General Plan and Downtown Specific Plan Buildout Assumptions			
2002 General Plan Buildout	358	1,401	1,759
2016 Downtown SP Buildout	833	1,401	2,234
2022 Downtown SP Buildout	1,745	1,401	3,146
Units built 2002-2022	78	768	846
Remaining Capacity in Buildout Assumptions	1,667	633	2,300
HEU Sites to Meet the RHNA ("Inventory Sites")			
Proposed and Approved Projects	106	180	286
Vacant and Underutilized Residential Sites	0	7	7
Mixed-Use Sites (Not Downtown)	0	148	148
Downtown Sites	1,495	0	1,495
Religious Institution Sites	63	41	104
Total HEU Approved Projects and Sites	1,664	376	2,040
Remaining Capacity in Buildout Assumptions	3	257	260

Note: Estimated ADU production of 182 units which are counted toward the RHNA are not included in these estimates, as State law indicates that ADUs are automatically a residential use deemed consistent with the general plan and zoning. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (a)(1)(C).

As indicated in Table 2-6, the addition of 2,041 housing units identified as sites to meet the RHNA, plus 286 approved and proposed projects identified in the HEU, can be evaluated within the limits of the General Plan and Downtown Specific Plan EIR buildout assumptions. Therefore, the evaluation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element Update under CEQA can be accomplished using an Addendum to the General Plan EIR.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Baldwin Park is located in the San Gabriel Valley, approximately 15 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. The San Gabriel Foothills and Los Angeles National Forest lie in the distance to the north, with the Los Angeles Basin to the east, south, and west (Figure 1. Regional Location). The City is traversed by I-10 to the south and the I-605 to the west. Baldwin Park is highly urbanized and built out, with a suburban character. Cities surrounding Baldwin Park are also fully developed and with similar urbanized characteristics.

The City of Baldwin Park is a largely built-out suburban community well served by a network of freeways and Metrolink commuter rail. Both City departments and utility companies provide a full suite of public services: water, sewer, flood control, telecommunications, law enforcement, fire prevention and emergency response, parks and recreation, and education.

Topography is generally flat. The San Gabriel Valley is a sediment-filled, east-trending structural trough situated along the southern flank of the San Gabriel Mountains. The San Gabriel Mountains are a major component of the Transverse Ranges geomorphic province of California and are comprised largely of plutonic and metamorphic rocks. In the Baldwin Park Quadrangle, the southern boundary of San Gabriel Valley is defined by the Puente Hills and San Jose Hills, which are comprised of Tertiary marine and non-marine sedimentary rocks. The most significant known active fault are the Whittier-Elsinore Fault Zone, Newport-Inglewood Fault Zone, San Andreas Fault Zone, and San Gabriel Fault Zone, as well as the lesser San Fernando/Sierra Madre-Cucamonga Fault Zone, Raymond Hill Fault Zone, Verdugo Fault Zone, and Chino Fault Zone, according to Figure S-1 in the Safety Element of the General Plan.

Given the suburban nature of the community and absence of natural habitat, no known threatened or endangered plant or animal species or their habitats are present. According to the General Plan Final Program EIR (Initial Study, Appendix A), there are no known biological resources or federally-protected wetlands or state jurisdictional drainages within the City.

The City is located in the South Coast Air Basin over which the South Coast Air Quality Management District has regulatory authority. The basin experiences frequent episodes of high ozone and coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀), and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). The region experienced high pollutant concentrations at times due to high pollutant loads and persistent inversion conditions that trap pollutants.

According to the General Plan FEIR, the City is largely built out and does not contain any known archaeological resources.

The City of Baldwin Park is located within the San Gabriel River Watershed. Due to its relatively flat topography, runoff in the City typically sheet flows and is intercepted by stormwater conveyance systems. Major drainages in the area such as the San Gabriel River flow to the southwest and eventually drain to the Pacific Ocean

The key noise sources in the community include vehicular noise from freeways and arterial roadways, as well as railroad noise from the Metrolink line.

REQUIRED CITY APPROVALS

The City Council would be required to adopt a General Plan Amendment to incorporate the 2021-2029 Housing Element, the Safety Element Update, and the Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element into the General Plan.

OTHER AGENCY APPROVALS

The State of California, Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is required to review the Housing Element for compliance with State law (Article 10.6 of the California Government Code) but does not have actual approval authority. The California Geological Survey was consulted as part of the Safety Element drafting. The Element does not require Cal Fire review, as no very high-fire severity areas are located within the jurisdiction.



Exhibit 2: Housing Element Inventory Sites

Sites Inventory

- R1
- R3
- MU-2
- Downtown Baldwin Park SP
- Religious Institutions

Approved and Proposed Projects

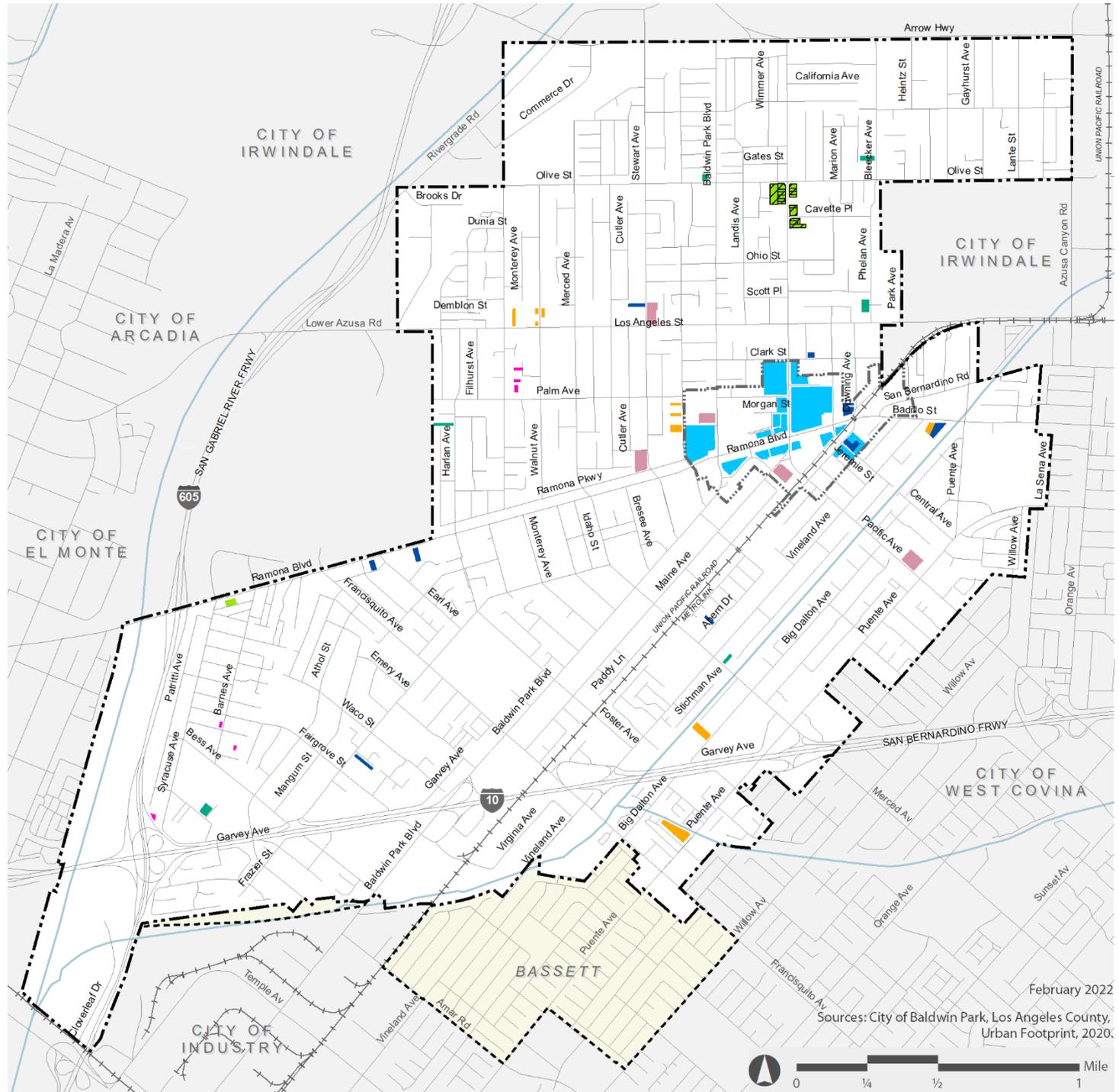
- MFR
- SFR

Sites Subject to AB 1397

- Yes

Base Map Features

- City of Baldwin Park Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Downtown Baldwin Park Specific Plan
- Freeways
- Railroads
- Water Channels



February 2022
Sources: City of Baldwin Park, Los Angeles County, Urban Footprint, 2020.



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3 DETERMINATION

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance	

Determination: (To Be Completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- The City finds that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- The City finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- The City finds the proposed project may have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. If the effect is a potentially significant impact or potentially significant unless mitigated an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to addressed.
- The City finds that changes to the project or the circumstances under which the project would be undertaken require major revisions to the previous EIR in order to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the proposed project in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15163. Thus, a SUBSEQUENT EIR shall be prepared.
- The City finds that changes to the project or the circumstances under which the project would be undertaken require only minor revision to the previous EIR in order to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the proposed project in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15163. Thus, a SUPPLEMENTAL EIR shall be prepared.
- The City finds that the significant effects that would result from the proposed project have been addressed in an earlier EIR⁴, and that none of the determinations set forth in Public Resources Code Section 21166 and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 can be established. Thus, an ADDENDUM to the *City of Baldwin Park General Plan Update Final Program Environmental Impact Report* certified in 2002 will be prepared (General Plan EIR Addendum No. 1).

City of Baldwin Park

Date

⁴ 2002 General Plan EIR with growth data supplemented by the 2022 Downtown Specific Plan EIR

Environmental Issues Addressed in the General Plan EIR

It is important to note that references to the General Plan EIR in Section 4, Environmental Impact Evaluation, INCLUDE the results of the Initial Study that was prepared as part of the NOP (IS/NOP) to help screen issues out of more detailed analysis in the DEIR. The Final EIR for the GP includes the IS/NOP, DEIR, and Response to comments on the DEIR. The following Initial Study in Section 4 evaluates all of the environmental issues currently outlined in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G (CEQA Checklist) including recently added topics of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and Wildfire.

The GP EIR identified the following areas of unavoidable significant impacts even with mitigation:

Air Quality
Transportation/Traffic
Utilities and Service Systems - Solid Waste
Recreation

The GP EIR identified the following areas of less than significant impacts:

Aesthetics
Agriculture and Forest Resources
Biological Resources
Cultural Resources
Geology and Soils
Hazards and Hazardous Materials
Hydrology and Water Quality
Land Use and Planning
Mineral Resources
Noise
Population and Housing
Public Services
Utilities and Service Systems (except for solid waste)

The following environmental issues were required subsequent to preparation of the GP EIR but have been determined in this Initial Study to have less than significant impacts:

Energy
Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Transportation (Vehicle Miles Traveled)
Tribal Cultural Resources
Wildfire

4 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. AESTHETICS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The goals, policies, and implementing actions of the updated Safety Element and the Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element do not affect aesthetics (scenic highways, scenic and visual resources, etc.) or light and glare. The update to the Safety Element and the Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element would not affect development within the city. Rather, the update to the Safety Element would incorporate additional data and maps to address vulnerability to climate change, fire, and flood hazards, and a program to update the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, for example. The Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element update would incorporate goals, policies, and programs to reduce health risks by through air quality improvement measures, measures to support safe and sanitary homes, and encouraging civic engagement in the public decision-making process. Therefore, only the updated 2021-2029 Housing Element will be evaluated in this section.

A) Less Than Significant Impact. A scenic vista is generally defined as a view of undisturbed natural lands exhibiting a unique or unusual feature that comprises an important or dominant portion of the viewshed. Scenic vistas may also be represented by a particular distant view that provides visual relief from, less attractive views of nearby features. Other designated federal and State lands, as well as local open space or recreational areas, may also offer scenic vistas if they represent a valued aesthetic view within the surrounding landscape. Because the City is largely built out, the visual character of the City is suburbanized. Portions of the City contain distant views of the Angeles National Forest, San Gabriel Mountains and San Bernardino Mountains. However, the Initial Study prepared as part of the City's 2020 General Plan did not identify any scenic vistas or other scenic resources (Baldwin Park 2002a).

The City itself is relatively flat with no discernable topographic features; however, on clear days the City has views of the nearby San Gabriel Mountains to the north as well as distant views of the Santa Monica Mountains to the northwest. The General Plan EIR referenced the urban setting of the city and concluded that all visual and aesthetic impacts would be less

than significant and no mitigation was required (City 2002b). Parcels in all areas of the city have unused development capacity where new development or redevelopment could occur, changing the visual appearance of their respective neighborhoods, the most likely of which to redevelop are identified in Exhibit 2 (Inventory Sites). While buildout of the General Plan would visibly alter the neighborhood by allowing new residential and mixed-uses on vacant and nonvacant parcels, thus introducing new structures, the GP EIR found that this increased development would not result in a significant aesthetic impact. The overall visual appearance and character of neighborhoods is expected to remain intact and no major obstructions of scenic views are anticipated. Future development pursued consistent with the updated Housing Element will not substantially change the planned location, distribution, or overall density of development within the City, as the project does not include any changes to zoning, General Plan designations, height, or density. The City contains no designated scenic vistas although views of regional scenic features may still be available within the City or from elevated freeways and multi-story buildings. Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusion of the General Plan EIR regarding scenic vistas.

B) Less Than Significant Impact. Scenic resources are isolated, natural, or manmade objects offering a unique visual display to the onlooker, in contrast to the expanse and variety of aesthetic values offered in scenic vistas. All of the Inventory Sites are currently undeveloped or previously developed properties. Significant impacts could occur if the Housing Element update and potential development of the Inventory Sites substantially damaged scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway.

The California Scenic Highway Program protects and enhances the scenic beauty of California's highways and adjacent corridors. A highway can be designated as scenic based on how much natural beauty can be seen by users of the highway, the quality of the scenic landscape, and if development impacts the enjoyment of the view (Caltrans 2021). Two state scenic highways are located within Los Angeles County: State Route (SR)-2 and SR-110. SR-2, the closest scenic highway to the city, is located over 14 miles to the north. According to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) website, none of the freeways in the vicinity of the City of Baldwin Park are designated as scenic or eligible to be designated as a scenic highway or route (Caltrans 2021). The 2002 City General Plan does not indicate that any of the freeway or roadway segments within the city are designated as scenic roads or corridors, although it does indicate that various scenic views of nearby mountains are enjoyed by city residents. The General Plan EIR concluded that implementation of the General Plan policies would reduce overall aesthetic impacts to less than significant levels and no mitigation was required, none of these policies would be revised by the proposed General Plan Amendments.

Future development of any individual Site to Meet the RHNA will be subject to project-specific review pursuant to CEQA. Considering that the General Plan EIR analyzed impacts to scenic resources at the program level and concluded that impacts were less than significant, impact with adoption and implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments will be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusion of the General Plan EIR regarding scenic highways or their resources.

C) Less Than Significant Impact. Visual character is the composite physical values of a structure or structures, in context of the built and/or natural environment, that include architectural treatment, landscaping, location, and the intangible qualities such as historical context or uniqueness that establish a thematic visual display for the onlooker when viewing the location. Above most environmental issues, defining visual character is generally subjective, relying on the opinion of the onlooker coupled with the expertise and institutional knowledge of the local jurisdiction to define the visual character of an area or property.

