

CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

3191 Katella Avenue
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

AGENDA PLANNING COMMISSION/SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 – 7:00 PM

SAFETY ALERT – NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19

If you wish to attend the Planning Commission meeting in person, the Council Chamber located at 3191 Katella Ave., Los Alamitos, California 90720, will have outdoor seating for this meeting and the public shall have the right to observe and offer public comment at this location.

Masks, temperature checks, and visual check of symptoms will be required before entering the Council Chamber. Entrance and exit will be via the front doors as all other entrances/exits will be locked. A staff member will be present at the door to assist attendees with this process and ensure there is room for them in the Council Chamber.

Members of the public will be required to wear a mask. Seating will be available based on six feet of social distancing. **The City of Los Alamitos continues to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and these provisions are subject change with short notice.**

While you may attend this meeting in person, given the health risks associated with COVID-19, please be advised that you may submit comments on any agenda item or on any item not on the agenda by email to planningcommission@cityoflosalamitos.org with the subject line "PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #" (insert the item number relevant to your comment) or "PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEM." Comments **received by 4:00 p.m.** will be compiled, provided to the Planning Commission, and made available to the public before the start of the meeting. Staff will not read email comments at the meeting but the official record will include all email comments received until the close of the meeting.

Please consider carefully before attending this meeting in person and keep a six foot distance from others as much as possible. Please do not attend this meeting in person if you have traveled out of state and/or you have had direct contact with someone who has travelled or tested positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19), or you are experiencing symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, fever, difficulty breathing or other flu-like symptoms.

All speakers shall observe civility, decorum and good behavior. Any item submitted to the Planning Commission during the meeting shall become public record and subject to applicable disclosure laws.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This Agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. Except as provided by law, action or discussion shall not be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. Supporting documents, including staff reports, are available for on the City's website at www.cityoflosalamitos.org once the agenda has been publicly posted.

Any written materials relating to an item on this agenda submitted after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection on the City's website at www.cityoflosalamitos.org.

It is the intention of the City of Los Alamitos to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee, or a participant at this meeting, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, please contact the Development Services Department at (562) 431-3538, extension 303, 48 hours prior to the meeting so that reasonable arrangements may be made.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Grose
Vice Chair DeBolt
Commissioner Andrade
Commissioner Cuijty
Commissioner Loe
Commissioner Riley
Commissioner Sofelkanik

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

At this time, any individual in the audience may address the Traffic Commission and speak on any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Please state if you wish to speak on an item on the Agenda. **Remarks are to be limited to not more than three minutes.**

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

A. General Plan Amendment (GPA) 21-01 2021 – 2029 Housing Element

Consideration of General Plan Amendment 21-01 updating the City of Los Alamitos Housing Element and associated Negative Declaration for the Planning Period of 2021-2029.

Recommendation:

1. Conduct a public hearing discussion for comments concerning the Draft Housing Element and Initial Study/Negative Declaration; and, if appropriate,
2. Commissioner discussion of the Draft Housing Element and Initial Study/Negative Declaration; and
3. Continue the public hearing to a date uncertain.

8. STAFF REPORT

None.

9. DISCUSSION

None.

10. ITEMS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

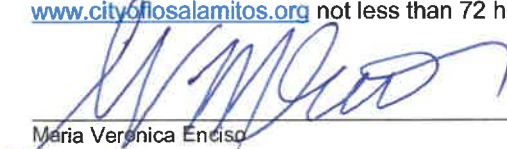
11. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

12. ADJOURNMENT

APPEAL PROCEDURES

Any final determination by the Planning Commission may be appealed to the City Council, and must be done so in writing at the Development Services Department, within ten (10) business days after the Planning Commission decision. The appeal must include a statement specifically identifying the portion(s) of the decision with which the appellant disagrees and the basis in each case for the disagreement, accompanied by an appeal fee of \$1,038.00 (resident)/ \$2,349.00 (non-resident) in accordance with Los Alamitos Municipal Code Section 17.60 and Fee Resolution No. 2019-15.

I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing Agenda was posted at City Hall, 3191 Katella Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 and on the City's website at www.cityoflosalamitos.org not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting. **Dated this 21st day of October, 2021**



Maria Veronica Enciso
Department Secretary

10/21/2021

Date

City of Los Alamitos

PLANNING COMMISSION/SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 27, 2021 ITEM NUMBER: 7A

To: Chair Grose and Members of the Planning Commission
Via: Ron Noda, Development Services Director
From: Tom Oliver, Associate Planner
Subject: General Plan Amendment (GPA) 21-01 2021 – 2029 Housing Element

SUMMARY

Consideration of General Plan Amendment 21-01 updating the City of Los Alamitos Housing Element and associated Negative Declaration for the Planning Period of 2021-2029.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Conduct a public hearing discussion for comments concerning the Draft Housing Element and Initial Study/Negative Declaration; and, if appropriate,
2. Commissioner discussion of the Draft Housing Element and Initial Study/Negative Declaration; and
3. Continue the public hearing to a date uncertain.

APPLICANT City Initiated

LOCATION Citywide

ENVIRONMENTAL An Initial Study conducted by the City of Los Alamitos (CEQA Guidelines Section 15063[a]) determined that the proposed project will not have a significant environmental effect, and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will not be required. This Draft Negative Declaration (ND) has been prepared in accordance with Section 15070 & 15071 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

APPROVAL CRITERIA

Los Alamitos Municipal Code (LAMC), Section 17.64.030 (*General Plan Amendments*) states that the Planning Commission shall hold at least one public hearing before taking action on a General Plan amendment. The recommendation to the City Council for approval of amendments to the General Plan shall be by a Planning Commission resolution that is affirmed by vote of a majority of voting members.

NOTICING

The Public Hearing Notice for this meeting was published as a 1/8th page Notice in the Event News Enterprise on October 27, 2021. The proposed Negative Declaration was made available for public review beginning on October 11, 2021 and will conclude on November 1, 2021, a period of not less than 20 days. During the public review period, the City has, at this date, not received any written comments concerning the proposed Negative Declaration.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to State Government Code Section 65300, cities and counties are required to prepare and adopt General Plans to guide them in the long-range development of their communities. General Plans must include seven mandatory elements including land use, circulation, conservation, open space, safety, noise, and housing. The Housing Element is the only part that is reviewed and certified by the State due to State law (Government Code Sections 65580 - 65589.8) requiring that each Housing Element accommodate and facilitate the development of housing to meet a city's fair share housing needs.

