

RESOLUTION NO. 09-52

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA, CERTIFYING THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND MASTER ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (MEA), ADOPTING ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS, STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS, MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM, AND ADOPTING THE COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE THAT ENCOMPASSES THE ENTIRE CITY

WHEREAS, the State of California Government Code requires the City to adopt and maintain a General Plan that contains certain elements, describes its long-term goals, and develop policies and programs to achieve those goals; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lancaster initiated a comprehensive update to the City's General Plan on February 8, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the City has sought to proactively engage the public in the comprehensive update to the General Plan, including community outreach workshops and meetings, internet surveys, the creation of a General Plan Citizens' Advisory Committee (GPCAC), and the conducting of special meetings by the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed and considered information from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to, City staff, outside agencies, the Draft Environmental Impact Report, the report and recommendations of the GPCAC and Planning Commission, and members of the public; and

WHEREAS, public notice was provided as required by law and a Planning Commission public hearing was held on May 11, 2009, when the Commission voted 7-0 to recommend that the City Council adopt the General Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, public notice was provided as required by law and a City Council public hearing was held on June 23, 2009, and July 14, 2009, to consider action on the General Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, based upon evidence in the record hereby makes the following findings in support of the General Plan Update:

1. California State law requires that each city adopt a general plan to describe its long-term goals and its policies and programs to achieve those goals. The general plan is intended to serve as a "blueprint" for future growth and development, in that land use decisions, zoning regulations, subdivision approvals, and other policies by the City are required to be consistent with the General Plan.

2. The City's current General Plan, adopted in 1997, reflects the environmental conditions, demographics, growth projections, and community goals of that time. There is a need, and it is in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare to update the City's General Plan to incorporate current conditions, community goals, and revised growth projections from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) that extend the planning horizon to the year 2030.
3. The General Plan Update was initiated by the City Council on February 8, 2005, and is a comprehensive update of the 1997 General Plan. The update includes review and, where determined necessary, recommended revisions of both State mandated and optional elements, including the Plan for the Natural Environment; Plan for Public Health and Safety; Plan for Active Living; Plan for Physical Mobility; Plan for Physical Development; Plan for Economic Development and Vitality; Plan for Municipal Services and Facilities; and Housing Element (which is currently under review by the State Department of Housing and Community Development, and is not included as part of this resolution).
4. The General Plan Update is based upon eight major visioning themes resulting from the community outreach and visioning process. This information, as well as public testimony, information from the Program Environmental Impact Report, data provided by City staff and outside agencies, and applicable State and federal law, has been reviewed and considered by the Commission in making this recommendation.
5. A Program Environmental Impact Report has been prepared for the project that provides a description of potential environmental impacts of the proposed General Plan and recommends mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level, where feasible. Where mitigation to a less than significant level is not possible, a statement of overriding considerations is proposed as noted in Exhibit "A" of this Resolution. This Program EIR was prepared and circulated in accordance with applicable law, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code of Regulations section 21000 et. seq., and the CEQA guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations Sec. 15000 et. seq., as described in Exhibit "A" of this resolution.
6. This Commission hereby finds, in accordance with Section 15090 of the State CEQA Guidelines, that it has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report prepared for the General Plan Update prior to making a recommendation to the City Council, and that the information contained in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report reflects the City's independent judgment and analysis.
7. The Planning Commission held twelve (12) meetings from September 2008 through May 2009 to receive public comments, and to study the draft documents in formulating a recommendation to the City Council on the General Plan Update.

8. The General Plan update will promote the public health, safety, and welfare by establishing goals, objectives, policies, and programs to guide development and maintenance of an efficient and attractive built environment, protection and management of natural environmental resources, and provision of adequate infrastructure and services to meet the expected population demand.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. This City Council certifies the Final Environmental Impact Report and Master Environmental Assessment, as stated in this Resolution.
2. This City Council adopts all environmental findings and the Statement of Overriding Considerations as contained in Exhibit "A" of this Resolution.
3. This City Council adopts the Mitigation Monitoring Program as contained in Exhibit "B" of this Resolution.
4. This City Council adopts the General Plan Update; specifically the General Plan Policy Document and General Plan land use map attached to this Resolution as Exhibits "C" and "D," respectively.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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GERI K. BRYAN, CMC  
City Clerk  
City of Lancaster

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R. REX PARRIS  
Mayor  
City of Lancaster

STATE OF CALIFORNIA                    )  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES            )        ss  
CITY OF LANCASTER                    )

CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION  
CITY COUNCIL

I, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ City of Lancaster, California, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution No. 09-52, for which the original is on file in my office.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

(seal)

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