The visual character of the city varies by location, as there are distinct districts and neighborhoods that exhibit their own nature and character. Residential uses are typical of Southern California Mid-Century development, relatively suburban in nature, and are generally distributed throughout the city. Smaller retail commercial uses are distributed along major roadways such as Ramona Boulevard, and especially at intersections on many of the smaller non-residential streets. When the General Plan was prepared in 2002, the Land Use Element noted the city was already relatively built out at that time and focused on revitalizing the Central Business District (Downtown) with mixed uses, resolving non-conforming and inconsistent land uses, and finding additional opportunities for mixed-use and affordable housing. These concepts are embodied in the 2022

Downtown Specific Plan. The City contains little vacant land but still has a number of parcels of various sizes with light industrial and other older uses that are slowly being redeveloped with more modern uses.

Future development implemented through the policies of the Housing Element will have the effect of incrementally changing the visual character of each Site to Meet the RHNA. If the change in the visual character or quality of an Site to Meet the RHNA, in context of the existing visual character and quality of the surrounding environment, can be perceived as 'degrading', then the effect of the project may result in potentially significant impacts. Adverse changes to the visual character of an area can reduce the quality of life for occupants and visitors of the area, reduce the uniqueness or singularity of the viewing experience, and/or reduce the historical and/or communal value of the visual setting.

There is no widely recognized threshold for determining when the effects of a project 'degrade' visual character or quality to the point that potentially significant environmental impacts could occur. However, the current CEQA threshold relates to whether or not a project (in an urbanized area) would conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. Any development resulting from the proposed General Plan Amendments would be subject to design and development standards, similar to the approved General Plan, and thus, the proposed General Plan would result in no new impacts related to aesthetics or impacts that would be substantially more severe than those discussed in the certified Final EIR for the approved General Plan. Compliance with standards set forth in the Downtown Specific Plan and the Baldwin Park Municipal Code (BPMC) related to height, mass and scale, architectural style, materials, landscaping, and a variety of other standards would ensure the proposed General Plan Amendments would not substantially degrade the existing visual character in the Plan Area. Therefore, impacts due to changes to visual character or quality will be less than significant with implementation of existing regulations and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding visual character.

D) Less Than Significant Impact. Future development guided by the implementation of the proposed Housing Element Update will result in new sources of light and glare. Outdoor lighting will be required in parking lots and pedestrian pathways for security purposes and may be included as accent lighting in landscaping and architectural features. Indoor lighting will also likely be visible through windows. Lighting associated with vehicle travel to and from the Inventory Sites will also be generated. Outdoor lighting when viewed at night can result in glare that can be defined as "excessive, uncontrolled brightness" from a luminaire. Glare can also occur during the day due to light reflecting off building materials such as highly polished metal and reflective glass. Inappropriate installation of light and reflective materials in future housing could result in effects on nighttime and daytime views through scattering excessive light in the viewers' eyes, causing a partial or complete inability to see due to light scattering in the eye. The effects of excessive light and glare can result in nuisance impacts ranging from viewer annoyance or an inability to see features in the night sky, to health and safety impacts such as temporary blindness while operating a motor vehicle.

The General Plan EIR found that impacts related to light and glare will be less than significant with implementation of lighting requirements set forth in the General Plan and zoning regulations. Future housing developed to meet local and regional housing needs will be subject to the City's Municipal Code regulating the installation and operation of lighting. Implementation of the lighting requirements of the General Plan and Municipal Code will ensure that lighting is appropriately designed to provide necessary security while not creating undue nuisance or hazards for people at surrounding properties or on roadways in the vicinity of the Inventory Sites. Furthermore, future housing will be subject to standards enumerated in the Code or other documents, requiring review by staff that will limit the use of highly reflective materials thereby minimizing the potential for daytime glare. Impacts to daytime and nighttime views will be less than significant with implementation of existing regulatory requirements and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusion of the General Plan EIR regarding lighting and glare.

2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (CALESA) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) regarding the State’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project, as well as forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
C) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104 (g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
D) Result in loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
E) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The goals and policies of the updated Safety Element and the Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element do not affect agricultural or forest resources. The update to the Safety Element and the Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element would not affect development within the city. Rather, the update to the Safety Element would incorporate additional data and maps to address vulnerability to climate change, fire, and flood hazards, and a program to update the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, for example. The Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element update would incorporate goals, policies, and programs to reduce health risks by through air quality improvement measures, measures to support safe and sanitary homes, and encouraging civic engagement in the public decision-making process. Therefore, only the updated 2021-2029 Housing Element will be evaluated in this section.

A) No Impact. The California Department of Conservation (DOC) provides online mapping of important agricultural and forestry resources, including Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, properties zoned for agriculture or forestry uses, and properties under Williamson Act contract. According to the “Important Farmland Finder” within the DOC’s Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) website, the entire city is designated as “not mapped” meaning there is no land considered Prime Farmlands, Farmlands of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmlands, Farmlands of

Local Importance or Grazing Lands (DOC 2021a). The Initial Study prepared as part of the General Plan EIR found there would be no significant impacts related to the loss of important farmland by future development within the city. The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose the re-zoning or changing the General Plan land use designation of any individual property. In addition, the Housing Element does not propose any specific development that will result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. Future development consistent with the proposed Housing Element will be subject to General Plan policies related to the orderly development of undeveloped properties and will be subject to City review and approval, including consistency with standards of the BPMC. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Housing Element will not result in increased impacts beyond that which was analyzed in the General Plan EIR. There will be no impacts related to the conversion of important farmland and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusion of the General Plan EIR regarding state-designated farmland.

B) No Impact. According to the California Department of Conservation, Williamson Act reports and statistics, there are no Williamson Act Land Conservation Contract lands within the City including any Inventory Sites or surrounding areas (DOC 2021b). The lands within the city are classified as Non-Enrolled Land or Urban and Built-Up Land. Therefore, the General Plan EIR found there would be no impacts related to the loss of land under Williamson Act contract. The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose the re-zoning or changing the General Plan land use designation of any individual property. Future development consistent with the proposed Housing Element will be subject to General Plan policies related to the orderly development of undeveloped properties and will be subject to City review and approval, including consistency with the BPMC. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Housing Element will not result in increased impacts beyond that which was analyzed in the General Plan EIR. There will be no impacts related to the loss of land under Williamson Act contracts and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusion of the General Plan EIR regarding agricultural preserves.

C-D) No Impact. Public Resources Code Section 12220(g) identifies forest land as 'land that can support 10 percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits.' There is no forest land located within the city including any proposed Inventory Sites. The General Plan EIR indicated the city did not contain any timberland, forest land, or land supporting forest resources (Baldwin Park 2002b). The proposed General Plan Amendments include no changes that would result in direct loss or substantial changes to any forest land and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusion of the General Plan EIR regarding agricultural zoning and loss of forestland.

E) No Impact. As discussed above, there is no designated farmland or forest land within the city including any Inventory Sites. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element will not result in the indirect conversion of any agricultural or forest land to non-agricultural or non-forest uses. There will be no impact and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusion of the General Plan EIR regarding loss or conversion of agricultural land or forest land.

3. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed General Plan Amendments do not include any revisions to the General Plan Air Quality Element. The goals and policies of the updated Safety Element do not affect air quality. The update to the Safety Element would not affect development within the city. Rather, the update to the Safety Element would incorporate additional data and maps to address vulnerability to climate change, fire, and flood hazards, and a program to update the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, for example. Therefore, only the updated goals and policies of the 2021-2029 Housing Element and the Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element will be evaluated in this section. This Initial Study examines the potential environmental impacts at a program level for the General Plan Amendments since the General Plan Amendments themselves do not specifically authorize the construction of any housing development, safety infrastructure project, or physical project that would support health, sustainability, and environmental justice, nor does it indicate where and when specific housing (or other) projects will occur. Inventory Sites indicated in the Housing Element only represent the currently most likely housing development locations and do not involve any change to the allowed development capacity.

The U.S. EPA and CARB are the federal and State agencies charged with maintaining air quality in the nation and California, respectively. The U.S. EPA delegates much of its authority over air quality to CARB which has geographically divided the State into 15 air basins for the purposes of managing air quality on a regional basis. An air basin is a CARB-designated management unit with similar meteorological and geographic conditions.

The City of Baldwin Park is located in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin) which includes Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties. The basin encompasses approximately 6,745 square miles of coastal plains and is bounded by the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains to the north and east. Air quality in the Basin is managed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). Pursuant to the California Clean Air Act, SCAQMD is responsible for bringing air quality within the basin into conformity with federal and State air quality standards by reducing existing emission levels and ensuring that future emission levels meet applicable air quality standards. SCAQMD works with federal, State, and local agencies to reduce pollutant emissions through adoption and implementation of rules and regulations.

The U.S. EPA has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six common air pollutants: ozone (O₃), particulate matter (PM), which consists of “inhalable coarse” PM (particles with an aerodynamic diameter between 2.5 and 10

microns in diameter, or PM₁₀) and “fine” PM (particles with an aerodynamic diameter smaller than 2.5 microns, or PM_{2.5}), CO, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and lead. The U.S. EPA refers to these six common pollutants as “criteria” pollutants because the agency regulates the pollutants on the basis of human health and/or environmentally-based criteria and because they are known to cause adverse human health effects and/or adverse effects on the environment (USEPA 2020a and 2020b). CARB has also established California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for the six criteria air pollutants regulated by the federal Clean Air Act (the CAAQS are more stringent than the NAAQS).

A) Less Than Significant Impact. The 2002 General Plan EIR determined that cumulative air quality impacts of the General Plan would be significant and unavoidable because of the amount of development anticipated to occur, including both anticipated residential and non-residential development. The Findings of Fact for certification of the General Plan EIR included a Statement of Overriding Considerations for several significant and unavoidable impacts, including air quality, even with implementation of the General Plan goals and policies as the recommended mitigation. These goals and policies include actions that future development would have to implement to reduce potential air pollutant emissions to below the daily significance thresholds established by the SCAQMD. The 2016 approved Downtown Specific Plan EIR determined that air quality impacts relating to conflicts with an applicable air quality plan would be less than significant; this conclusion was reaffirmed with the Downtown Specific Plan EIR Addendum.

Sites indicated in the Housing Element only represent the currently most likely housing development locations and do not involve any change to the allowed development capacity. The RHNA allocation described in the Housing Element Update, and related development on Inventory Sites, would be consistent with the amount of residential development analyzed within the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. Future housing developed in accordance with the goals and policies of the Housing Element Update would have the effect of contributing incrementally to the mobile, energy, and area sources that cumulatively contribute to criteria pollutant levels and associated air pollution in the Basin. Development of future housing would be subject to environmental review pursuant to CEQA upon application for entitlement permits. Projects found to be not exempt from CEQA would be subject to analysis and mitigation, if required. Air Quality Element policies would also continue to be applicable. Therefore, programmatic impacts from implementation of the proposed Housing Element related to 2016 AQMP consistency will be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is within the framework of the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding consistency with the current AQMP.

B) Less Than Significant Impact. The effects of future housing development on regional air quality could result in potentially significant impacts on the health of residents if it is determined that a project’s individual contribution to cumulative air pollution levels is considerable by exceeding the annual emissions thresholds established by the SCAQMD in its *CEQA Air Quality Analysis Handbook* (SCAQMD 1993) and, furthermore, would be determined to potentially conflict with implementation of the AQMP (as described in A above). The proposed General Plan amendments contain the following policies related to air quality:

Housing Element

Policy H3.2: Implement the Land Use Element to facilitate development of mixed-use residential projects near Downtown and along North Maine Avenue.

Policy H3.5: Promote mixed-use and higher-density housing in close proximity to commercial areas and transportation routes for accessibility to services.

Policy H3.6: Encourage infill development and recycling of land to provide adequate residential sites and support the assembly of small vacant or underutilized parcels to enhance the feasibility of infill development.

Multiple programs implement these policies, encouraging housing construction especially within the City’s Downtown and mixed-use zones.

Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element

Goal HS-11. Improve indoor and outdoor air quality.

Action HS-11.9: Consider requiring street trees to be planted, when necessary, anytime a residential or commercial property is sold.

Action HS-11.10: Promote anti-idling in schools and city facilities by posting idling reduction signs in parking lots, drop-off/pick-up areas, and other vehicle areas.

Action HS-11.11: Consider implementing an Ozone Action Days, where the city develops procedures for reducing emissions of ozone-forming compounds during ozone season. Ozone season is when the EPA forecasts elevated ozone concentrations in a region. Actions could include limiting vehicle and equipment use, rescheduling nonessential operations, practice energy conservation, and more.

The GP EIR included the following air quality mitigation measures:

1. All development projects in the City will be required to comply with SCAQMD Rule 403 and other applicable measures aimed toward reducing construction-related pollutant emissions.
2. Baldwin Park will continue to cooperate with the SCAQMD and SCAG to implement the goals of the Air Quality Element of the AQMP. The AQMP transportation measures focus on reducing the number of trips, improving traffic flow, and utilizing alternative methods of transportation.

Despite policies in the adopted General Plan Air Quality Element to improve local air quality and this mitigation, the General Plan EIR concluded that growth within the City, consistent with the General Plan, would have significant and cumulatively considerable air quality impacts due to the amount of new housing and non-residential growth, since build out of the General Plan would be result in increases in criteria pollutant emissions within a nonattainment area. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was prepared for this significant impact, which was outweighed by the community and environmental benefits of having a General Plan that provided housing for a wide range of the market and provided a wide range of employment for its citizens and the region as a whole. In addition, the 2016 approved Downtown Specific Plan EIR was found to have significant and unavoidable air quality impacts relating to the violation of regional air quality standards and contributing to an existing or projected air quality violation despite implementation of Mitigation Measures AIR-1 and AIR-2.

Future housing developed in accordance with the goals and policies of the Housing Element will have the effect of contributing incrementally to the mobile, energy, and area sources that cumulatively contribute to criteria pollutant levels and associated air pollution in the Basin.

The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose any land use changes or zoning changes to any Inventory Sites (other other sites) that were not already analyzed in the General Plan EIR. The RHNA allocation described in the Housing Element Update, and related development on Inventory Sites, would be consistent with the amount of residential development analyzed within the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. The analysis of growth under the General Plan relative to the recently adopted Downtown Specific Plan indicates there will be a surplus capacity of 260 units after all planned and proposed RHNA housing is met (see previous Tables 2-1 through 2-5).

Therefore, long term air quality impacts in the City have already been evaluated, and the proposed General Plan Amendments will not result in impacts that are greater than those contemplated in the General Plan EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. In addition, future development of the proposed Inventory Sites will be subject to the Goals and Policies of the General Plan and will be subject to environmental evaluation for exemption and potential analysis pursuant to CEQA. No new significant impacts and no substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts associated with the proposed General Plan Amendments would occur, nor would the significant unavoidable impacts identified in the GP EIR be worsened. Likewise, there is no new information of substantial importance requiring new analysis or verification. The project does not propose substantial changes that require major revisions to the GP EIR, and no new mitigation measures are required.

C) Less Than Significant Impact. Common sensitive receptors include children under age 14, the elderly over age 65, athletes, and people with cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases. Goals, policies, and implementation programs in the adopted Air Quality Element support air quality compliance. The proposed Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element includes additional measures to enhance local indoor and outdoor air quality. Each of the residential Inventory Sites is surrounded by residential uses and the mixed-use Inventory Sites are surrounded by residential, commercial, and

limited industrial uses. Future housing projects are not considered uses that emit substantial levels of hazardous air pollutants that could have an effect on the environment such that potentially significant impacts would occur. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding sensitive receptors. No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to air quality, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

In addition, industrial processes with state or federal toxic emissions must prepare health risk assessments, minimizing impacts to surrounding uses. With implementation of existing regulatory requirements (or project specific mitigation if required), impacts to sensitive receptors will be less than significant and no separate programmatic mitigation for proposed General Plan Amendments is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR.