The Element must also identify and address the housing needs of special needs groups, mitigate potential constraints or barriers to housing, and contain a detailed implementation plan of how the City intends to meet its housing needs.

The updated Housing Element covers the planning period of October 15, 2021 to October 15, 2029, and identifies strategies and programs that focus on:

- Conserving and improving existing affordable housing;
- Providing adequate housing sites for meeting the projected housing demand;
- Assisting in the development of affordable housing;
- Removing governmental and other constraints to housing development; and,
- Promoting equal housing opportunities.

Housing Element Update Planning Process

The following are the key phases of the Housing Element Update planning process:

- **Baseline Analysis:** Review current Housing Element policies and programs.
- **Adequate Sites Identification:** Evaluate current Housing Element sites and identify additional sites to meet RHNA.
- **Community Engagement:** Conduct stakeholder workshops, Planning Commission, and City Council meetings.
- **Policy and Program Development:** Develop policies and programs that constitute a Housing Policy Plan.
- **HCD Review:** Prepare a Draft Housing Element and submit to HCD for an initial 60-day review.
- **Public Hearings and Adoption:** Hold public hearings with the Planning Commission and the City Council to consider adoption of the Housing Element
- **Update and associated General Plan Amendments.**

The Draft

The Draft Housing Element contains four chapters that are briefly described below:

- Section 1 explains the purpose, process and contents of the Housing Element.
- Section 2 describes the demographic, economic, and housing characteristics of Los Alamitos, as well as the existing and projected housing needs, and outlines the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).
- Section 3 analyzes the potential and actual governmental and non-governmental constraints to the maintenance, preservation, conservation and development of housing, and analyzes the potential housing resources of the City.
- Section 4 describes specific policies and programs the City will carry out over the Planning Period to address the City's housing goals.

In addition, appendices have been prepared in support of the Housing Element, including the newly required Affirmatively Forwarding Fair Housing section, which addresses equity in the provision of housing.

Regional Housing Needs Assessment (Rhna)

As explained in Chapter 2 of the Draft Element, a Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) is mandated by State law to quantify the need for housing throughout California. This mandate guides the local planning process to address existing and future housing needs resulting from projected state-wide growth in population, employment, and households. The Housing Element Update must address the City's RHNA's housing needs identified by Southern California Association of Government (SCAG).

As the Council of Governments (or regional planning agency), SCAG is responsible for overseeing the RHNA process for the Southern California region, which encompasses six (6) counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura) and 191 cities in an area covering more than 38,000 square miles. In March 2021, SCAG assigned RHNA allocations to Los Alamitos and other Orange County cities. Los Alamitos was assigned a total of 769 new housing units which is further distributed into four (4) income categories as follows:

Fair Share Housing Needs Allocation 2021–2029					
	Very-Low Income ¹	Low Income	Moderate Income	Above-Moderate Income	Total Allocation
Housing Units	194	119	145	311	769

Source: SCAG, Southern California Association of Governments

Policies

As shown in Chapter 4, the Housing Policy Program is organized into five Housing Strategy Areas:

- Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Housing Stock
- Preserving Housing Costs Affordability
- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
- Adequate Housing Supply
- Coordinated Housing Efforts

Here are the individual Actions under each of these strategy areas, below. If you need the description of each, please find these in Chapter 4 of the attached draft Housing Element document.

Policy Action 1.1: Proactive Code Enforcement

Policy Action 1.2: Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Program

Policy Action 1.3: Rehabilitation of Multifamily Dwellings

Policy Action 2.1: Preservation of Units At-Risk of Converting to Market Rate

Policy Action 2.2: Section 8 Housing Choice Rental Assistance Program

Policy Action 2.3: Energy Conservation
Policy Action 3.1 Housing for Persons with Disabilities
Policy Action 3.2: Fair Housing Information and Referrals
Policy Action 3.3: Active Outreach
Policy Action 4.1: Incentives for Development of Housing Affordable to Extremely-Low, Very-Low, Low and Moderate Income Households
Policy Action 4.2: Encourage and Facilitate Lot Consolidation
Policy Action 4.3: Monitor Multifamily Development Fees
Policy Action 4.4: Create R-4 Zoning to Allow Higher Density
Policy Action 4.5: Modify TCMU Zoning to Allow Higher Density
Policy Action 4.6: Modify homeless shelter provisions
Policy Action 4.7: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)
Policy Action 4.8: Zoning Code Update
Policy Action 5.1: Housing Programs Information Dissemination
Policy Action 5.2: Pursue External Funding for Housing Rehabilitation, Preservation and Production
Policy Action 5.3: Partnerships and Coordination with Developers and Outside Agencies
Policy 5.4: Promote Community Participation

Community Engagement

As shown in Appendix A, the Housing Element was developed through combined efforts of City Staff and consultants, the City's Planning Commission, City Council, and Los Alamitos residents and stakeholders. Community input was sought and received through community and stakeholder workshops, information disseminated through the City's website, electronic mail notifications, and public hearings. The input received was considered in the development of goals and policy actions provided in Chapter 4: Housing Policy Program. The comments received were provided as part of the draft Housing Element to the Planning Commission and City Council. These bodies will consider the public input prior to the adoption of the final Housing Element.

Prior to tonight's meeting, a notice of the availability of the Draft Housing Element for review and comment was mailed out to property owners, and published for the general public in the Event News Enterprise. The document can be viewed on the City's website. As well, a 20-day public review period for the preparation of a draft Negative Declaration for the Housing Element, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), commenced on October 11, 2021 and will end on November 1, 2021 for interested individuals and public agencies to submit written comments. This document is also available for review on the City website.

Negative Declaration

Staff has also prepared a Negative Declaration (ND) in connection with the Housing Element for consideration. The ND concludes that the proposed Housing Element will not result in any significant, adverse effects on the environment. The City's decision to prepare a ND is not a recommendation of either approval or denial of the Housing

Element. The public review period for this document began on Monday, October 11, 2021 and extends to Monday, November 1, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission is being asked to consider the Draft Housing Element and provide comments. Following this meeting, City staff will be submitting the Housing Element to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for review. Following that review, and the completion of any additions or changes required by HCD to comply with State law, the Housing Element will come back to the Planning Commission for its final consideration and recommendation to the City Council.

Attachments:

- 1) Draft Housing Element*
- 2) Initial Study/Draft Negative Declaration*

CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS



2021-2029 Housing Element



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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose and Content

The Housing Element of the General Plan contains the official policies for the construction, rehabilitation and preservation/conservation of housing in the City of Los Alamitos. The Housing Element is built upon identification and analysis of existing and projected housing needs, resources, opportunities and past performance. The Housing Element contains detailed analysis of the City's economic, demographic and housing characteristics.

The Housing Element addresses housing opportunities for current and future Los Alamitos residents through 2029 and provides the policy guidance for local decision making related to housing in the City. The Housing Element is the only element of the General Plan that requires review and certification by the State of California.

This Housing Element update covers the Planning Period from October 2021 through October 2029. The Housing Element also evaluates the City's progress in implementing the 2014–2021 housing policy program.

B. Housing Element Updates

The Statewide housing goal is “decent housing and a suitable living environment for every Californian” (Government Code Section 65580). The Legislature recognizes the important role that local governments play in pursuit of this goal and mandates that all cities and counties prepare a Housing Element as part of their comprehensive General Plans.

The Housing Element is intended to be reviewed annually and updated and modified as necessary to remain relevant and useful and to reflect the community's dynamic housing needs. This Housing Element update covers the planning period from October 2021 through October 2029, consistent with the State-mandated update required for all jurisdictions within the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region.



C. State Law and Local Planning

1. Consistency with State Law

The Housing Element is one of the eight required General Plan elements, mandated by State law. State law requires that each jurisdiction's Housing Element consist of "an identification and analysis of existing and projected housing needs and a statement of goals, policies, quantified objectives, financial resources, and scheduled programs for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing." The Housing Element must also analyze and plan for housing for all economic segments of the community.

Government Code Section 65583 outlines specific requirements regarding the scope and content of the Housing Element.

2. General Plan Consistency

The Government Code requires internal consistency among the Elements of a General Plan. Section 65300.5 of the Government Code states that the General Plan's various Elements shall provide an integrated and internally consistent and compatible statement of policies. City staff has reviewed the other Elements of the General Plan and has determined that this Housing Element provides consistency with them. The City will maintain this consistency as future General Plan Amendments are processed by evaluating proposed amendments for consistency with all Elements of the General Plan.

3. Relationship to Other Plans and Programs

The Housing Element identifies goals, objectives, policies and programs for the Planning Period that directly addresses the City's housing needs. These goals and policies will be implemented through a number of City plans and programs including the City's Municipal Code.



D. Housing Element Organization

The Housing Element is organized into four parts:

- Section 1: Introduction. Explains the purpose, process and contents of the Housing Element;
- Section 2: Housing Needs. Describes the demographic, economic and housing characteristics of Los Alamitos, as well as the existing and projected housing needs;
- Section 3: Resources and Constraints Analysis. Analyzes the potential and actual governmental and non-governmental constraints to the maintenance, preservation/conservation, and development of housing. Also analyzes the potential housing resources of the City; and,
- Section 4: Housing Policy Program. Describes specific policies and programs the City will carry out over the Planning Period to address the City's housing goals.

Supporting background material is included in the following four appendices:

- Appendix A: Community Outreach
- Appendix B: Residential Land Resources
- Appendix C: Review of Housing Element Past Performance
- Appendix D: Assessment of Fair Housing
- Appendix E: Glossary of Housing Terms

E. Community Participation

The Housing Element was developed through combined efforts of City staff, the City's Planning Commission, City Council, and community members. Community input was sought and received through a public workshop and hearings. The City held a community workshop on August 25, 2021, at which participants generally asked questions about the City's responsibilities and future housing needs, and also discussed the upcoming Town Center Strategic Plan, which will incorporate inclusionary housing requirements for the parcels located within its boundary. The workshop was advertised in the newspaper, noticed on the City's website, and included in a mailing to property owners and an email blast to interested developers in the region. Following the workshop, the Housing Element update was posted on the City's website for public review and input in a 17-day comment period. This effort was announced through a City-wide mailing and e-newsletter to all residents, posting of notices on the City's website and in the newspaper, and announcements on social media. Following the



public review period, the Planning Commission and City Council held hearings (October 27 and November 15, 2021) on the Housing Element, and on November 15, 2021, the City Council adopted the Element and directed staff to submit it for review by the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

Comments received through the outreach activities have been considered in the development of the Housing Policy Program. A summary of the comments is provided in Appendix A of this Housing Element, along with a list of community stakeholders.



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CHAPTER 2

HOUSING NEEDS ANALYSIS

A. Introduction

One of the key mandated components of the Housing Element is evaluating both existing and future housing needs for all segments of the community.

This chapter analyzes housing demographic and economic characteristics that influence the supply of and demand for housing. These analyses provide baseline information and establish a foundation for developing policies and programs to address identified housing needs. The analyses identify housing needs according to income, tenure, and special needs groups.

Primary data sources include the 2000 and 2010 US Census, the American Community Survey (2019), the California Department of Finance (DOF), the California Employment Development Department (EDD) and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). These sources provide the most reliable information for evaluating existing conditions and a basis for consistent comparison with historical data. These sources also provide forecasts of future conditions and needs.

B. Community Profile

1. Population Trends and Characteristics

Population and employment trends generally influence the demand for housing and the types of housing needed. This section describes the changes to population size and age and racial/ethnic composition of the City.

a. Historical, Existing and Forecast Growth

Los Alamitos is one of 34 cities within Orange County. Table 2-1 lists the counties in southern California and their respective populations. DOF estimates the overall County population was 3,153,764 in 2021, the third most populous county in the state. Los Angeles and San Diego Counties had the first and second largest populations in the



state, respectively. According to the 2010 US Census, Orange County also had the third largest county population at the time with 3,010,232 residents. Overall, the County has experienced slower population growth over the last two decades. The population increased by 18 percent from 1990 to 2000, less than 6 percent from 2000 to 2010, and less than 5 percent from 2010 to 2021. From 2020 to 2021, the County population decreased by 26,727 residents.