D) Less Than Significant Impact. Goals, policies, and implementation programs in the adopted Air Quality Element support air quality compliance. The proposed Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element includes additional measures to enhance local indoor and outdoor air quality. Residential land uses do not generate objectionable odors that could impact a substantial number of people, therefore, future housing development will not result in effects related to odors that could impact a substantial number of people. There are no sources of objectionable odors located in the vicinity of any Inventory Site identified in the proposed Housing Element. As discussed in the General Plan EIR, future industrial uses could be sources of odors that affect sensitive land uses such as residential areas. Implementation of existing General Plan policies will ensure that incompatible land uses are not co-located, minimizing odor impacts. Therefore, programmatic impacts in this regard relative to the General Plan Amendments will be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusion of the General Plan EIR regarding odors or other air emissions.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
F) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No changes are proposed to the existing Open Space and Conservation Element of the General Plan, which will continue to protect biological resources in the City as needed.

A) Less Than Significant Impact. According to the Initial Study prepared as part of the General Plan EIR, the City does not contain any listed or sensitive species of plants or animals, or critical habitat for any such species. While the City does contain a number of drainage/flood control channels, they contain little or no riparian (streamside) or wetland resources subject to the jurisdiction of various federal or state agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, or California Department of Fish and Wildlife). The General Plan also indicates there is little or no potential for these species or other important biological resources to be present within the City (City 2002a). The City has been largely developed for many years so no populations of rare or sensitive species are known to occur within the City limits. Due to the level of disturbance within the City, no sensitive plant species are expected to be encountered, and vegetation is primarily ruderal (weedy). Wildlife expected within the City would be non-sensitive wildlife that generally inhabit disturbed

urban areas (such as racoons, squirrels, coyotes, rats, common bird species, etc.). All listed or otherwise sensitive species have low or no potential to occur within the City due to the marginal suitable habitat available or lack of habitat (Baldwin Park 2002a, 2002b). In 2002 when the General Plan was approved, the City was already largely built out and contained little biological habitat. Since that time additional development has occurred so any lands that contain resources that support native plants or animals are severely limited. requires that biological studies be prepared when necessary to assess habitat value, implementation of mitigation, and coordination with agencies and individuals with expertise in biological resources.

As noted above, none of the updated General Plan Elements contain any goals or policies that address biological resources. However, the existing Open Space and Conservation Element of the General Plan will continue to protect biological resources as it has since it was adopted in 2002:

The General Plan EIR analyzed impacts to sensitive species and impacts were found to be less than significant. Similarly, the 2016 approved Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum determined that there would be no impact to biological resources as a result of its implementation. The proposed General Plan Amendments themselves do not specifically authorize the construction of any housing or other type of development, nor do they indicate where and when specific construction projects will occur; thus, programmatic impacts associated with potential development of the Inventory Sites or other implementation of proposed General Plan Amendment policies will remain within the scope of analysis certified in the General Plan EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. Future development of the Inventory Sites will be subject to project-specific environmental review pursuant CEQA, as applicable. The proposed General Plan Amendments in and of themselves will not result in increased impacts than previously contemplated in the General Plan EIR; programmatic impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusion of the General Plan EIR regarding listed or otherwise sensitive species of concern to federal or state regulatory agencies.

B-C) Less than Significant Impact. According to the General Plan EIR and the National Wetlands Inventory, there are no riparian or wetland resources within the City of Baldwin Park (City 2002b)(USFWS 2021). The General Plan EIR determined that implementation of General Plan Policies will prevent any potential impacts resulting from the direct and indirect effects of future development within the City to less than significant levels. The General Plan Amendments do not propose specific development on specific sites and so at this programmatic level, impacts associated with development of the Inventory Sites will remain within the scope of analysis certified in the General Plan EIR. As indicated in the Downtown Specific Plan EIR Addendum, to further protect biological resources that could potentially be affected by development of the proposed Specific Plan, should trees be removed as part of project construction during bird nesting season (generally February 1 to September 15), the project applicant would be required by federal and State laws to conduct preconstruction surveys for nesting birds covered by the California Fish and Game Code and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to avoid and minimize potential impacts to such nesting species. With compliance of this condition, there would be no impact to nesting birds. Incorporation of existing General Plan policies and standard nesting bird requirements discussed above will ensure that impacts to riparian and wetland resources resulting from future development of housing will be less than significant and no mitigation measures are required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding water-related resources supporting sensitive species of concern to federal or state regulatory agencies.

D) Less than Significant Impact. The General Plan EIR concluded the City did not contain any regional wildlife movement corridors and that impacts to wildlife movement will be less than significant with implementation of General Plan policies. Wildlife corridors and the movement of animals are important in maintaining genetic diversity, accommodating mating patterns, and ensuring that seasonal behavior is not interrupted. Future development of Inventory Sites will not result in significant impacts to any creeks, rivers, or other water bodies with incorporation of General Plan Policies, thus, creeks, rivers, and the like will remain open as wildlife corridors. No significant infrastructure projects are contemplated as part of the Safety Element update. Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation measures are required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding wildlife movement corridors or resources.

E) No Impact. According to the General Plan EIR, the City of Baldwin Park has not adopted local ordinances or regulations pertaining to biological resources, therefore, implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments will not conflict with

any locally adopted ordinance or regulation. No impact will result and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding local biological regulations.

F) No Impact. There are no established Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs) or Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) within or adjacent to the City of Baldwin Park. Therefore, implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments will not conflict with any NCCP or HCP. No impact will occur and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding local habitat protection plans.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A) Less Than Significant Impact. During the early Spanish era of California, the site of Baldwin Park was originally cattle grazing land belonging to the San Gabriel Mission. It eventually became part of the Rancho Azusa de Dalton and the Rancho La Puente properties. With the decline of cattle ranching due to severe drought, the area north of the present Ramona Boulevard was settled by small farmers. The community, named "Pleasant View", was composed of small farms and Vineyards shaded by pepper trees. Water shortage was a major problem – farmers with no wells were forced to haul water in from the San Gabriel River. Since irrigation was not utilized, all crops depended upon rainfall for water. The community's name was changed to "Vineland" in 1880, with business centered around the General store at today's Los Angeles and La Rica streets. In 1890, the Vineland School District was formed; the settlers built a two-room school building which served as a meeting place for all public gatherings. In 1906 the community changed its name to Baldwin Park and was incorporated in 1956. Today, the City has changed from a small farming community in the late 1800's to a residential suburb of Los Angeles with a population of over 70,000 residents.

No historic properties or buildings are located on any of the identified Inventory Sites, so implementation of the proposed Housing Element Update will not cause substantial adverse change in significance of a historical resource. The Safety Element and Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element do not contemplate specific development projects that could affect historic resources. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the Initial Study prepared as part of the General Plan EIR regarding historical resources.

B) Less Than Significant Impact. The Tongva are an Indigenous people of California from the Los Angeles Basin and the Southern Channel Islands, an area covering approximately 4,000 square miles. In the precolonial era, the people lived in as many as 100 villages and primarily identified by their village name rather than by a pan-tribal name. During colonization, the people were referred to as Gabrieleño and Fernandeño, names derived from the Spanish missions built on their land - Mission San Gabriel Arcángel and Mission San Fernando Rey de España. The name *Tongva* is widely used but others choose to identify as *Kizh*.

Before the arrival of Spanish settlers in the 1700s, the area that would later become Baldwin Park consisted of Tongva People that inhabited dispersed villages in the region. By 1806, the Tongva were providing conscripted labor for Spanish missions. Given the long history of Native American settlement in the region, followed by Spanish and Mexican rule, there is at least some probability of finding prehistoric (archaeological) resources in the City.

Similar to potential impacts on historical resources, impacts to archaeological resources from future housing development can result in the loss of information important to the history (and potentially the pre-history) of California and the people who

created and/or used the materials. The General Plan EIR concluded that buildout of the General Plan will result in no impacts related to the substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resources, as no known archaeological or paleontological resources exist in the vicinity. The potential for uncovering significant resources at Inventory Site locations during construction activities is remote given that no such resources have been discovered and/or recorded previously. In addition, two changes to state law (SB 18 and AB 52) require cities to consult directly with local Native American tribes to determine if any tribal cultural resources will be impacted by private development or public works projects proposed in the city.

This Initial Study examines the potential environmental impacts at a program level for the proposed General Plan Amendments since the Amendments themselves do not specifically authorize the construction of any particular development, nor do the Amendments indicate where and when specific construction projects will occur. Long-term impacts in the City have already been contemplated through the General Plan EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. The proposed General Plan Amendments are consistent with the build out assumptions of the General Plan EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum and will not result in impacts that are greater than those identified in the General Plan EIR. In addition, future development of housing on the proposed Inventory Sites will be subject to the Goals and Policies of the General Plan and will be subject to environmental evaluation for exemption and potential analysis pursuant to CEQA. Therefore, programmatic impacts related to implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments will be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding archaeological resources.

C) Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Baldwin Park does not have any cemeteries but according to the General Plan EIR, this region has been occupied by Native American tribes for thousands of years. Future development of the proposed Inventory Sites or implementation of construction projects recommended by the Safety Element or Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element that require site preparation and earthmoving activities have the unlikely potential to uncover buried or surficial human remains outside of a recognized cemetery or other burial location. Construction activities that result in disturbing or destroying human remains could result in impacts to our knowledge of the burial practices of the people who were buried, the people who buried the remains, and the pre-historic or historic context and circumstances under which the buried became deceased. Should human remains be discovered, the contractor is required to comply with State Health and Safety Code §7050.5. This requires halting work in the immediate area of the find and notifying the Los Angeles County Coroner, who must then determine whether the remains are of forensic interest. If the Coroner, with the aid of a supervising archaeologist, determines that the remains are or appear to be of Native American origin, the Coroner is required to contact the Native American Heritage Commission for further investigations and proper recovery of such remains, if necessary. Implementation of existing regulations will ensure that any discovered remains are appropriately collected and examined for any significant information that can be elicited. Potential impacts due to effects on human remains will be less than significant with implementation of existing regulations and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding the disturbance of human remains including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

6. ENERGY

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A) Less Than Significant Impact. Energy is primarily categorized into three areas: electricity, natural gas, and fuels used for transportation. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (USEIA), California is the most populous state in the United States, representing 12 percent of the total national population, has the largest economy, and is second only to Texas in total energy consumption. However, California has one of the lowest per capita energy consumption levels in the U.S. This is a result of California’s mild climate, extensive efforts to increase energy efficiency, and implementation of alternative technologies. California leads the nation in electricity generation from solar, geothermal, and biomass resources (USEIA 2018).

Electricity. In 2018, almost half of California’s net electricity generation was from renewable resources, including hydropower (U.S. EIA, 2019). In 2018, the California electric system used 281,120 GWh of electricity, nearly 71% of which (199,595 GWh) was produced in-state (CEC 2019a). Although Southern California Edison (SCE) is the historical utility provider in Baldwin Park, the City has initiated the Baldwin Park Resident Owned Utility District (BPROUD). This organization is a new locally run not-for-profit power program created by the City for residents and businesses that are currently served by SCE. BPROUD partners with SCE but the sources and rates for electricity differ from standard SCE service. BPROUD rates are set by the Baldwin Park City Council. The BPROUD default rate plan is called SMART CHOICE and offers 35% renewable energy, while BPROUD’s GREEN CHOICE rate plan offers customers the option of receiving 100% renewable energy at a nominal price. This is the first time that Baldwin Park residents have been offered such a choice.

In the 2018 fiscal year, SCE sold approximately 87,143 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity (SCE 2019a); approximately 46% of the electricity that SCE delivered to customers came from carbon-free resources, including solar energy (approximately 13%), wind energy (approximately 13%), and geothermal energy (approximately 8%) (SCE 2019b).

Natural Gas. California accounts for less than 1% of total U.S. natural gas reserves and production; however, almost two-thirds of California households use natural gas for home heating (U.S. EIA 2019). In 2018, California consumed about 12,638 million therms³ of natural gas. Approximately 35% of natural gas was consumed by the residential sector which makes up approximately two-thirds of county-wide consumption (CEC 2019b). The Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) provides natural gas service to the City. SoCalGas is the principal distributor of natural gas in Southern California and provides natural gas for residential, commercial, and industrial markets.

Transportation. California’s transportation sector consumed 80.6 million Btu of energy per capita in 2017, which ranked 31st in the nation (U.S. EIA 2017). Most gasoline and diesel fuel sold in California for motor vehicles is refined in California to meet state-specific formulations required by the California Air Resources Board.

General Plan Amendments. Future housing developed in accordance with the goals and policies of the Housing Element Update will have the effect of contributing to increased energy consumption in the City which will be part of regional growth in energy use and the surrounding communities continue to grow as well. Future growth in the City will be required to be

consistent with the state's energy conservation regulations as codified in Title 24 of the CCR and the California Green Building Code. As future development is required to adhere to these multiple energy conservation plans and requirements, the Housing Element Update will have less than significant impacts relative to energy consumption and efficiency and no mitigation is required. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element Update would not use energy in a wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary manner. At the time the General Plan and its EIR were prepared, this issue was not required to be addressed separately in CEQA documents. However, the State CEQA Guidelines did contain an Appendix F that encouraged energy conservation, and this analysis and conclusions are consistent with the State's current guidance on energy conservation. In addition, energy conservation was addressed in the Open Space and Conservation Element of the 2002 General Plan. Energy Conservation is also addressed in the Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element, with goals, policies, and implementing programs that encourage energy conservation and alternative energy use. No changes to these regulations are proposed as part of the General Plan Amendments. The Safety Element includes new measures to ensure the City is considering climate change and making further efforts toward resiliency. The RHNA allocation described in the Housing Element Update, and related development on Inventory Sites, would be consistent with the amount of residential development analyzed within the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. Therefore, the proposed General Plan Amendments do not result in a new significant impact relative to those evaluated and identified in the General Plan EIR.

B) Less Than Significant Impact. The analysis in Section 6.b above demonstrates that the proposed General Plan Amendments would not conflict with nor obstruct a state or local plan adopted for the purposes of increasing the amount of renewable energy or energy efficiency. As discussed above, future development under the General Plan Amendments would be subject to the California Title 24 Building Code energy efficiency standards for residential and non-residential buildings, which would help reduce energy consumption overall within the City.

Equipment and vehicles associated with construction and operation of new development would also be subject to fuel standards at the state and federal level. Truck traffic from some new non-residential development would inherently benefit from programs implemented to achieve the goals of the state's Sustainable Freight Plan, such as the turnover of older, less fuel-efficient trucks, as fuel economy standards are rolled out and zero emission vehicles (ZEV) trucks and vehicles in general becomes more widely available and cost effective for businesses and residents.

This Initial Study examines the potential environmental impacts at a program level for the proposed General Plan Amendments since the proposed General Plan Amendments themselves do not specifically authorize the construction of any particular development, nor do the proposed Amendments indicate where and when specific construction projects will occur. Future development of any individual Inventory Site or proposed construction project implemented pursuant to the General Plan Amendments will be subject to project-specific review pursuant to CEQA. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with nor obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Programmatic impacts of the proposed General Plan Amendments would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. Although this issue was not required in EIRs at the time the General Plan was adopted, it is consistent with the State's CEQA Guidelines Appendix F on energy conservation at that time, as well as the State's current guidance on energy use and conservation which is now required in CEQA documents. Therefore, the proposed General Plan Amendments do not result in new or substantially more severe effects related to energy use, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
F) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Safety Element includes the following goals, policies, and implementation programs that are potentially relevant to geology and soils:

Goal S-4. Prepare the community of Baldwin Park to respond to a major seismic event and minimize risk of injury, loss of life, property damage, and social service and economic impacts.