Table 2-1
Regional Population Trends
2000-2021

County	2000	2010	2021
Imperial County	142,361	174,528	186,034
Los Angeles County	9,519,338	9,818,605	10,044,458
Orange County	2,846,289	3,010,232	3,153,764
Riverside County	1,545,387	2,189,641	2,454,453
San Bernardino County	1,709,434	2,035,210	2,175,909
San Diego County	2,813,833	3,095,813	3,315,404
Ventura County	753,197	823,318	835,223

Sources: US Census Table P1, 2000 and 2010, California Department of Finance E-5, 2021.

As shown in Table 2-2, DOF estimated Los Alamitos' population at 11,538 in 2021. The City experienced a decrease in population between 2000 and 2010 (87 people, or 1 percent), and a 1 percent increase in population from 2010 to 2021. Therefore, in the last 21 years, there has been no change in population in the City. The City represents approximately 0.4 percent of the overall county population.

Table 2-2
Population Growth
2000–2021

Jurisdiction	2000	2010	2021	2010-2021 Growth	
				Number	% change
City of Los Alamitos	11,536	11,449	11,538	89	1%
Orange County	2,846,289	3,010,232	3,153,764	143,532	5%

Source: US Census Table P1, 2000 and 2010, California Department of Finance E-5, 2021.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) prepares population forecasts for jurisdictions within its coverage area as part of future growth policies and programs. SCAG's 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities



Strategy (RTP/SCS) forecasts the Los Alamitos’s population to reach 12,300 in 2045, although the City’s population has been stagnant for over 20 years. SCAG’s projection represents a 6.6% increase between 2021 and 2045, or an addition of 762 residents.

b. Age Composition

From 2010 to 2019, Los Alamitos experienced growth in the Retirement (55-64 years) and Senior Citizen (65 years and over) populations, while the populations of other age groups somewhat declined. This suggests a slowly aging trend and potential growing need for senior housing and programs. The Prime Working age group remains the largest in the City with 40.8 percent of the population in 2021. Table 2-3 summarizes the age distribution of the City’s population.

Table 2-3
Age Distribution
2010–2019

Age Group	2010		2019	
	Number	% of Population	Number	% of Population
Preschool (Under 5 years)	527	4.6%	457	4.0%
School (5–9 years)	668	5.8%	765	6.6%
(10–14 years)	904	7.9%	938	8.1%
(15–19 years)	1,007	8.8%	593	5.1%
Young Adult (20–24 years)	712	6.2%	577	5.0%
Prime Working (25–34 years)	1,356	11.8%	1,608	13.9%
(35–44 years)	1,582	13.8%	1,633	14.2%
(45–54 years)	1,866	16.3%	1,467	12.7%
Retirement (55–59 years)	682	6.0%	845	7.3%
(60–64 years)	551	4.8%	775	6.7%
Senior Citizen (65–74 years)	694	6.1%	1,047	9.1%
(75–84 years)	625	5.5%	476	4.1%
(85+ years)	275	2.4%	353	3.1%
Total	11,449.00	100.0%	11,534	100.0%

Notes:

¹ Discrepancy due to categorical change in Young Adult definition, 2010 Census break down classifies school age as 5–19 years and Young Adult as 20–24 years.

Sources: US Census Table P12, 2010, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table DP05, 2019.



c. Race and Ethnic Composition

As illustrated in Table 2-4, the majority of Los Alamitos residents are White, representing 62.5 percent of the population in 2019. Asian residents comprise the second largest racial/ethnic group with 14.6 percent of the population, and residents of 'Some Other Race'¹ comprise the third largest group with 8.3 percent. Between 2010 and 2019 the White, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander populations declined. All other racial/ethnic groups increased in population, including residents of Hispanic or Latino origin, which increased from 21.1% to 27.0% of the total population between 2010 and 2019.

Table 2-4
Racial and Ethnic Composition
2010–2019

Racial/Ethnic Group	2010		2019		2010-2019 Change in % of Population
	Number	% of Population	Number	% of Population	
White	8,131	71.0%	7,214	62.5%	-12%
Black or African American	324	2.8%	713	6.2%	118%
American Indian & Alaska Native	51	0.4%	5	0.0%	-90%
Asian	1,471	12.8%	1,681	14.6%	13%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	50	0.4%	22	0.2%	-56%
Some Other Race	726	6.3%	954	8.3%	30%
Two or more races	696	6.1%	945	8.2%	35%
Total	11,449	100.0%	11,534	100.0%	0.7%*
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2,418	21.1%	3,110	27.0%	28%

Sources: US Census Tables P3 & P4, 2010, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table DP05, 2019.

*Change of total population.

¹ The Census Bureau uses the category "Some Other Race", which accounts for single races other than the five race categories per U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Standards for Race and Ethnicity (1997):

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian

Black or African American

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

White.



2. Employment Trends

Housing needs are also influenced by employment trends. Proximity to job opportunities is an important factor in housing choices. Significant employment opportunities within and close to a city can lead to demand for housing. The quality and/or pay of available employment influence the demand for various housing types and price levels.

Table 2-5 lists the top employers in Los Alamitos in 2021. The types of industries with large employment needs in the City are closely related to the housing needs of the local labor pool. The City's principal employers include hospitals, aerospace manufacturers, business services and restaurant/wholesale trade. Typical jobs in these industries include production workers, medical professionals, clerks and managers.

Table 2-5
Top Employers
2021

Company	Industry	Number of Employees
Los Alamitos Medical Center, Inc.	Healthcare	1,100
Arrowhead Products	Aerospace	780
Trend Offset Printing Services	Service/Printing	700
Epson America, Inc.	Media	693
Discovery Practice Management, Inc.	Service	205
Bar Bakers LLC	Wholesale Trade	200
Resare Marketing, Inc.	Service	191
Alamitos West Health & Rehabilitation	Healthcare	145
Katella Delicatessen-Restaurant-Bakery, Inc.	Restaurant	145
Alliance Space Systems, LLC	Aerospace	144
Bearing Inspection, Inc.	Business Service	97
Ganahl Lumber Co.	Business Service	95

Source: City of Los Alamitos and HDL Companies, 2021.

As shown in Table 2-6, the largest group of Los Alamitos residents were employed in the educational services, health care and social assistance industry (23.9 percent) in 2019. Retail trade (13.6 percent) made up the second largest employment group followed by arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation (hospitality) and food services (11.6



percent). In Orange County, the top-ranking industry is the same as Los Alamitos (19.5 percent), followed by professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services (14.5 percent) and manufacturing (12.2 percent).

Table 2-6
Employment by Industry¹
2019

Industry	Los Alamitos		Orange County	
	Number	%	Number	%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, mining	8	0.1%	9,488	0.6%
Construction	356	6.4%	93,305	5.9%
Manufacturing	513	9.3%	194,930	12.2%
Wholesale trade	233	4.2%	55,639	3.5%
Retail trade	753	13.6%	165,866	10.4%
Transportation and warehousing, utilities	259	4.7%	58,510	3.7%
Information	69	1.2%	31,488	2.0%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	315	5.7%	136,401	8.6%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	627	11.3%	230,546	14.5%
Educational services, health care and social assistance	1321	23.9%	309,730	19.5%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	644	11.6%	174,296	10.9%
Other services (except public administration)	320	5.8%	86,435	5.4%
Public administration	114	2.1%	45,517	2.9%
Total	5,532	100%	1,592,151	100%

Note:

¹Employment reported by Los Alamitos/Orange County residents. Does not reflect the number of jobs within the respective jurisdictions.

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table S2405, 2019.

Annual wages vary by industry in Orange County, but steadily increased from 2012 to 2017.² As shown in Figure 2-1 below, the highest-paying sectors are Utilities, Finance and Insurance, Information, and Management of Companies and Enterprises, with incomes averaging above \$100,000. The lowest-paying sectors include Accommodation and Food Services, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, Retail Trade, and Other Services (excluding Public Administration), with incomes averaging around \$20,000 to under \$40,000.

² 2018-2019 Orange County Workforce Indicators Report, Orange County Business Council.



Figure 2-1

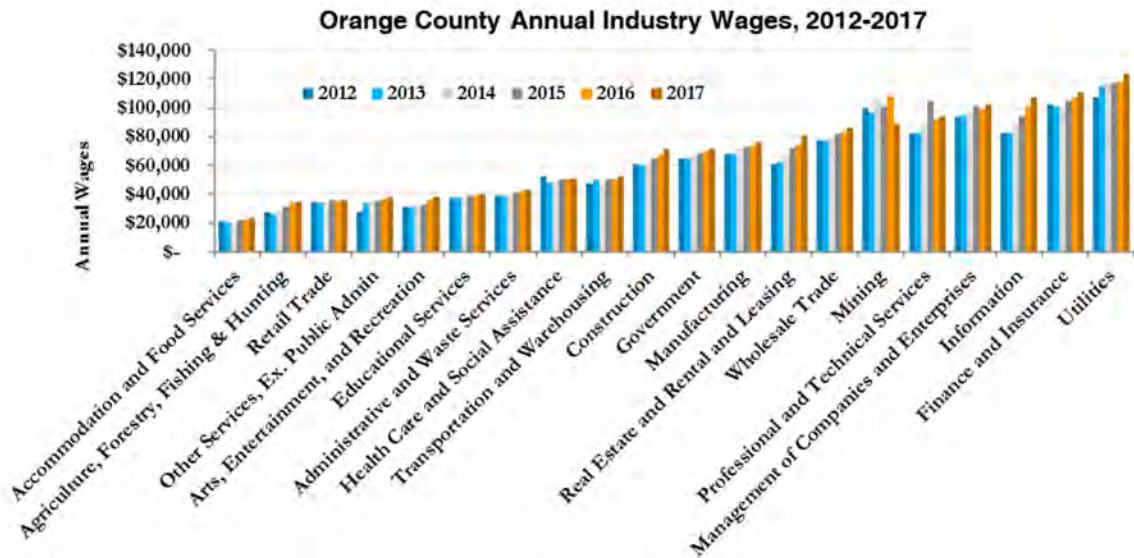


Table 2-7
City Employment by Occupation
2019

Occupation	Number of Employees	% of Total
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	2,646	47.8%
Service occupations	874	15.8%
Sales and office occupations	1,277	23.1%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	311	5.6%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	424	7.7%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table DP03, 2019.

As shown in Table 2-7, nearly half (47.8%) of the City’s civilian employed labor force is in “management, business, science, and arts” occupations, followed by “sales and office” occupations (23.1%) and “service” occupations (15.8%).

According to the EDD, the City’s labor force decreased from 6,500 in 2010 to 5,300 in 2021. Unemployment fluctuated in the last decade, with a high of 8.9% in 2020 (due to the pandemic) followed by 8.0% in 2012, to a low of 2.9% in 2019. As shown in table 2-8,



the unemployment rate in Los Alamitos in April of 2021 was 6.3 percent. Overall, except for the change most likely associated with COVID-19, the employment rate has been improving in the City.

According to City tax records on the top 100 business license accounts, total employee count (based inside the City) increased from 7,737 to 10,161 in 2018, and then decreased slightly to 10,061, likely due to the pandemic. This corroborates the generally decreasing unemployment rate according to EDD data.

Table 2-8
Labor Force Trends
2010–2021

Year	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
2010	6,500	6,200	300	5.3%
2011	6,600	6,300	300	4.9%
2012	5,700	5,300	500	8.0%
2013	5,700	5,300	400	6.7%
2014	5,700	5,400	300	5.5%
2015	5,700	5,500	300	4.5%
2016	5,600	5,300	300	4.7%
2017	5,700	5,500	200	3.8%
2018	5,800	5,700	200	3.1%
2019	5,600	5,400	200	2.9%
2020	5,400	4,900	500	8.9%
Apr/2021	5,300	5,000	300	6.3%

Source: California EDD, 2021.

Los Alamitos is a small city in Orange County, a major employment hub which is slowly approaching full employment.³ The County's strong labor market provides ample job opportunities for both county residents and residents of nearby counties such as Riverside and San Bernardino, which have 69,019 and 36,489 net commuters into Orange County, respectively. Orange County has a net worker inflow from neighboring counties including Los Angeles, despite a high worker outflow to Los Angeles (312,035 residents) from Orange County. These data suggest the City residents have relatively easy access to in-county job opportunities, while also being able to access jobs in neighboring counties including Los Angeles. This is evidenced by a commute time under one hour for 87.1% of workers 16 years and over who did not work from home.⁴ In

³ 2018-2019 Orange County Workforce Indicators Report, Orange County Business Council.