Policy 4.01: Require all new developments, redevelopments, and major remodels to comply with the most recent California Building Code seismic design standards and applicable supplemental design criteria.

Policy 4.02: Educate the community on actions to take before, during, and after a major earthquake.

Action S-4.1: Identify a plan of action and consult with different responsible agencies to respond to and recover from a major earthquake.

Action S-4.2: Implement a program for encouraging upgrades to seismically hazardous (unreinforced masonry) buildings within the City of Baldwin Park.

A.i) Less Than Significant Impact (Fault Rupture). The City of Baldwin Park is located in the Baldwin Park Quadrangle⁵, which covers an area of about 62 square miles in eastern Los Angeles County. The area lies in densely populated central San Gabriel Valley which is a sediment-filled, east-trending structural trough situated along the southern flank of the San Gabriel Mountains. The San Gabriel Mountains are a major component of the Transverse Ranges geomorphic province of California and are comprised largely of plutonic and metamorphic rocks. In the Baldwin Park Quadrangle, the southern boundary of San Gabriel Valley is defined by the Puente Hills and San Jose Hills, which are comprised of Tertiary marine and non-marine sedimentary rocks. An “active fault,” according to California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, is a fault that has indicated surface displacement within the last 11,000 years. A fault that has not shown geologic evidence of surface displacement in the last 11,000 years is considered “inactive.” Several major faults located southwest and northeast of the City have been identified in the region with the potential to cause damage. Based on current mapping available from the California Geological Survey (CGS), there are no known Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones within the City limits. The most significant known active fault zones are the Whittier-Elsinore Fault Zone, Newport-Inglewood Fault Zone, San Andreas Fault Zone, and San Gabriel Fault Zone, as well as the lesser San Fernando/Sierra Madre-Cucamonga Fault Zone, Raymond Hill Fault Zone, Verdugo Fault Zone, and Chino Fault Zone, as indicated in Figure S-1 in the proposed Safety Element update of the General Plan.

The proposed General Plan Amendments themselves do not specifically authorize the construction of any particular development, nor do the proposed Amendments indicate where and when specific construction projects will occur. All new housing and infrastructure projects implemented pursuant to the proposed General Plan Amendments would be subject to state seismic safety requirements of the California Building Code as adopted by the City. The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose housing or infrastructure projects in areas where these uses were not previously allowed and already considered under the General Plan EIR and Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. In addition, new development is required to prepare a geotechnical hazards assessment to identify site specific design and construction guidelines to protect occupants and structures from anticipated seismic impacts. Therefore, impacts related to fault rupture would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding earthquake faults.

A.ii) Less Than Significant Impact (Groundshaking). Seismicity is a well-known hazard of Southern California. The San Andreas Fault represents the boundary between two tectonic plates, the northwest-moving Pacific plate and southeast-faults (CGS 2020a). According to the current California Building Code, the City of Baldwin Park is within Seismic Zone 4 (CBC 2019) which indicates moderate to severe groundshaking is possible.

The proposed General Plan Amendments themselves do not specifically authorize the construction of any particular development, nor do the proposed Amendments indicate where and when specific construction projects will occur. Sites indicated in the Housing Element only represent the currently most likely housing development locations and do not involve any change to the allowed development capacity. The RHNA allocation described in the Housing Element Update, and related development on Inventory Sites, would be consistent with the amount of residential development analyzed within the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. New housing would be subject to state seismic safety requirements of the California Building Code as adopted by the City. In addition, new development implemented pursuant to the General Plan Amendments is required to prepare a geotechnical hazards assessment to identify site specific design and construction guidelines to protect occupants and structures from anticipated seismic impacts. Therefore, impacts related to seismic groundshaking would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding groundshaking.

⁵ U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) 7.5-Minute Topographic Map

A.iii) Less Than Significant Impact (Liquefaction). Liquefaction occurs when water-saturated sediment temporarily loses strength and acts as a fluid. Liquefaction-induced ground failure historically has been a major cause of earthquake damage in Southern California. Liquefaction potential and severity depends on several factors, including soil and slope conditions, proximity to fault, earthquake magnitude, and type of earthquake. Potential hazards due to liquefaction include the loss of bearing strength beneath structures, possibly causing foundation failure and/or significant settlements. According to the California Geological Survey (CGS), there are a number of areas in the City that are located within liquefaction potential zones as shown on the Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation: Baldwin Park Quadrangle.

The proposed General Plan Amendments themselves do not specifically authorize the construction of any particular development, nor do the proposed Amendments indicate where and when specific construction projects will occur. New construction projects and development implemented pursuant to the proposed General Plan Amendments would be subject to state seismic safety requirements of the California Building Code as adopted by the City. In addition, new development is required to prepare a geotechnical hazards assessment to identify site specific design and construction guidelines to protect occupants and structures from anticipated seismic impacts, including liquefaction. Therefore, impacts related to seismic groundshaking would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding liquefaction.

A.iv) No Impact (Landslides). The City is underlain by deep alluvial soils consisting of gravel, sand, silt, and clay derived mainly from runoff out of the San Gabriel Mountains to the north. No areas in the City are prone to landslides due to the lack of steep natural slopes (i.e., foothills or mountains) where fractured and steep slopes. Therefore, there would be no impact related to landslides and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding landslides.

B) Less Than Significant Impact. Natural forces, both chemical and physical, are continually at work breaking down and moving rocks, minerals, and soils. Erosion poses environmental hazards through the effect of removing soils that can undermine roads and buildings and destabilize slopes. Erosion can also result in environmental damage by depositing soils in downstream reservoirs, lakes, and drainage structures that can result in impacts to wildlife and human health by changing the ecological properties or the physical boundaries of the water body or drainage control device. The City of Baldwin Park General Plan EIR concluded that impacts pertaining to soil erosion and the loss of top soil will be less than significant with implementation of the General Plan and Municipal Code related to grading limitations. As indicated in the Downtown Specific Plan EIR, construction would be required to comply with sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) which would ensure runoff would be adequately infiltrated and/or retained so as not to generate erosion and/or siltation on or offsite, thereby reducing impacts to a less than significant level. Future developments on proposed Inventory Sites or other construction projects implemented pursuant to proposed General Plan Amendments are subject to Federal and State regulations limiting erosion pursuant to NPDES requirements, and SCAQMD rules. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding erosion.

C) Less Than Significant Impact. The City is underlain by deep alluvial soils consisting of gravel, sand, silt, and clay derived mainly from runoff out of the San Gabriel Mountains to the north. The City of Baldwin Park, similar to the entire Los Angeles Basin, is subject to moderate to severe groundshaking from frequent earthquakes. In addition to liquefaction, strong groundshaking can trigger other seismic hazards including lateral spreading, landslides, subsidence, or collapse (Baldwin Park 2004). The California Geological Survey (CGS) mapping indicate this portion of the Basin is underlain by Quaternary or Recent Alluvium (Qal) which consists of “recent clay, silt, sand and gravel, unconsolidated, poorly stratified to well stratified, including alluvial fan, flood-plain, and streambed deposits” (CGS 2020a). No areas in the City are prone to landslides due to the lack of steep natural slopes (i.e., foothills or mountains) where fractured and steep slopes.

The RHNA allocation described in the Housing Element Update, and related development on Inventory Sites, would be consistent with the amount of residential development analyzed within the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. New housing and other projects implemented pursuant to proposed General Plan Amendment policies would be

subject to state seismic safety requirements of the California Building Code as adopted by the City. In addition, new development is required to prepare a geotechnical hazards assessment to identify site specific design and construction guidelines to protect occupants and structures from anticipated seismic impacts, including liquefaction, lateral spreading, landslides, subsidence, or collapse. Therefore, impacts related to unstable geology or soils would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding soil constraints.

D) Less Than Significant Impact. Expansive soils are those that greatly increase in volume when they absorb water and shrink when they dry out. Expansion is measured by shrink-swell potential defined by the relative volume change in soil while gaining in moisture. If the shrink-swell potential is rated moderate to high, damage to buildings, roads, and other structures can occur. Although the City is generally underlain by sandy and silty alluvial soils, there may be areas with soils exhibiting a high to moderately high shrink-swell potential which are considered expansive.

Future housing developed pursuant to the policies of the proposed Housing Element, including those in the Downtown Specific Plan, as well as any other structure construction project developed pursuant to the proposed General Plan Amendments will be subject to the requirements of the California Building Code (CBC) as adopted by the City, including preparation of a soils report. The CBC requires analysis of soils and application of engineering standards to ensure project sites are made suitable for building construction, particularly regarding foundation design. Foundation and structural design for proposed development of the Inventory Sites will be subject to analysis and design recommendations by a licensed geotechnical engineer for review and approval by the City. Therefore, impacts due to geological and soils hazards will be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding expansive soils.

E) Less Than Significant Impact. The City Municipal Code requires use of the public sewer system and prohibits the installation or maintenance of septic tanks or other facilities intended for the disposal of sewage. Therefore, there are no impacts and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding septic systems.

F) Less Than Significant Impact. According to the General Plan EIR, there are no known geological resources and/or unique geological features located within the City including any of the Inventory Sites. The General Plan EIR concluded that development in the City would not have adverse effects on paleontological resources. The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose any land use changes or rezone any areas that were not already analyzed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, long term impacts have already been evaluated and the proposed General Plan Amendments would not result in impacts that are greater than those contemplated in the General Plan EIR. In addition, future development of the proposed Inventory Sites will be subject to the goals and policies of the General Plan and will be subject to environmental evaluation for exemption and potential analysis pursuant to CEQA. Therefore, potential impacts on paleontological resources related to implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments will be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding paleontological resources and unique geological features.

8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

At the time the 2020 General Plan and its EIR were prepared, the State CEQA Guidelines and Checklist (Appendix G) did not require an examination of impacts related to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and global climate change. However, the General Plan EIR did identify significant air quality impacts and in many respects GHG emissions are another type of air pollutant. The goals and policies of the updated Safety Element and the Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element directly address climate change and air quality with goals, policies, and implementation programs to reduce greenhouse gases and enhance the City’s resiliency toward climate change. The updated goals and policies of the 2021-2029 Housing Element will be the focus of evaluation in this section since the proposed Housing Element update addresses residential growth which can generate GHGs over the long-term.

A) Less than Significant Impact. Climate change is the distinct change in measures of climate for a long time period. Climate change is the result of numerous, cumulative sources of greenhouse gas emissions all over the world. Natural changes in climate can be caused by indirect processes such as changes in the Earth’s orbit around the Sun or direct changes within the climate system itself (i.e., changes in ocean circulation). Human activities can affect the atmosphere through emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) and changes to the planet’s surface. Human activities that produce GHGs are the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas for heating and electricity, gasoline and diesel for transportation); methane from landfill wastes, raising livestock, and deforestation activities; and some agricultural practices.⁶

Greenhouse gases differ from other emissions in that they contribute to the “greenhouse effect.” The greenhouse effect is a natural occurrence that helps regulate the temperature of the planet. The majority of radiation from the sun hits the Earth’s surface and warms it. The surface in turn radiates heat back towards the atmosphere, known as infrared radiation. Gases and clouds in the atmosphere trap and prevent some of this heat from escaping back into space and re-radiate it in all directions. This process is essential to supporting life on Earth because it warms the planet by approximately 60° Fahrenheit. Emissions from human activities since the beginning of the industrial revolution (approximately 250 years ago) are adding to the natural greenhouse effect by increasing the gases in the atmosphere that trap heat, thereby contributing to an average increase in the Earth’s temperature. Greenhouse gases occur naturally and from human activities. Greenhouse gases produced by human activities include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆). Since 1750, it is estimated that the concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide in the atmosphere have increased over 36 percent, 148 percent, and 18 percent, respectively, primarily due to human activity. Emissions of greenhouse gases affect the atmosphere directly by changing its chemical composition while changes to the land surface indirectly affect the atmosphere by changing the way the Earth absorbs gases from the atmosphere.

The General Plan EIR did not evaluate GHG impacts as that environmental issue was not considered in CEQA documents at the time it was certified. The General Plan EIR concluded overall development would have a significant air quality impact and a Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for that significant adverse and unavoidable impact. This Initial Study

⁶ United States Environmental Protection Agency. *Frequently Asked Questions About Global Warming and Climate Change. Back to Basics.* April 2009.

examines the potential environmental impacts at a program level for the General Plan Amendments since the General Plan Amendments themselves do not specifically authorize the construction of any housing development or other construction project, nor do the General Plan Amendments indicate where and when specific housing or other construction projects will occur.

Future development will emit greenhouse gases from various sources depending on type of use and size of the project. All projects will be required to estimate their GHG emissions and comply with the State's regulations, SCAQMD guidance, and the City's Open Space and Conservation Element, Air Quality Element, and Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element as appropriate, all of which will help to reduce GHG emissions. The Health and Sustainability Element includes significant actions toward energy conservation and addressing climate change, including implementation of an Energy Efficient City Plan for City facilities and an Energy Action Plan for community energy reduction. New measures included as part of the General Plan Amendments include a program to consider requiring the planting of additional trees, promoting anti-idling in the community, and Ozone Action Days. Future projects, especially larger ones, may require project-specific mitigation for their estimated GHG emissions. However, as noted in the Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum, projects are required to include all mandatory green building measures for new developments under the CALGreen Code. Additionally, the proposed Specific Plan includes a project design feature that would implement electric vehicle charging stations, which would further reduce GHG emissions with a reduction of VMT emissions by approximately 250 miles per day per parking spot serviced. The Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum determined that, with these design features, GHG emissions impacts from implementation of the Specific Plan would be less than significant with no mitigation required. As discussed above, most of the Inventory Sites are included within the Downtown Specific Plan area. Furthermore, the RHNA allocation described in the Housing Element Update, and related development on Inventory Sites, would be consistent with the amount of residential development analyzed within the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant at this program level and no programmatic mitigation is needed.

B) Less than Significant Impact. The City does not have a separate plan or General Plan element that addresses greenhouse gas emissions. However, the energy conservation portion of the Open Space and Conservation Element of the 2002 General Plan encourages a number of actions that help reduce energy conservation and also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the same time. In addition, the Air Quality Element includes multiple measures to reduce vehicular emission levels through trip reduction, alternative forms of travel, transportation planning improvements, and land use planning. The Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element includes existing and proposed actions to support reduced greenhouse gas emissions, including implementation of an Energy Efficient City Plan for City facilities and an Energy Action Plan for community energy reduction. New measures included as part of the General Plan Amendments include a program to consider requiring the planting of additional trees, promoting anti-idling in the community, and Ozone Action Days. There are no goals or policies of the updated Safety Element or the 2021-2029 Housing Element that directly address GHG emissions. New goals, policies, and programs are intended to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gases and are aligned with/do not conflict with these policies adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

California Assembly Bill 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), sets a target to decrease emissions statewide to 1990 levels by the year 2020. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels means cutting approximately 30% from business-as-usual emissions levels projected for 2020, or about 15% from today's levels. The City of Baldwin Park (The City) recognizes the impact carbon emissions have on global climate change. The City is aiming to reduce its energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to become a more sustainable community, as indicated in General Plan policies that support this goal.

Future housing will be constructed on undeveloped and currently developed, underutilized properties. GHG emissions will be evaluated during the City's standard environmental review process as required by CEQA, relying on the most current data and methodologies adopted by the SCAQMD to assess potential impacts. Applicable measures will be incorporated into future projects, ensuring GHG emissions are reduced to levels that will not be considered cumulatively considerable in the context of global climate change and resulting impacts. Some projects may be required to identify a GHG emissions inventory using regulatory and industry standard methodologies and measures and future larger projects may require project-specific mitigation for their estimated GHG emissions.

The RHNA allocation described in the Housing Element Update, and related development on Inventory Sites, would be consistent with the amount of residential development analyzed within the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. The project does not propose substantial changes that require major revisions to the GP EIR, and no new mitigation measures are required.

9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
F) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
G) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Safety Element includes the following relevant goals and policies for hazards:

Safety Element

Goal S-1. Ensure that Baldwin Park has a strong sense of readiness to address emergency situations and activities.

Policy 1.01: Maintain a level of preparedness to respond to emergency situations that will save lives, protect property, and facilitate recovery with minimal disruption.

Policy 1.02: Effectively coordinate with neighboring cities, regional agencies, local school districts, local businesses, and community organizations to conduct emergency and disaster preparedness exercises that test operational and emergency response plans.

Policy 1.03: Provide public education to promote community awareness and preparedness for self-action in the event of a major disaster or emergency.

Policy 1.04: Encourage emergency service providers to broadcast consistent public messaging regarding emergency situations so as not to confuse the public.

Goal S-7. Reduce accidents and health risks associated with use, storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous materials.

Policy 7.01: Ensure that the transport, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials occurs in a responsible manner that protects residents' and businesses' public health and safety

Policy 7.02: Require the general location and siting of facilities that involve the use and/ or storage of hazardous, highly flammable, or explosive materials to be designed in a manner that ensures the highest level of safety in strict conformance with fire codes and all other applicable codes and regulations.

A-D) Less than Significant Impact. Development and construction activities conducted in accordance with the proposed General Plan Amendments would result in infill development and intensification of land uses within the City. During construction, new development pursuant to the proposed General Plan Amendments would involve the use of hazardous materials, such as fuels, lubricants, paints, solvents, and greases in construction equipment and coatings used in construction. However, the materials used would not be in such quantities or stored in such a manner as to pose a significant safety hazard. These activities would also be short-term in nature and would be required to conform to existing laws and regulations, as indicated in the General Plan EIR. Residential and mixed-use housing development, such as that proposed by the 2021-2029 Housing Element General Plan Amendments, do not cause or contribute substantially to potential hazards to the public or the environment because these uses do not involve the use, transport, or disposal of appreciable amounts of hazardous materials or wastes. For purposes of the following analysis, a "significant hazard to the public or the environment" is characterized by the effects of exposure to hazardous materials and/or wastes from a facility or facilities that are subject to operations-specific federal, state, regional, or local regulations and implementation processes (including permitting, accident contingency, and clean-up requirements) based on the amount of material or waste undergoing use, transport, or disposal and the resulting impacts to human health or ecosystem functions. Residential uses are characterized by the use of common, widely available hazardous materials including paints and other solvents, cleaners, and pesticides. The remnants of these and other products are disposed of as household hazardous waste (HHW) that includes batteries, electronic wastes, and other wastes that are prohibited or discouraged from being disposed of at local landfills. Use of common household hazardous materials are not subject to federal or state permitting at the consumer level and it is reasonably foreseeable that upset and accident conditions cannot be met by the use, transport, and disposal of such materials and wastes from future residences. Consumer-level household hazardous materials and wastes are not subject to federal or state permitting by the consumer, and their use is at such levels as to not have the potential to result in risk of upset or accident that could harm a substantial number of people, including children attending schools in the area, or have a substantial effect on the functions of the local or regional ecosystem.

Hazardous Sites: The proposed Inventory Sites are not listed as toxic release inventory sites, leaking underground storage tank sites, solid waste disposal sites, hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action, or sites regulated by the Regional Water Quality Board.⁷ There is one significant regional hazmat contamination "site" in Baldwin Park, the San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site which is currently active through several regulatory agencies (including the U.S. EPA) and involves polluted groundwater beneath the cities of Azusa, Baldwin Park, Irwindale, and West Covina. There are also seven small industrial sites that are currently listed on several governmental databases as having had some type of hazmat contamination condition in the past, although most of the site files are closed or inactive at this time. The sites are listed below:

- * Baldwin Park High School – 3900 N. Puente Avenue – School Investigation, Inactive but action still required
- * Fredy A. Monroe Trucking – 4837 Elton Street – Inspection but no action required
- * Lucky One-Hour Cleaner – 4138 N. Main Avenue – Evaluation referred by local agency

⁷ California Environmental Protection Agency. Cortese List Data Resources. <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/CorteseList/> [November 7, 2021]

- * Quality Coatings Company – 14270 Dalewood Street – Evaluation referred by the EPA
- * R&G Enameling – 1350 Vineland Avenue – Evaluation referred by the EPA
- * Shasta Petroleum Corp. – 1352 Virginia Avenue – Evaluation referred by the EPA
- * Sierra Vista High School – School Evaluation, No further action required

There are no Cleanup Program Sites located on any Inventory Sites within the City of Baldwin Park at this time, including the downtown area which was recently documented in the Downtown Specific Plan EIR. In addition, the General Plan requires that residential projects and other sensitive receptors be located an adequate distance from existing and potential sources of toxic emissions. Development-related activities associated with the proposed General Plan Amendments would be similar to those of the approved General Plan, and would continue to be subject to provisions of the California Building Code, State and federal laws, and local policies to minimize or avoid potential impact caused by hazards and hazardous materials. Development applications submitted pursuant to the proposed General Plan Amendments, including those on the identified Inventory Sites, would require individual project-level CEQA review, which would identify and require mitigation for potential site-specific impacts.

Materials and Wastes Transport: According to the General Plan EIR, hazardous materials pass through the City in route to other destinations via rail, surface streets, and freeways. Trains traveling through the City can contain hazardous materials and a train derailment can occur at any time. However, it is during an earthquake that a derailment and hazardous materials release would pose the greatest risk of hazards. The City has no direct authority to regulate the transport of hazardous materials on local and regional roadways or railways; however, under upset and accident conditions, it is reasonably foreseeable that most of the spill would be contained within the right-of-way of a roadway with minimal chance of hazardous materials or wastes reaching adjacent homes. On the other hand, it is reasonably foreseeable that train derailment would result in extensive impacts to adjacent residents as the train and multiple train cars leave the tracks and violently careen with the adjacent environment. Transportation of hazardous materials and wastes by truck and rail is regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) which establishes criteria for safe handling procedures, and federal safety standards are also included in the California Administrative Code. The California Health Services Department also regulates the haulers of hazardous waste but does not regulate all hazardous materials. Although there is some reasonably foreseeable potential for exposure of future residents to hazardous materials and wastes under upset and accident conditions, federal and state regulations are in place with a focus on prevention of accidental releases and measures for appropriate containment and cleanup when accidents occur. In addition, the proposed General Plan Amendments include policies and actions to enhance emergency preparedness and coordination with agencies and organizations to ensure smooth emergency response.

Facilities: According to the Envirostor⁸ website of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and as shown above, the City of Baldwin Park has 7 total listed hazmat facilities although only 2 of them require any further action (testing or remediation). These sites are the result of the City's long history with industrial uses. Both the federal government and the State of California require all businesses that handle hazardous materials or extremely hazardous materials to submit a business risk management plan to the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). The CUPA with responsibility for the City is the County's Environmental Health Department. The business risk management plan must include an inventory of the hazardous materials and emergency response plans and procedures to be used in the event of a significant release of a hazardous material. Implementation of federal and state requirements for the operation of these types of facilities will ensure that exposure to residential uses or sensitive receptors at public facilities will be minimized or avoided.

Schools: The City contains a number of public and private schools and some of the Inventory Sites are within a quarter mile of these school facilities. When individual sites are proposed for development, each one will have its own CEQA process including an assessment of whether or not local schools are impacted by hazmat facilities or past contamination on a particular Inventory Site. Potential impacts related to hazmat on Inventory Sites can be addressed by standard conditions of approval and/or site-specific mitigation measures as appropriate when specific development is proposed.

⁸ DTSC EnviroStor website <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>

Construction of development associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments could potentially involve the transport, use, and/or disposal of hazardous materials; however, all development would comply with the California Health and Safety Code, OSHA, and SCAQMD regulations. Implementation of the 2021-2029 Housing Element Update would result in additional residential uses within the City, and significant impacts related to the transport, use, and/or disposal of hazardous materials are not typically associated with residential land uses. Construction of residential units or public facilities associated with the Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element would not be anticipated to result in sustained and prolonged use of hazardous materials resulting in a significant hazardous materials impact. In addition, future development would be required to comply with CERCLA, RCRA, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, and related requirements, as well as adherence to the City's Safety Element policies regarding hazardous materials. Considering the preceding analysis, the proposed updates to the three General Plan Elements will not result in effects from the use, transport, or disposal of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials or wastes, under normal or upset and accident conditions, which could impact human health or the environment with implementation of existing regulations, standards, and General Plan Policy. Impacts would be less than significant. Thus, the proposed General Plan Amendments would not introduce new impacts or substantially increased impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials and would be consistent with the impact analysis provided in the approved General Plan EIR.

E) No Impact. The closest airport to the City is the San Gabriel Valley Airport in El Monte located approximately 2.1 miles to the west at its closest point. The City does not fall within the Planning Boundary/Airport Influence Area for this airport (DRP 2004). Since Baldwin Park is not located within two miles of any airport and is not located within any airport land use plan, there is no impact of the proposed General Plan Amendments and no mitigation required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding airport hazards.

F) No Impact. The Baldwin Park Office of Emergency Management coordinates disaster response and recovery efforts in the City of Baldwin Park. The City's goal is to respond to emergency situations with a coordinated system of emergency service providers and facilities. The City has planned responses to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, terrorist activities, and war-related operations. The City is part of a county and statewide emergency management system that addresses evacuation and movement of people in the event of an emergency. It should be noted that the City's plans are flexible in order to respond to the inherent chaos associated with disasters in a manner that is coordinated but responsive to the immediate needs of the situation. The proposed General Plan Amendments do not include any land use, circulation, or safety changes that could conflict with implementation of the Office of Emergency Management or other emergency response programs. The proposed Safety Element includes updated provisions to reinforce these procedures. No impact will occur. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding emergency plans.

G) Less than Significant Impact. As noted by CALFIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps, the City is not located in an area of high fire threat (CSG 2020). Because Baldwin Park is an urbanized community, structural fires rather than wildland fires represent the greatest fire risk in the City. The CBC focuses on the construction and materials used in roofs, attic ventilation, exterior walls, decking, floors and underfloors, and ancillary buildings, structures, and appendages to minimize fire hazards and associated impacts. The proposed Safety Element includes a discussion of wildfires which are likely to increase throughout the Los Angeles region as a result of climate change, and the impact to Baldwin Park of related poor air quality caused by wildfire smoke. Policies and implementation programs are included to address indoor and outdoor air quality. Impacts under the proposed General Plan Amendments will be less than significant with implementation of existing regulations. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding wildfires.

10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner that would: (i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; (ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site; (iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or (iv) impede or redirect flood flows.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The following goals, policies, and implementing actions are included in the proposed General Plan Amendments related to hydrology and water quality:

Safety Element

Goal S-5. Ensure resiliency against flooding hazards.

Policy 5.01: Work in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to identify and construct needed local and regional storm drainage improvements to relieve localized flooding problems.

Policy 5.02: Design storm drainage infrastructure to accommodate existing and anticipated storm flows associated with changing climatic conditions.

Policy 5.03: Monitor the work of the Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies' response plan to maintain the Santa Fe Dam and to reduce the risk of seismic failure.

Policy 5.04: Require new development, redevelopment, or major remodels to reduce on-site drainage flows below existing levels and increase groundwater recharge where appropriate.

Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element

Goal HS-9: Achieve a high level of water conservation, and continue to improve the quality of local groundwater.

Action HS-9.15: Work closely with the Valley County Water District to implement the Urban Water Management Plan, and continue to actively participate in the periodic updates to the plan.

A) Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Baldwin Park has prepared a Stormwater Management Implementation Plan to support the City's application for a Municipal Storm Water (MS4) Permit to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Plan represents the five-year management strategy for controlling the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable in storm water runoff during the first NPDES storm water permit term. Baldwin Park's Municipal Code implements the City's storm water quality management strategies consistent with its General Construction permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. These regulations are applicable to all storm water generated on any developed or undeveloped land within the city. With issuance of the MS4 permit, the regulatory requirements have shifted from requiring a Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) for new development and redevelopment projects to requiring compliance with the Los Angeles County's LID ordinance and submittal of a comprehensive LID Plan and analysis to demonstrate compliance with the LID Standards Manual. Applicants for future development pursuant to the proposed General Plan Amendments would be required to prepare an LID Plan for review and approval by the City that includes 1) feasibility of infiltration including a percolation report, 2) source control measures, 3) calculation of the Stormwater Quality Design Volume (SWQDV) which must be retained onsite, 4) discussion of the feasibility of stormwater runoff harvest and use, 5) stormwater quality control measures, and 6) proposed operation and maintenance plan.

Housing is a common type of urban development and is addressed in the City waste discharge requirements for construction and operational sources of pollutants that can affect downstream surface water bodies by discharge into the local storm drain system. Discharge of pollutants into water bodies can result in effects on the beneficial uses of the water body. Beneficial uses include water for agricultural uses, special areas for biological resources, cold freshwater habitat, commercial and sport fishing, multitudes of habitats, freshwater replenishment sources, areas of artificial or natural groundwater recharge, water for industrial supply and process, water for domestic uses, waters used for navigation, areas where rare or endangered species could occur, fish spawning grounds, migration, shellfish harvesting, and recreational activities.⁹ The resulting impacts due to effects on water quality and associated beneficial uses include disruption of the ecosystem due to the loss of habitat, potential harm or death to sensitive species, and a narrowing of migratory options and species' gene pools. Impacts to humans range from quality of life issues such as the loss of recreational waters to potential health impacts due to contamination of drinking water supplies and contamination of fish and other marine life farmed and sold for food.

The proposed General Plan Amendments do not include any policies or programs that would conflict with implementation of the NPDES program such that future development could result in exceedance of the waste discharge requirements and thus will not substantially impact downstream water quality. Furthermore, future development will be subject to environmental inquiry and potential review pursuant to CEQA. Impacts related to violation of water quality standards and waste discharge requirements will be less than significant with implementation of existing permit regulations. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding water quality.

B) Less Than Significant Impact. Implementation of the proposed 2021-2029 Housing Element would result in an increase in development which will require potable water for drinking, food preparation, cleaning, and bathing as well as water for landscape irrigation. Future housing will generate demand for water in addition to the demand of existing uses and the incremental increase in demand as growth occurs in the area; therefore, the future housing will contribute to cumulative, long-term increases in demand for groundwater and other water resources. The San Gabriel River, which runs along the west side

⁹ Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control District. Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan)(CWB 2018)

of the City, is a fully improved flood control channel. Water is essential to the proper function of an ecosystem and human life and activities; thus, water shortages can impact the health and well-being of humans and the quality of the environment.

According to state law, local water agencies must regularly update their Urban Water Master Plan and large development projects must prepare a separate water supply assessment (WSA) to identify how to avoid or reduce impacts on surface or groundwater supplies over a 20-year period even under drought conditions.

The proposed Housing Element Update does not involve development of any of the Inventory Sites at this time, and does not designate any additional Inventory Sites nor change any General Plan land use designation or zoning beyond that which was in the General Plan EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. Therefore, potential programmatic impacts associated with the Inventory Sites will remain within the scope of analysis in the General Plan EIR. Future development of the Inventory Sites would be subject to environmental inquiry and possible project-specific environmental review pursuant to CEQA. Considering the proposed Housing Element is consistent with the analysis documented in the General Plan EIR and Specific Plan EIR and Addendum and will not increase surface or groundwater demand beyond that assessed in those EIRs, the proposed General Plan Amendments would result in equivalent or less than significant impacts related to the decline in groundwater levels when compared to the analysis and conclusions in the General Plan EIR and Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding groundwater supplies.