⁴ American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table S0801, 2019.



addition, Los Alamitos' physical location on the northern edge of the County makes it particularly susceptible to cross-commuting (outflow of City residents to other counties, and inflow of workers from other counties).

3. Household Characteristics

The US Census Bureau defines a household as all persons living in a single housing unit, whether or not they are related. One person living alone is considered a household, as is a group of unrelated persons living in a single housing unit. A family is defined as related persons living within a single housing unit.

a. Household Formation and Composition

Table 2-9 summarizes the change in the number of households in the City, County and State since 2000. In 2019, the American Community Survey reported 4,092 households in Los Alamitos, an approximately a 2.8 percent decrease from 2010. During the same period, total households in Orange County increased by about 4.5 percent and households in California increased by 3.7 percent.

Table 2-9
Total Households
2000–2019

Area	2000	2010	2019	Percent Increase 2000-2010	Percent Increase 2010-2019
Los Alamitos	4,180	4,212	4,092	0.8%	-2.8%
Orange County	935,287	992,781	1,037,492	6%	4.5%
California	11,502,870	12,577,498	13,044,266	9%	3.7%

Sources: US Census, 2000 and 2010, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table DP02, 2019.

The average number of persons per household in Los Alamitos was 2.66 in 2010 and 2.63 in 2021. As shown in Table 2-10, the average persons per household in the City was less than the overall county average (above 2.9) in both 2010 and 2021.



Table 2-10
Average Persons per Household
2010–2021

Area	2010	2021
Los Alamitos	2.66	2.63
Orange County	2.99	2.94

Sources: US Census, 2010, California Department of Finance E-5, 2021.

As shown in Table 2-11, households of 2 persons made up the largest segment of owner-occupied households, and households of 3 persons made up the largest segment of renter-occupied households. Two-person households comprised the second largest segment of renter-occupied households. One-person households comprised the second largest segment of owner-occupied households. Large households (5 or more persons) comprised 9 percent of the total households. The majority of units are rentals, about 58 percent.

Table 2-11
Household Size Distribution by Tenure
2019

Household Size	Total Households		Renter-Occupied Households		Owner-Occupied Households	
	Number	% of Total Households	Number	% of Total Households²	Number	% of Total Households²
1 Person	1,000	24%	544	23%	456	26%
2 Persons	1,136	28%	549	23%	587	34%
3 Persons	893	22%	585	25%	308	18%
4 Persons	691	17%	456	19%	235	14%
5 Persons	294	7%	184	8%	110	6%
6 Persons	44	1%	30	1%	14	1%
7 or More Persons	34	1%	5	0%	29	2%
Total	4,092¹	100.0%	2,353	58%	1,739	42%

Notes:

¹ Represents Total Households

² Percentages may not equal to 100% due to rounding.

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table B25009, 2019.



b. Household Income

As shown in Table 2-12, the median household income for Los Alamitos in 2019 was \$88,729. This is \$1,505 less than the county median. Within the City, the median income of owner-occupied households was \$106,034, which is \$34,567 more than that of renter-occupied households. Because of the higher percentage of renter households in the City, median income is lower overall when compared to the County.

Table 2-12
Median Household Income
2019

Area	Median Income
Los Alamitos	\$88,729 ¹
Owner-Occupied Households	\$106,034
Renter-Occupied Households	\$71,467
Orange County	\$90,234

Notes:

¹ Represents occupied housing units.

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table S2503, 2019.

HCD sets income limits for the purpose of determining program eligibility. Table 2-13 shows the current (2021) income limits applicable in Los Alamitos. The median household income for a family of four in 2021 is \$106,700.

Table 2-13
Orange County Housing Program Income Limits
2021

Income Category	Household Size			
	1-person	2-person	3-person	4-person
Extremely Low	\$28,250	\$32,300	\$36,350	\$40,350
Very Low Income	\$47,100	\$53,800	\$60,550	\$67,250
Low Income	\$75,300	\$86,050	\$96,800	\$107,550
Moderate Income	\$89,650	\$102,450	\$115,250	\$128,050
Median Income	\$74,700	\$85,350	\$96,050	\$106,700

Source: HCD 2021 State Income Limits.

Based on the American Community Survey data for 2019, Table 2-14 shows the income of Los Alamitos' owner-occupied and renter-occupied households. A greater number of



renter-occupied households have income levels in the extremely low and very low range than owner-occupied households.

Table 2-14
Household Income by Tenure
2019

Income	Owner-Occupied Households		Renter-Occupied Households		Total Occupied Households	
	Number	%	Number	% ¹	Number	% ¹
Less than \$5,000	41	2.4%	74	3.1%	115	2.8%
\$5,000-\$9,999	0	0%	49	2.1%	49	1.2%
\$10,000-\$14,999	53	3%	58	2.5%	111	2.7%
\$15,000-\$19,999	38	2.2%	42	1.8%	80	2%
\$20,000-\$24,999	57	3.3%	106	4.5%	163	4%
\$25,000-\$34,999	119	6.8%	167	7.1%	286	7%
\$35,000-\$49,999	104	6%	319	13.6%	423	10.3%
\$50,000-\$74,999	201	11.6%	392	16.7%	593	14.5%
\$75,000-\$99,999	213	12.2%	278	11.8%	491	12%
\$100,000-\$149,000	315	18.1%	466	19.8%	781	19.1%
\$150,000 or more	598	34.4%	402	17.1%	1,000	24.4%
Total	1,739	100.0%	2,353	100.0%	4,092	100.0%

Notes:

¹ Percentages may not equal to 100% due to rounding.

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table S2503, 2019.

4. Housing Stock and Market Conditions

This section describes the existing housing stock and current market conditions in Los Alamitos. Analysis of past and current housing trends provides a basis to project future housing needs.

a. Housing Stock Profile

Based on 2000, 2010, and 2021 US Census and California DOF estimates, less than one-half percent of Orange County's housing units are located in Los Alamitos. In 2000, the City had 4,329 housing units. By 2010, the number of units increased slightly to 4,355 and by 2021 to 4,437. Given the more rapid growth in other Orange County communities, Los Alamitos' near build out conditions have contributed to its slow housing growth.