C) Less Than Significant Impact. The San Gabriel River runs along the west boundary of the City and is a fully improved flood control channel. Future development of housing consistent with the proposed 2021-2029 Housing Element would occur on currently or previously developed sites and undeveloped sites but would not alter existing drainage channels or patterns. Development on currently or previously developed sites is unlikely to substantially change the hydrological conditions of the site that was undoubtedly graded and engineered to convey on-site flows to local storm drains or water quality basins in accordance with the City standard requirements for drainage and flood control, as specified in the Municipal Code. Development on previously undeveloped sites may result in more substantial changes to the site topography and drainage conditions as cut and fill activity occurs to balance the site for building construction. The concern with changes in on-site drainage is the potential for flooding, erosion, siltation, pollutant loading, and exceedance of storm drain capacity due to the lack of or improperly designed conveyance of runoff. The effects of changes in drainage patterns can result in impacts to human health and quality of life and the environment through damage or destruction of structures, sedimentation of downstream water bodies and the resulting impact to aquatic biological resources, decreased water quality with similar impacts to aquatic biological resources, and storm water backup that can result in similar types of flooding impacts.

The proposed Safety Element requires new development, redevelopment, or major remodels to reduce on-site drainage flows below existing levels and increase groundwater recharge where appropriate. Low impact design features are encouraged for all new developments and redevelopments within Downtown, consistent with the Downtown Specific Plan, where the majority of the planned RHNA is anticipated to be accommodated. Therefore, impacts due to the effects of changes in drainage patterns or potential erosion relative to the proposed General Plan Amendments will be less than significant with implementation of existing regulations, General Plan goals and policies, and Downtown Specific Plan policies and actions. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding drainage patterns.

D) Less Than Significant Impact. Most of Baldwin Park faces minimal flood hazards, as outlined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard maps. FEMA has not mapped any 100-year or 500-year flood zones in Baldwin Park¹⁰, meaning that flood hazards are minimal and flood insurance is not required for Baldwin Park property owners with a federally backed mortgage.

Inundation from the Santa Fe Dam located on the northern boundary of Baldwin Park poses the greatest threat from dam inundation for the City. The dam was built as a flood risk management and water conservation project in 1949 and is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Los Angeles District. Completed in 1949, the project is located on the San Gabriel River about four miles downstream from the mouth of the San Gabriel Canyon. The San Gabriel River originates on the southern slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains and flows into the Santa Fe Reservoir then across the broad alluvial San

¹⁰ FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer Viewer Website, Flood Insurance Rate Map 06037C1700F dated 9-26-2008

Gabriel Valley to the Whittier Narrows Reservoir. Santa Fe Dam is an essential element of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area flood control system and its primary purpose of the dam is to reduce the risk of flood damage for the densely populated area between it and Whittier Narrows Reservoir. The USACE has determined that inundation from dam failure could affect the commercial, industrial, and residential areas of the City. However, as noted in the General Plan EIR, due to the method of construction and the dam's past performance during previous earthquakes, and the fact that water is present only a few months out of the year, catastrophic failure of this dam and resultant flooding are considered unlikely.

Seiche is the process by which water sloshes outside its containing boundaries, generally due to an earthquake. Seiche can result in localized flooding that can result in property damage or personal injury. This could occur within an open reservoir, lake, or other large waterbody (see discussion regarding the Santa Fe Dam Reservoir). The City does not contain any other sizeable open reservoirs, lakes, or other large bodies of water, therefore, impacts resulting from the effects of seiche in the City will be less than significant and no mitigation is required. A *tsunami* is a large wave that generates in the ocean, generally from an earthquake, and builds intense strength and height before impacting a coast. Tsunami can result in significant property damage and loss of life due to the intense, destructive nature of the wave and the often-sudden occurrence with little chance for warning. The City would likely experience minimal impacts from the effects of a tsunami because it is located a minimum of 27 miles inland of the Pacific Ocean. In addition, according to the General Plan EIR, the City is relatively flat and risk of hazard due to mudflow is less than significant.

Implementation of the Housing Element Update would result in an increase in development; however, as noted above, the RHNA allocation described in the Housing Element Update, and related development on Inventory Sites, would be consistent with the amount of residential development analyzed within the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. No new significant impacts and no substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts associated with the proposed project would occur. Likewise, there is no new information of substantial importance requiring new analysis or verification. Therefore, the potential impacts of flooding, tsunami, or seiche and any related release of pollutants would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding flooding-related impacts.

E) Less Than Significant Impact. This assessment is for both surface water management planning and sustainable groundwater management plans.

Water Quality Control Plan. The Water Quality Control Plan Los Angeles Region, Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (Basin Plan)¹¹ is the water quality control plan for the greater Los Angeles Basin, including the City of Baldwin Park. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, and contains implementation programs and policies to achieve those objectives for all waters addressed through the Basin Plan (CWB 2018). The Basin Plan is continually being updated to include amendments related to implementation of the total maximum daily load¹² (TMDL) of specific potential pollutants or water quality stressors, revisions of programs and policies within the Los Angeles RWQCB region, and changes to beneficial use designations and associated water quality objectives. The General Plan requires future development to be consistent with the Basin Plan. Therefore, the proposed General Plan Amendments will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan.

Groundwater Management Plan. In 2014, the governor signed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) into law which requires governments and water agencies of high and medium priority basins to halt overdraft and bring groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. SGMA empowers local agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage basins sustainably and requires those GSAs to adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for crucial groundwater basins in California.

¹¹ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/

¹² TMDL is a regulatory term in the U.S. [Clean Water Act](#), describing a plan for restoring impaired waters that identifies the maximum amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive while still meeting water quality standards

The City overlies the Central (groundwater) Basin which was adjudicated in 1965 and the Central Basin Watermaster manages groundwater supplies and replenishment. The City coordinates with the Watermaster to ensure adequate water service to the City. The master groundwater planning of the Watermaster is based on adopted land use plans in the General Plans of the cities that utilize Central Basin groundwater. This Initial Study examines the potential environmental impacts at a program level for the proposed General Plan Amendments since the Amendments themselves do not specifically authorize the construction of any housing development or other construction project, nor do they indicate where and when specific housing projects or city facilities will occur. Therefore, the proposed General Plan Amendments will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a sustainable groundwater management plan. Implementation of the Housing Element Update would result in an increase in development; however, as noted above, the RHNA allocation described in the Housing Element Update, and related development on Inventory Sites, would be consistent with the amount of residential development analyzed within the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. No new significant impacts and no substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts associated with the proposed project would occur. Likewise, there is no new information of substantial importance requiring new analysis or verification. Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding surface and groundwater planning.

11. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

A) No Impact. Communities form neighborhoods within a broader assemblage of land uses, acting as physically bounded and typically culturally and economically homogenous social networks that often define a person’s local sense of place and help shape an individual’s social and cultural perspective, particularly as a youth. Such communities typically are self-policing groups with internal codes of conduct and social norms that help define community character while ensuring individuals do not unduly upset the fabric and spirit that perpetuate the community in operating as a social unit. A significant impact would occur if anticipated development on proposed Inventory Sites, infrastructure improvements implemented pursuant to the Safety Element, or facilities implemented pursuant to the Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element are sufficiently large or configured in such a way so as to create a physical barrier within an established community.

The Housing Element does not propose specific development on any specific Inventory Site at this time but rather identifies Inventory Sites throughout the City where anticipated development, consistent with adopted land use policy, is at this time determined to be most likely to occur. These sites are located in urban areas and as infill sites, which is not expected to divide an established community. The General Plan does not designate any established communities that would be affected by implementation of the proposed Housing Element. The Downtown Specific Plan, where all large Inventory Sites are located, includes policies and actions that aim to establish improved connectivity throughout the Downtown community; therefore, implementation of the proposed Housing Element will not create any physical barrier within the community. Furthermore, project implementation will not require new infrastructure systems such as roadways or flood control channels not already planned and previously considered in the General Plan EIR. As such, the proposed General Plan Amendments would not divide or disrupt neighborhoods or any other established community elements. No impact will occur and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding dividing communities.

B) No Impact. As outlined in Threshold 11.A above, the proposed 2021-2029 Housing Element does not propose construction on any of the Inventory Sites at this time. The proposed 2021-2029 Housing Element does not propose any changes to land use policy or rezoning of any property, and thus does not conflict with the General Plan Land Use Element or zoning code. The proposed General Plan Amendments do not include any goals, policies, or programs that would conflict with adopted General Plan goals and policies to mitigate impacts due to effects generated by development within the Planning Area, as specified in the certified General Plan EIR. Furthermore, as previously discussed, implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. Therefore, implementation of the Housing Element Update would not result in significant land use and planning impacts. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding consistency with land use plans.

12. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose any changes to the existing Open Space and Conservation Element (OSCE) of the General Plan, which will continue to protect mineral resources in the City as needed.

A-B) Less Than Significant Impact. Minerals refer to aggregate resources, or rock, sand, and gravel, energy-producing fields, including oil, gas, and geothermal substances, and related mining operations. The California Department of Conservation (DOC) classifies land in the state into mineral resource zones based on the known or inferred mineral resource potential of that land (DOC, 2021a). The City is located in the San Gabriel Valley Production-Consumption (P-C) Region of the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area (DOC, 2021b). Land in the City has been classified by the California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG) according to the presence or absence of significant sand and gravel deposits (suitable for use in construction-grade aggregate). The land classification is presented in the form of maps showing Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ). There are four MRZ classifications, MRZ-1 through MRZ-4 as described below:

- MRZ-1 are areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence.
- MRZ-2 are areas where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present or where it is judged that a high likelihood for their presence exists.
- MRZ-3 are areas containing mineral deposits the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data.
- MRZ-4 are areas where availability information is inadequate for assignment to any other MRZ-zone.

The General Plan EIR states that the City has not designated locally important mineral resource recovery areas within or immediately adjacent to the City. The Baldwin Park General Plan EIR concluded that there will be no impact to the availability of mineral resources of value to the State or City.

The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose specific development on any specific Inventory Site or other construction project at this time and as previously discussed, implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum; therefore, programmatic impacts of the proposed General Plan Amendments are similar to those already analyzed in the General Plan EIR. In addition, none of the Inventory Sites have currently active mineral resource recovery operations or oil or gas wells. Finally, any new development under the proposed General Plan Amendments would require an assessment of hazards which could include onsite oil or gas wells, if any were present on the site, as part of the CEQA process. Therefore, impacts of the proposed General Plan Amendments will be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding mineral resources.

13. NOISE

Would the project result in:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose any changes to the existing Noise Element of the General Plan, which will continue to regulate noise levels in the City.

A) Less Than Significant Impact. The main existing noise sources within Baldwin Park include vehicular traffic on neighboring freeways as well as a number of major arterial streets in the City and the Metrolink commuter rail line. To ensure that noise producers do not adversely affect sensitive receptors, the City of Baldwin Park identifies land use compatibility standards within the General Plan to use for planning and development decisions. The General Plan Noise Element includes policies, standards, criteria, programs, diagrams, and maps related to protecting public health and welfare from excessive noise exposure. General Plan Goals and Policies together with Municipal Code standards for noise control are incorporated into the land use planning process to reduce noise and land use incompatibilities. As indicated above, no changes are proposed to the Noise Element as part of the proposed General Plan Amendments.

According to the General Plan EIR, construction activity is typically short-term in nature and is generally not considered to have a significant impact on noise sensitive uses as long as construction activity is limited to daylight hours. The majority of housing is anticipated to be developed on Sites Inventory is located in the Downtown Specific Plan area (80 percent). All sites over one acre are located in the Downtown Specific Plan area. The Downtown Specific Plan EIR includes mitigation measures to reduce the level of impact associated with short term construction noise. Projects developed pursuant to the proposed General Plan Amendments would require project-level CEQA review, which would further identify and require necessary mitigation for potential site-specific impacts related to construction and operational noise and vibration.

The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose specific development on any specific Inventory Site or any other construction project at this time and as previously discussed, implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. Therefore, programmatic impacts associated with potential development of the Inventory Sites will remain within the scope of analysis in the General Plan EIR. Future housing development will be subject to preliminary environmental review pursuant to CEQA and if found not to be exempt, subject to full environmental analysis at which time all environmental issues will be vetted and appropriate mitigation incorporated, if needed, should noise impacts be identified. Potential impacts would

be less than significant with implementation of existing standards and regulations. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding noise levels.

B) Less Than Significant Impact. Vibration is sound radiated through the ground. The rumbling sound caused by the vibration of room surfaces is called groundborne noise. The ground motion caused by vibration is measured as particle velocity in inches per second, and in the U.S. is referenced as vibration decibels (VdB). The background vibration velocity level in residential and educational areas is usually around 50 VdB while the vibration velocity level threshold of perception for humans is approximately 65 VdB. A vibration velocity level of 75 VdB is the approximate dividing line between barely perceptible and distinctly perceptible levels for many people. Sources within buildings such as operation of mechanical equipment, movement of people, or the slamming of doors cause most perceptible indoor vibration. Typical outdoor sources of perceptible groundborne vibration are construction equipment, steel-wheeled trains, and traffic on rough roads. If a roadway is smooth, the groundborne vibration from traffic is rarely perceptible. The range of interest is from approximately 50 VdB, which is the typical background vibration velocity level, and 100 VdB, which is the general threshold where minor damage can occur in fragile or historic buildings.

Typical construction vibration mitigation includes routing and placement of equipment to maximize distance to receptors and use of alternative equipment, such as use of drilled pile drivers as opposed to impact drivers. Subsurface dampeners can also be utilized to reduce groundborne vibration. Short-term Impacts related to groundborne vibration during construction would be expected to be less than significant with implementation of local environmental review procedures. Typical mitigation for long-term vibration impacts related to occupied buildings include setbacks from vibration sources or building construction to minimize transmission of vibration.

No short- or long-term impacts would be associated with vibration at a programmatic level for the proposed General Plan Amendments as no policy changes, developments, or infrastructure improvements are directly proposed as part of the proposed General Plan Amendments. Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding vibration.

C) No Impact. The City of Baldwin Park is not located within two miles or within a comprehensive land use plan for any public or private airport. In addition, no private airstrips are located within the City. No specific new development is associated with the proposed General Plan Amendments, and no changes to safety policies related to air traffic are proposed. No impacts would occur. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding airport noise.

Cumulative Impacts. Residential land uses typically do not produce excessive noise either individually or cumulatively that could substantially increase existing, ambient noise levels. The future development of the Inventory Sites could increase ambient noise levels due to increased traffic generation in the project vicinity. Thus, development of the Inventory Sites will partially contribute to the noise volumes identified in the General Plan EIR. The City reviews all new development proposals per CEQA which includes the analysis of vehicular traffic noise. As outlined in Threshold 13.A above, the Housing Element does not propose any specific development at this time that would invalidate this prior finding or further increase traffic levels beyond those analyzed in the General Plan EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. Project-specific increases in ambient noise levels due to future development on each Inventory Site will be evaluated as development is proposed over the long term pursuant to existing policies and procedures. With these existing policies and procedures in place, impacts related to increases in ambient noise levels will be less than significant and no mitigation is required. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. No new significant impacts and no substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts associated with the proposed project would occur, nor would the significant unavoidable impacts identified in the GP EIR be worsened. Likewise, there is no new information of substantial importance requiring new analysis or verification. The project does not propose substantial changes that require major revisions to the GP EIR, and no new mitigation measures are required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding cumulative noise impacts.

14. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The updated goals and policies of the proposed 2021-2029 Housing Element are directly related to housing population growth. The proposed Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element also includes goals, policies, and implementing actions pertaining to healthy and safe housing for all residents, as summarized in the project description. The proposed Safety Element update does not include specific measures pertaining to housing.

A) No Impact. Adoption and implementation of the Housing Element will not, in and of itself, directly result in population growth. Population growth is a complex interaction of immigration, emigration, births, deaths, land use, and economic factors of which the General Plan and Housing Element are only a part. Regional models of population growth and change, accounting for these complexities, are developed by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). The proposed Housing Element update is designed to guide and accommodate the City's share of the projected regional population growth and associated housing over the next eight years. Pursuant to Government Code 65584, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is required to determine the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), by income category, for Council of Governments (COGs) throughout the State. The RHNA is based on the California Department of Finance population projections and regional population forecasts used in preparing regional transportation plans. COGs are required to allocate to each locality a share of housing need totaling the RHNA for each income category. The RHNA is based on the California Department of Finance population projections and regional population forecasts used in preparing regional transportation plans. COGs are required to allocate to each locality a share of housing need totaling the RHNA for each income category.

Tables 2-1 through 2-5 in the Project Description of this Addendum present updated growth information from the Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. Table 2-1, Table 2-2, and Table 2-3 describe the RHNA allocation, approved and proposed projects that can count toward the RHNA, and the land inventory to meet the RHNA, respectively. As indicated in Table 2-3, the City identified sites that exceed the minimum RHNA (+326 units) to provide an adequate buffer to ensure no net loss of sites based on future development conditions, consistent with HCD guidance. Table 2-4 shows the 2002 General Plan Buildout growth potential was estimated at 1,759 units and 3.37 million square feet of non-residential development. However, Table 2-5 then shows the Downtown Specific Plan adds 912 units to the total capacity while incrementally reducing the non-residential capacity by 102,154 square feet. The analysis concludes (Table 2-6) that the City will still have 260 units of surplus capacity after accommodating all of the RHNA inventory sites. Therefore, planned growth can be accommodated in the City under the General Plan (implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum). As such, no new significant impacts and no substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts associated with the proposed project would occur, nor would the significant unavoidable impacts identified in the GP EIR be worsened. Likewise, there is no new

information of substantial importance requiring new analysis or verification. The project does not propose substantial changes that require major revisions to the GP EIR, and no new mitigation measures are required, so an Addendum to the General Plan EIR is the appropriate CEQA document for the proposed General Plan Amendments.

The Housing Element identifies adequate land and planning mechanisms to accommodate the future housing needs of the growing population derived directly from the population growth estimates for the region, so the proposed housing Element Update would not induce unplanned population growth. Furthermore, development under the proposed General Plan Amendments would not, by itself, be growth inducing since the city is already built-out and served by existing infrastructure. The Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element policies and actions support ongoing housing maintenance. No impact will occur related to population growth. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding population growth.

B) No Impact. The proposed General Plan Amendments are intended encourage and facilitate housing development and preserve and enhance existing housing stock. The natural recycling of land will not result in the net loss of housing units because such redevelopment will result in the development of new housing units. Thus, the availability of residential units in response to increases in population is supported by the Housing Element, considering the Housing Element is based on regional growth estimates and future residential units are intended to support that growth as guided by the goals and policies of the proposed Housing Element. The proposed Housing Element also includes provisions to develop anti-displacement policies including relocation assistance and emergency rent assistance for low-income tenants as well as enforcement of the City's Rent Stabilization Ordinance. No impacts related to the displacement of housing or people would occur and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding housing.

15. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The goals and policies of the proposed Safety Element update and proposed Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element update include provisions related to public services, as indicated in the Project Description. Potential development implemented pursuant to 2021-2029 Housing Element policies is also evaluated in this section.

A) Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Baldwin Park contracts with the Los Angeles County Fire Department for fire protection/emergency services. The East Regional Operations Bureau serves Baldwin Park and reports to the Chief Deputy of Emergency Operations, and includes Division 2, 4, 8, and 9, representing 76 fire stations serving communities within the east side of Los Angeles County, with Division 2 serving Baldwin Park. Fire protection would be provided by Station No. 29, located at 14334 Los Angeles Street.

New development under the 2021-2029 Housing Element will result in the incremental increase in need for fire protection services as the City's population grows and the number of residential units increases. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. Construction and operation of a new fire station, if needed, would be subject to preliminary environmental review pursuant to CEQA and if found not to be exempt, subject to full environmental analysis at which time all environmental issues will be vetted and appropriate mitigation incorporated, if needed. Potential impacts resulting from the effects of operating the fire department as well as constructing and operating future fire facilities will be less than significant with implementation of existing regulations. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding fire services.

B) Less Than Significant Impact. The Baldwin Park City Police Department (BPPD) provides police protection services to the City. According to the General Plan EIR, growth anticipated to occur under the General Plan could result in the need for additional police facilities. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. The BPPD is committed to Community Policing and Problem Solving which includes many traditional methods of policing. Many programs have been implemented to provide communication and accessibility between the Police Department and the community. Programs include foot and bike patrol, neighborhood watch and business programs, graffiti removal, and a volunteer program.

The Police Headquarters are located at 14403 Pacific Avenue but the locations of any potentially needed future facilities are not known at this time. The effects of constructing and operating a new or expanded police station are typical of any development project, such as pollutant emissions from use of construction equipment and staff vehicle trips, changes in the

visual character of the station site in the context of the neighborhood, and increased vehicle trips on local roadways. Police stations also result in the specific effect of generating periodic increases in noise from use of sirens, although typically sirens will be initiated while on patrol as opposed to directly initiating from the substation. The City collects Development Impact Fees to offset the impact of new development, as it occurs. Any construction of police facilities would be subject to preliminary environmental review pursuant to CEQA and if found not to be exempt, subject to full environmental analysis at which time all environmental issues will be vetted and appropriate mitigation incorporated, if needed. Potential impacts resulting from the effects of constructing and operating future police facilities will be less than significant with implementation of existing regulations. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding police services.

C) Less Than Significant Impact. The Baldwin Park Unified School District currently has 13 elementary schools, 4 middle/junior high schools, and 3 high schools located within the District boundaries. The District also offers an Adult Transition program and an Adult Community Education program. The effects of schools that can result in environmental impacts are specific and include peak traffic levels occurring in the morning and early afternoon, playground noise, and athletic field lighting. Furthermore, analyses of school impacts are unique in that any impacts resulting from the effects of schools are considered fully mitigated through the payment of development impact fees pursuant to the Leroy F. Green School Facilities Act, therefore, pursuant to State law and the payment of development impact fees, impacts would be less than significant. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding schools.

D) Less Than Significant Impact. Baldwin Park is an urban community with limited opportunity for the addition of new open space. The City currently contains 27 acres of parkland in six public parks, which comprise slightly less than one percent of the City land. To supplement the City's park inventory, the City maintains joint-use agreements with local public schools to allow school grounds to be used as public parkland during non-school hours. Additionally, residents have access to the Whittier Narrows and Santa Fe Dam Recreation Areas, located in close proximity to Baldwin Park. Baldwin Park has one community park, the 12-acre Morgan Park, located in the Central Business District within walking distance of the Civic Center and the public library. Major amenities include a 35,000 SF community center, 15,000 square foot senior center, swimming pool, basketball courts, outdoor playground equipment, and an outdoor amphitheater for summer concerts and community celebrations.

The proposed General Plan Amendments would generate new or relocated residents that will require park and recreation facilities and associated programs, either through expansion of existing facilities or construction of new facilities. Construction or expansion of parks can result in nominal effects such as pollutant emissions from construction activities and operational trip generation potentially resulting in similarly nominal impacts to the environment.

Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. The Health and Sustainability Element includes provisions to enhance existing parks and to identify new opportunities to increase access to open space through pocket parks, greenways, and tot lots as new developments are proposed. Pursuant to State law, the City imposes parkland dedication or in-lieu fees on new development that includes a subdivision equivalent to four acres of parkland per 1,000 new residents. Construction and operation of new or expanded parks and recreation facilities will be subject to preliminary environmental review pursuant to CEQA and if found not to be exempt, subject to full environmental analysis at which time all environmental issues will be vetted and appropriate mitigation incorporated, if needed. Potential impacts resulting from the effects of constructing and operating future parks and recreation facilities will be less than significant with implementation of existing regulations. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding parks.

E) Less Than Significant Impact. New or relocated residents associated with new housing guided by the goals and policies of the proposed Housing Element Update will generate the incremental need for a variety of public and quasi-public services including libraries, medical clinics, urgent care facilities, hospitals, social service centers, senior centers, and other facilities. Construction and operation of new or expanded public service facilities will be subject to preliminary environmental review pursuant to CEQA and if found not to be exempt, subject to full environmental analysis at which time all environmental issues will be vetted and appropriate mitigation incorporated, if needed. Potential impacts resulting from the effects of constructing and operating future public service facilities will be less than significant with implementation of existing regulations, as

implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding other public facilities.

16. RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A-B) Less Than Significant Impact. Pursuant to State law, the City imposes parkland dedication or in-lieu fees (“Quimby fees”) equivalent to four acres of parkland per 1,000 new residents for new development that includes a subdivision of land. The proposed General Plan Amendments would result in new or relocated residents that will require park and recreation facilities and associated programs, either through expansion of existing facilities or construction of new facilities. Construction or expansion of parks can result in nominal effects such as pollutant emissions from construction activities and operational trip generation potentially resulting in similarly nominal impacts to the environment. The City will continue to collect in-lieu fees or require construction of new or expanded parks from proponents of new housing as a condition of approval of a tentative map or parcel map to compensate for incremental increases in parks and recreation service demand. In addition, the Downtown Specific Plan includes development of additional future pocket parks, trails, and open spaces, as well as the renewal of the existing open space in front of City Hall. The Health and Sustainability Element includes provisions to enhance existing parks and to identify new opportunities to increase access to open space through pocket parks, greenways, and tot lots as new developments are proposed. Implementation of these policies and actions would increase the overall capacity of recreational parks and open space and thereby could accommodate the increase in population caused by development of the proposed General Plan Amendments. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. Construction and operation of new or expanded parks and recreation facilities will be subject to preliminary environmental review pursuant to CEQA and if found not to be exempt, subject to full environmental analysis at which time all environmental issues will be vetted and appropriate mitigation incorporated, if needed. Potential impacts resulting from the effects of constructing and operating future parks and recreation facilities will be less than significant with implementation of existing regulations. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding recreation.

17. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
D) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Safety Element includes goals and policies related to transportation, as indicated in the Project Description. The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose any changes to the existing Circulation Element, which will also continue to guide transportation-related issues and improvements within the City.

A) Less than Significant Impact. The City is served by local transportation facilities including streets, passenger and freight railways, and bus routes in addition to non-motorized transportation facilities such as sidewalks, trails, and bikeways. These facilities provide options for travel modes that include passenger vehicles, trains, buses, bikes, and walking. These facilities and modes of travel represent the circulation system for the City, and the broader system, designed with the goals of efficiently moving people and goods throughout the region by providing ease of access to multiple modes of travel.

Future housing development associated with the 2021-2029 Housing Element will primarily generate passenger vehicle trips that will disperse during the morning as residents drive to commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities for a variety of reasons but primarily for work and school. Some trips may be to transit centers, such that a portion of a resident’s trip may include alternative transportation modes, while others may simply walk to their destination or to other transit options. The return leg of a trip is generally anticipated to be the reverse of the initial leg of the trip during the afternoon, albeit with higher likelihood of a portion of the trip being dedicated to accessing shopping, entertainment, or other uses.

The concern regarding transportation facilities and their counterpart modes of travel is excessive use throughout the day or during morning and/or afternoon peak hours and the resulting effects on the performance of the facilities’ ability to move people and goods. The direct effects of reduced circulation system performance are annoyance and stress, thereby decreasing the quality of life for the user. Direct failure or accelerated deterioration of circulation system facilities can also occur if the facility was not designed to function under increased loading. A variety of indirect impacts to human health and the environment are attributed specifically to excessive use of vehicles on local and regional roadways including effects related to air pollution and ambient noise.

SCAG Plans. Two planning efforts guide the long-term improvement of the circulation system at the regional and local levels. The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) is administered by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to meet the needs of travel and goods movement through the year 2045.

While the RTP/SCS addresses the broader goals of the transportation network, the City's General Plan Circulation Element identifies long-term transportation improvements for local facilities. The General Plan includes goals and policies aimed at providing an efficient multi-modal circulation system in the city. General Plan policies also encourage the development of an efficient and safe bikeway and public transportation system.

Summary. These local and regional planning efforts are designed to reduce the direct and indirect effects of travel so as to minimize or avoid resulting impacts on human health and the environment. The proposed 2021-2029 Housing Element is consistent with the growth assumptions used in the development of the RTP/SCS and does not include any land use changes to the General Plan growth projections, therefore, the proposed 2021-2029 Housing Element will not conflict with the goals of transportation planning efforts of the City or SCAG. Furthermore, according to the General Plan EIR, implementation of General Plan policies will avoid or reduce impacts of General Plan build out on the performance of the roadway system. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum.

Based on this preceding analysis, future housing development will not impede local or regional efforts to ensure an efficient circulation system. Future housing development and other construction projects implemented pursuant to the proposed General Plan Amendments will be subject to preliminary environmental review pursuant to CEQA and if found not to be exempt, subject to full environmental analysis at which time all environmental issues will be vetted and appropriate mitigation incorporated, if needed, should transportation impacts be identified that are not covered under existing or future development impact fees. Potential impacts resulting from conflicts with local and regional transportation plans and performance requirements will be less than significant with implementation of existing standards and regulations. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding consistency with transportation plans.

B) Less Than Significant Impact. In response to Senate Bill (SB) 743, the California Natural Resource Agency certified and adopted new CEQA Guidelines in December 2018, which now identify Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the most appropriate metric to evaluate a project's transportation impact under CEQA (Section 15064.3). Effective July 1, 2020, the previous CEQA metric of level of service (LOS), typically measured in terms of automobile delay, roadway capacity and congestion, will no longer constitute a significant environmental impact. VMT is now the accepted methodology for evaluating potential transportation impacts of a project. To be consistent with the 2020 State CEQA Guidelines, a LOS analysis is no longer required for purposes of this Initial Study impact analysis and determination of significant impacts under CEQA, only an evaluation of non-vehicular circulation impacts is required.

Bus Transit. The public transportation system in Baldwin Park provides non-auto options for commute, utility, and recreational travel, with connections to downtown Los Angeles, LAX, and other regional cities and destinations. The City of Baldwin Park is served by a number of bus, commuter rail, and shuttle and paratransit services. Bus transit generally runs every 30 to 45 minutes during the peak periods, with certain routes running every 25 minutes or better. Generally, transit users prefer reliable wait times of less than 15 minutes when making trip choices.

Metrolink Commuter Rail. The City maintains a Metrolink station located at 14403 E. Pacific Avenue. The station trains have access to surrounding communities with Metrolink stations as well as the main regional station at Union Station in Los Angeles. The station offers connections to Metro Buses, Foothill Transit, the City's Shuttle, and the City of West Covina "Go West" Shuttle. The Downtown Specific Plan was developed to support housing development in proximity to this regional transportation source.

Bicycle Routes. Los Angeles County has established bikeways in various locations throughout the County. A Class I bikeway (off-road) provides a completely separated right-of-way designated for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians. Crossflows with motorized vehicles are minimized. A Class I bikeway is currently provided along the San Gabriel River just west of the City of Baldwin Park. In addition, the San Gabriel River Mid Trail is a Class I pathway that extends 12 miles between the Whittier Narrows Dam/Legg Lake Recreation Area to South Street in Cerritos and the Lakewood border along the San Gabriel River. The new Big Dalton Wash Bike/Walk Path broke ground in 2022, which will provide a Class I pathway,

expanding the local bike and trail network. This 2.3-mile bike path will extend along the east side of the San Gabriel River (from Ramona Boulevard to the Big Dalton Wash) and the Big Dalton Wash (from the river to Baldwin Park Boulevard). Baldwin Park is planning a second project phase to extend the path further upstream to Hilda Solis Park. That second phase will include four pocket park entry points, landscaping, picnic areas, and public art.