Table 2-15
Number of Housing Units
2000–2021

Year	Los Alamitos	Orange County	Los Alamitos as Percent of Total Orange County Units
2000	4,329	969,484	0.45%
2010	4,355	1,048,907	0.42%
2021	4,437	1,118,971	0.40%

Sources: US Census, 2000 and 2010, and California Department of Finance E-5, 2021.

i. Unit Size

As shown in Table 2-16, the American Community Survey reported two- or three-bedroom units are the most common residential unit type in Los Alamitos, comprising 71.9 percent of all residential stock. Units with four or more bedrooms are also relatively common comprising 21.7 percent of all residential units. Studio and one-bedroom units comprise only 6.4 percent of the total units.

Table 2-16
Unit Size
2019

Subject	Estimate	Percent
Total Housing Units	4,092	100%
No Bedroom	61	1.5%
1 Bedroom	201	4.9%
2 or 3 Bedrooms	2,942	71.9%
4+ Bedrooms	888	21.7%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table S2504, 2019.



ii. Unit Type

As shown in Table 2-17, single family detached and multifamily units are evenly distributed housing types in Los Alamitos. As of 2019, 45.1 percent of the housing units are single-family detached and 41.1 percent are multifamily. Smaller multifamily developments (2-4 units) and mobile homes are increasing in percentage of total housing units, while single-family detached units and multifamily developments with 5 or more units declined in both number and percentage.

Table 2-17
Housing Inventory by Unit Type
2010–2019

Unit Type	2010		2019	
	Number	%	Number	% ¹
Single family, detached	2,034	47.7%	1,907	45.1%
Single family, attached	364	8.5%	424	10%
Multifamily, 2-4 units	745	17.5%	872	20.6%
Multifamily, 5+ units	1,029	24.1%	868	20.5%
Mobile homes	96	2.2%	153	3.6%
Other (Boats, RV, etc.)	0	0%	0	0%
Total	4,268	100%	4,224	100.0%

Notes:

¹ Percentages may not equal to 100% due to rounding.

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table S2504, 2010 and 2019.

Table 2-18 illustrates the distribution of occupied unit types by tenure. The majority (78 percent) of owner-occupied units are single-family detached. The majority of renter-occupied units are within multifamily developments. Approximately 35 percent of renter-occupied units are in multifamily structures with 2 to 4 units and 32 percent are in structures with 5 or more units.



Table 2-18
Tenure By Units In Structure
2019

Unit Type	Owner-Occupied Units		Renter-Occupied Units		Total Occupied Units	
	Number	% ¹	Number	% ¹	Number	% ¹
Single family, detached	1,355	78%	480	20%	1,835	45%
Single family, attached	163	9%	261	11%	424	10%
Multifamily (2-4 units)	33	2%	813	35%	846	21%
Multifamily (5+ units)	76	4%	758	32%	834	20%
Mobile homes	112	6%	318	2%	153	4%
Other (Boats, RV, etc.)	0	0%	41	0%	0	0%
Total	1,739	100%	2,353	100%	4,092	100%

Notes:

¹ Percentages may not equal to 100% due to rounding.

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables S2504, 2019.

iii. Residential Building Permit Activity

Table 2-19
Residential Building Permits
2014-2020

Year	Single Family		Multifamily (2-4 units)		Multifamily (5+ units)	
	No. of Units	Average Value/Unit ¹	No. of Units	Average Value/Unit ¹	No. of Units	Average Value/Unit ¹
2014	1	-	-	-	-	-
2015	4	-	-	-	-	-
2016	2	-	-	-	-	-
2017	2	300,000	-	-	5	150,000
2018	2	450,000	4	117,750	-	-
2019	1	-	6	170,000	15	174,780
2020	3	-	-	-	22	209,216
Total	15	375,000	10	149,100	42	186,643

Notes:

¹ Calculated using provided data.

Source: City of Los Alamitos.



Table 2-19, above, describes residential building permit activity during the 2014-2021 planning period. Permits were issued for a total of 67 units. The majority of single-family units constructed were mobile homes. Multi-family developments with 5 or more units gained the most growth from 2017 to 2020, with an average value increasing from \$150,000 to \$209,216 per unit.

In addition to the permits listed above, 10 permits were issued for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) between 2014 and 2020. Three of the 10 permits were completed in 2020 and 2021, and the others remain open as of July 2021. ADUs are a new building type in the City, which may provide additional housing opportunities in the 2022-2029 planning period, particularly for affordable housing (see Chapter 4, Housing Policy Program).

b. Tenure

Approximately 42 percent of Los Alamitos' housing units were owner-occupied in 2019. As shown in Table 2-20, the percentage of owner-occupied housing units in Los Alamitos was comparatively less than California, and the reverse of Orange County as a whole.

Table 2-20
Occupied Units by Tenure
2019

Area	Owner-Occupied Units		Renter-Occupied Units		Total Occupied Units	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Los Alamitos	1,739	42%	2,353	58%	4,092	100%
Orange County	595,272	57%	442,220	43%	1,037,492	100%
California	7,154,580	55%	5,889,686	45%	13,044,266	100%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table DP04, 2019.



c. Vacancy Rates

Vacancy rates are an indicator of housing supply and demand. Low vacancy rates influence greater upward price pressures. Higher vacancy rates indicate downward price pressure. A four to five percent vacancy rate is considered “healthy” and indicates a well-functioning market. Based on DOF data, the vacancy rate in Los Alamitos remained constant, just below 3.3% between 2010 and 2021. Table 2-21 summarizes the occupancy status during these two years. According to American Community Survey estimates, the homeowner and rental vacancy rates are very close, at 1.6% and 1.4%, respectively. These data collectively imply high demand for both home ownership and rental in the City of Los Alamitos.

Table 2-21
Occupancy Status
2010-2021

Occupancy Status	2010	Percent	2021	Percent
Occupied Housing Units	4,212	96.72%	4,291	96.71%
Vacant Housing Units	143	3.28%	146	3.29%
Total Housing Units	4,355	100%	4,437	100%

Source: DOF, 2010 and 2021.

d. Age of Housing Stock

Age of a housing unit is often an indicator of housing condition. In general, housing units that are 30 years or older may exhibit need for repairs based on the useful life of materials. Housing over 50 years old is considered aged and is more likely to exhibit a need for major repairs.

Table 2-22 shows the housing units by year of construction and tenure. According to the 2019 American Community Survey, approximately 56 percent of all occupied housing units in Los Alamitos are over 50 years old. Another 32 percent are between 30 and 50 years old.