Pedestrian Facilities. Baldwin Park has sidewalks and crosswalks on most streets. Bicycle movement is accommodated on a developing system of local bikeways that connect to regional facilities.

Summary. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would result in the future development of additional housing in the City; however, the anticipated growth would be within the limits identified in the existing General Plan EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. This additional housing will not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element policies and Safety Element policies related to non-vehicular transportation are aligned and consistent with the City's Complete Streets policies and Circulation Element. Therefore, any impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding non-vehicular circulation planning.

C) No Impact. The proposed General Plan Amendments do not authorize the construction of any roadway and will result in no effects on the design of existing or future streets. Therefore, it will not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment). There will be no impact and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding road hazards.

D) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed General Plan Amendments do not involve any road construction or any development activity and thus will not obstruct or restrict emergency access to or through the City. Future housing development facilitated by implementation of proposed 2021-2029 Housing Element policies will be subject to site plan review and approval during entitlement review and/or application for building permits. The County Fire Department reviews all plans to ensure compliance with all applicable emergency access and safety requirements. Impacts involving emergency access will be less than significant with continued implementation of development review procedures. In addition, the Safety Element includes provisions to support a strong emergency response system, including updated evacuation routes and procedures. Therefore, any impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding emergency access.

18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
A) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision © of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivisi©(c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A-B) Less Than Significant Impact. Before the arrival of Spanish settlers in the 1700s, the area that would later become Baldwin Park consisted of Tongva People that inhabited dispersed villages in the region. The Tongva are an Indigenous people of California from the Los Angeles Basin and the Southern Channel Islands, an area covering approximately 4,000 square miles. In the precolonial era, the people lived in as many as 100 villages and primarily identified by their village name rather than by a pan-tribal name. During colonization, the people were referred to as Gabrieleño and Fernandeño, names derived from the Spanish missions built on their land - Mission San Gabriel Arcángel and Mission San Fernando Rey de España. The name *Tongva* is widely used but others choose to identify as *Kizh*. By 1806, the Tongva were providing conscripted labor for Spanish missions. Given the long history of Native American settlement in the region, followed by Spanish and Mexican rule, there is at least some probability of finding archaeological or tribal cultural resources in the city.

Impacts to historical, archaeological, cultural, or tribal cultural resources can result in the loss of information important to the history (and potentially the pre-history) of California and the people who created and/or used the materials. The potential for uncovering significant resources during future construction activities conducted pursuant to the proposed General Plan Amendments policies is remote given that no such resources have been discovered and/or recorded previously. In addition, two changes to state law (SB 18 and AB 52) require cities to consult directly with local Native American tribes to determine if any tribal cultural resources will be impacted by private development or public works projects proposed in the city.

The General Plan EIR concluded that build out of the General Plan will not result in no impacts related to the substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resources, as no known archaeological or paleontological resources exist in the vicinity. The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose any land use changes or change the land use designation or zoning of any Inventory Sites that were not already analyzed in the General Plan EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. Therefore, long-term impacts in the City have already been contemplated, and the proposed General Plan Amendments would not result in impacts that are greater than those contemplated in the General Plan EIR. In addition, future development of the proposed Inventory Sites will

be subject to General Plan requirements and environmental evaluation for exemption and potential analysis pursuant to CEQA. Impacts related to implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would be less than significant and no mitigation is required at this programmatic level. No new significant impacts and no substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts associated with the proposed project would occur. Likewise, there is no new information of substantial importance requiring new analysis or verification. The project does not propose substantial changes that require major revisions to the General Plan EIR, and no new mitigation measures are required.

19. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
C) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
D) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
E) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

A) No Impact. Water, sewer/wastewater treatment, electricity, natural gas, and solid waste utility services in the city are provided by a variety of public agencies and private companies. The following sections evaluate each of these utility systems and providers. However, all of these providers base their future capacity needs on land uses proposed in the General Plans of the cities they serve, including Baldwin Park. The proposed General Plan Amendments are generally consistent with the growth projections outlined in the City's 2020 General Plan EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. As indicated in the Project Description, Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum.

Future housing and other construction under the proposed General Plan Amendments would eventually consume additional water, electricity, and natural gas while producing additional wastewater for conveyance and treatment. The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose specific development on any specific Inventory Site or elsewhere at this time; therefore, it is consistent on a programmatic level with the General Plan growth projections which were evaluated in the General Plan EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. The Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum also concluded that utilities and service systems impacts from implementation of the Specific Plan would be less than significant with no mitigation required. Future development is required to ensure adequate utility service during the development review and CEQA process. Therefore, utility impacts would be less than significant at this programmatic level. No new or substantially more

severe effects would occur to utilities and service systems, and no mitigation measures are necessary. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding overall utility services.

B) No Impact. Potable water in Baldwin Park is provided by three water companies: Valley County Water District (VCWD) San Gabriel Valley Water Company (SGVWC), and Valley View Mutual Water Company (VVMWD). These companies currently derive their groundwater supplies from two groundwater basins, the Main San Gabriel Basin (Main Basin) and the Central Basin, with the Main Basin as the primary groundwater source. Water supply sources also include recycled water and connections with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) for delivery of treated imported water. Each of these companies maintain up to date Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs) to demonstrate they have adequate water supplies for a 20-year period based on several future scenarios including multiple drought years. The UMWPs are based on the General Plan land uses of the local jurisdictions served by each water company.

The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose specific development at this time, so programmatic impacts of growth under the proposed General Plan Amendments will not exceed that identified in the General Plan and evaluated in the General Plan EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. As indicated above, the UMWPs of the three local water serving companies are based on the General Plan land uses of the City and its growth projections. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. Therefore, at a programmatic level, the proposed General Plan Amendments would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a sustainable groundwater management plan. Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding water supplies.

C) No Impact. Wastewater treatment is provided by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Districts). The Districts are responsible for the treatment of wastewater generated within the city which is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of District 15, one of the seventeen districts that form the Joint Outfall System. The Joint Outfall System is a regional, integrated sewerage system covers approximately 660 square miles, from the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains in the north to San Pedro Bay in the south, and from the Los Angeles city limits on the west to the Los Angeles County border on the east. This system provides sewage treatment, reuse and disposal for residential, commercial, and industrial users. The system includes the main Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) in Carson, and six satellite water reclamation plants (WRPs). The six WRPs include La Cañada WRP, Long Beach WRP, Los Coyotes WRP, Pomona WRP, San Jose Creek WRP, and Whittier Narrows WRP. The City operates and maintains storm drains within its boundaries, although downstream flows are handled by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD).

Future construction projects implemented pursuant to the proposed General Plan Amendments' policies would generate additional wastewater for conveyance and treatment. However, anticipated housing associated with the proposed General Plan Amendments is consistent with the General Plan growth projections which were evaluated in the General Plan EIR and the Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum, as implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. The Districts have master service plans based on anticipated land uses outlined in the General Plans of the various jurisdictions they serve. Therefore, the Districts already take into account the growth anticipated under the proposed General Plan Amendments. In addition, future development is required to ensure adequate wastewater service during the development review and CEQA process. Therefore, wastewater treatment impacts would be less than significant at this programmatic level and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding wastewater and flood protection services.

D) No Impact. The City of Baldwin Park contracts for solid waste collection services with Waste Management of San Gabriel Valley/Pomona to provide mixed waste collection services and other available programs to its residents and business community. Waste Management transports waste to the Azusa Transfer Station/Valley Vista and then to El Sobrante Landfill in the City of Corona. The El Sobrante Landfill has a remaining capacity of approximately 143,977,170 cubic yards and a daily permitted capacity of 16,054 tons/day. The El Sobrante landfill is currently slated for closure in January 2051 (CalRecycle 2019). Implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and

analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. The proposed General Plan Amendments are not anticipated to exceed the capacity of existing utility facilities and no new or expanded facilities are anticipated. Similar to the General Plan Update, residential development associated with implementation of the proposed 2021-2029 Housing Element would be required to adhere to all applicable solid waste regulations. As such, no additional impacts associated with solid waste are anticipated. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding solid waste disposal.

E) No Impact. All new development will be required to comply with State mandates and City regulations regarding reduction/recycling of household waste. As outlined in Thresholds 19.A and 19.B above, the proposed General Plan Amendments themselves do not propose any specific development on specific sites at this time. None of the strategies in the proposed General Plan Amendments would have any effect upon or result in any conflicts with solid waste disposal regulations. Goals, policies, and actions to increase composting, recycling, and source reduction citywide are included in the adopted Health, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice Element; no changes are proposed to those strategies. No impact will occur and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding solid waste management plans.

20. WILDFIRE

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
A) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water resources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
D) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This specific issue was not included in the 2020 General Plan EIR certified in 2002 because it was not required under the State CEQA Guidelines at that time. However, fire protection was addressed under Public Services in terms of urban fire protection. In addition, much of the planned new development within the city will be in the Downtown Specific Plan and that EIR and Addendum did evaluate potential impacts related to wildfires within the downtown area. Since the City is highly urbanized and in a completely urbanized area, the issue of wildfire is not directly applicable.

A) Less Than Significant Impact. The City Office of Emergency Management coordinates disaster response and recovery efforts in the City of Baldwin Park. The City's goal is to respond to emergency situations with a coordinated system of emergency service providers and facilities. The City has planned responses to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, terrorist activities, and war-related operations. The City is part of a county and statewide emergency management system that addresses evacuation and movement of people in the event of an emergency.

The proposed General Plan Amendments do not involve any road construction or any development activity and thus will not obstruct or restrict emergency access to or through the City. The Safety Element includes updated goals, policies, and actions pertaining to emergency preparedness, including an updated emergency evacuation route map. Future housing development facilitated by implementation of proposed 2021- 2029 Housing Element policies would be subject to site plan review and approval during entitlement review and/or application for building permits. Similar to the approved General Plan, individual project applications for housing under the proposed General Plan Amendments would also be reviewed by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, which provides fire protection for the City of Baldwin Park, for compliance with applicable emergency response plans and requirements to reduce fire hazards. If deemed necessary, the LACFD may also include conditions of approval, including requirements to reduce fire hazards. Impacts involving emergency access will be less than significant with continued implementation of development review procedures. Therefore, any impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

B) Less Than Significant Impact. The City is relatively flat and is completely urban so there is little or no chance of a wildfire event affecting the City. However, the area does experience strong dry seasonal winds called “Santa Ana” winds that can sometime exacerbate the spread of structural urban fires. No conditions in the City would lead residents to be exposed to pollutant concentrations in excess of those regional conditions that result in large wildfires in the more remote portions of the County, mainly the San Gabriel Mountains to the north.

The proposed General Plan Amendments will allow the eventual construction of new housing in the City that may be subject to urban fires. However, there are no conditions in the city that would exacerbate wildfire risks and expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors. Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

C) No Impact. The City of Baldwin Park is in a fully urbanized setting and does not have a moderate or high risk of wildfires. The Los Angeles County Fire Department has a Class I rating with the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) which means it has full and complete protection from fire risks. The City already has full infrastructure (roads, water lines with fire hydrants, etc.) to support fire protection services. Therefore, the proposed General Plan Amendments would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water resources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. There are no impacts and no mitigation is required.

D) Less Than Significant Impact. The City is relatively flat and bordered by the San Gabriel River to the west, and the channel is fully improved adjacent to the City. Sections 9.C and 9.D of this Initial Study concluded that future housing and other construction projects in the City under the proposed General Plan Amendments would not experience significant impacts from flooding. Therefore, the proposed General Plan Amendments would not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

As stated above, the 2020 General Plan EIR did not address this specific topic (i.e., wildfire) because it was not required by the State CEQA Guidelines at the time the EIR was certified (2002). However, the EIR did address fire protection for the City, and the City is highly urbanized so the issue of wildfire impacts does not relate to existing environmental conditions in the City.

21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A) Less Than Significant Impact. The results of the preceding analysis indicate that the proposed project will have less-than-significant impacts to sensitive biological, historical, archaeological, and paleontological resources. Programmatic impacts of the proposed General Plan Amendments to scenic vistas and visual character and resources will be less than significant.

The proposed General Plan Amendments do not propose specific development on any specific Inventory Site or elsewhere at this time. As indicated in the Project Description, implementation of the proposed General Plan Amendments would not exceed the development buildout identified and analyzed in the GP EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum; therefore, it is consistent on a programmatic level with the General Plan growth projections which were evaluated in the General Plan EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum.

Considering the programmatic level of analysis and that the project will not change existing City land use policy regarding locations or intensities of development, it will not result in any effects that would degrade the quality of the environment beyond that which was previously analyzed in the General Plan EIR and Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. The City finds that the Housing Element’s programmatic impacts related to degradation of the environment will be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding impacts to biological or cultural resources.

B) Less Than Significant Impact. Cumulative effects resulting from full implementation of City land use policies were evaluated in the General Plan EIR. The proposed General Plan Amendments will not change any of these policies and does not propose any specific development or redevelopment project that could contribute to short-term or long-term cumulative impacts that were not addressed sufficiently in the General Plan EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum.

The discussion in Threshold 21.A above demonstrates the Housing Element is consistent with the programmatic analysis in the General Plan EIR and Downtown Specific Plan EIR and Addendum. The City hereby finds that the proposed General Plan Amendment's individual contribution to potentially significant cumulative impacts is not considerable and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding cumulative impacts.

C) Less Than Significant Impact. As supported by the preceding environmental evaluation, the proposed General Plan Amendments will not result in substantial adverse effects on human beings. It has been determined through quantitative and qualitative analysis supported by substantial evidence that the proposed General Plan Amendments have been determined to have little or no adverse impacts on people or the environment as evaluated and substantiated in the 20 preceding environmental topics. The City hereby finds that direct and indirect impacts on human beings will be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This determination is consistent with the conclusions of the General Plan EIR regarding adverse impacts to humans.

5 CONCLUSION

As discussed in detail in the preceding sections, potential impacts associated with the proposed General Plan Amendments are consistent with potential impacts characterized and mitigated for in the 2002 approved GP EIR, and none of the determinations set forth in Public Resources Code Section 21166 and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 can be established. Substantive revisions to the 2002 approved GP EIR are not necessary because no new significant impacts or impacts of substantially greater severity than previously described would occur as a result of the proposed General Plan Amendments. Therefore, the following determinations have been found to be applicable:

- No further evaluation of environmental impacts is required for the proposed project;
- No Subsequent EIR is necessary per CEQA Guidelines Section 15162; and
- This Addendum to the City of Baldwin Park General Plan Update Final Program Environmental Impact Report certified in 2002 (General Plan EIR Addendum No. 1) is the appropriate level of environmental analysis and documentation for the proposed project in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15164.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15164(c), this Addendum will be included in the public record for the approved General Plan Amendments. Documents related to this Addendum will be available at the City of Baldwin Park Planning Division located at 14403 Pacific Avenue, Baldwin Park, California 91706.

6 LIST OF PREPARERS

LEAD AGENCY

City of Baldwin Park
Planning Department
14403 East Pacific Avenue
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

Ron Garcia, Community Development Director

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSTS

MIG
1650 Spruce Street, Suite 106
Riverside, California 92507
951-787-9222

Bob Prasse, Director of Environmental Services
Kent Norton, Senior Environmental Planner/Project Manager
Amanda North, Technician

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