Table 2-22
 Year of Construction by Tenure (Occupied Units)
 2019

Year Built	Owner-Occupied Units		Renter-Occupied Units		Total Occupied Units	
	Number	%	Number	% ¹	Number	% ¹
2014-Later	28	2%	10	0%	38	1%
2010-2013	0	0%	46	2%	46	1%
2000-2009	95	5%	97	4%	192	5%
1990-1999	62	4%	185	8%	247	6%
1980-1989	126	7%	200	8%	326	8%
1970-1979	263	15%	708	30%	971	24%
1960-1969	799	46%	706	30%	1,505	37%
1950-1959	281	16%	320	14%	601	15%
1940-1949	85	5%	25	1%	110	3%
1939 or earlier	0	0%	56	2%	56	1%
Total	1,739	100%	2,353	100%	4,092	100%

Notes:

¹ Percentages may not equal to 100% due to rounding.

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table DP04, 2019.

e. Housing Conditions

Housing is considered substandard when found to be below the minimum standard of living defined in the California Health and Safety Code. Households living in substandard conditions are considered to be in need of housing assistance, even if they are not seeking alternative housing arrangements, due to health and safety threat.

In addition to structural deficiencies and standards, lack of infrastructure and utilities often serves as an indicator of substandard conditions. In 2019, the American Community Survey estimated 6 units lacking plumbing facilities and 36 units lacking complete kitchen facilities, as shown in Table 2-23. It should be noted that there may be some overlap in the number of substandard housing units, as some units may lack both complete plumbing and kitchen facilities. Table 2-23 shows that the majority of City housing stock does not lack plumbing or complete kitchen facilities, though more rental units lack complete kitchen facilities than owner-occupied units. The City has not conducted a housing conditions survey within the last five years, nor is new property owner inspection required.

On average, the City sees approximately 70 residential units that require action from Code Enforcement annually. In the last five years (2016 to 2021), the City's Code



Enforcement Division has issued 246 citations to single family homes and 112 citations to multi-family units related to substandard building/property conditions such as plumbing, roof damage, electrical, building, windows, lack of heating, or property maintenance issues. These property owners generally made the required repairs without financial assistance.

Table 2-23
Units Lacking Plumbing or Complete Kitchen Facilities
2019

Tenure	Lacking complete kitchen facilities		Lacking plumbing facilities		Total Units in City
	Number	%	Number	%	
Owner-Occupied Units	6	0.3%	6	0.3%	1,739
Renter-Occupied Units	30	1.7%	0	0%	2,353
Total Occupied Units	36	0.9%	6	0.1%	4,092

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables B25053 and B25049, 2019.

f. Housing Costs and Rents

This section evaluates housing cost and affordability trends in Los Alamitos.

i. Affordability Gap Analysis

The costs of renting or owning a home can be compared to a household's ability to pay for housing. Housing affordability is defined as paying no more than 30 percent of the household income on housing expenses. Table 2-24 summarizes the affordable monthly rent payment and estimated affordable purchase price by income categories, based on the 2021 HCD income limits for Orange County.



Table 2-24
Affordable Rent and Purchase Price by Income Category
2021

Income Category	% of AMI ¹	Income Limit	Affordable Monthly Rent Payment ²	Estimated Affordable Purchase Price ³
Extremely-low Income	≤ 30% AMI	\$40,350	≤ \$1,009	\$211,294
Very-low Income	31%-50% AMI	\$67,250	\$1,681	\$352,157
Low Income	51%-80% AMI	\$107,550	\$2,689	\$563,189
Moderate Income	81%-120% AMI	\$128,050	\$3,201	\$670,538

Notes:

¹Based on family of four. AMI = Area Median Income.

²30 % Gross Rent or PITI.

³Assumes 4.0% interest rate, 30-year mortgage. Mortgage payments equal to 30% of monthly income.

Source: HCD 2021 State Income Limits.

ii. Existing and New Home Price Trends

As shown in Table 2-25, 7.3 percent of the owner-occupied units were valued below \$100,000. Approximately 1.7 percent were valued between \$100,000 and \$199,999. Approximately 1.5 percent were valued between \$200,000 and \$299,999 and 89.6 percent were valued at \$300,000 or more.

Table 2-25
Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units
2019

Value	Number of Units	Percent of Total Owner-Occupied Units ¹
\$49,999 or less	97	5.6%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	29	1.7%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	11	0.6%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	19	1.1%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	26	1.5%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	179	10.3%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	1,135	65.3%
\$1,000,000 or more	243	14.0%
Total	1,739	100%

Notes:

¹Percentage may not equal to 100% due to rounding.

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table DP04, 2019.



As shown in Table 2-26, the median value for owner-occupied homes in Los Alamitos was \$761,200 in 2019. This represents a 24.1 percent increase from the median value of \$613,600 in 2013. The median value of owner-occupied homes in the City continues to be higher than that of neighboring cities and the overall county, though it had the lowest growth rate between 2013 and 2019.

Table 2-26
Median Housing Value Trends
2013–2019

Jurisdiction	Median Value, owner-occupied units		Percent Change
	2013	2019	
Los Alamitos	\$613,600	\$761,200	24.05%
Seal Beach	\$291,800	\$371,600	27.35%
Long Beach	\$417,600	\$556,100	33.17%
Cypress	\$496,600	\$632,900	27.45%
Hawaiian Gardens	\$243,800	\$363,500	49.10%
Orange County	\$519,600	\$679,300	30.74%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table B25077, 2013 and 2019.

iii. Ownership Affordability

The median sale price for new and resale housing units in the City has been rising with fluctuations from as low as below \$700,000 in 2017 to over \$1.2 million in 2021.⁵ The 2018 Los Alamitos median home sales price was \$925,000, which represents a 141% increase from 2000, slightly less than the 151% increase in the SCAG region.⁶ As shown in Table 2-19, since 2019 only four single-family homes were constructed, and available data shows one was priced at \$1,995,000.⁷ These recent data show that home prices exceed the affordability range for all income categories at or below Moderate income. A four-person household earning an annual income equal to the 2021 HCD AMI of \$106,700 for Orange County would be able to afford a \$558,738 home, assuming a 30-year fixed-rate loan at 4 percent. The median sales price in Los Alamitos exceeds what a family earning the median could afford. Extremely-low, very-low, low and moderate households may have difficulty finding housing they can afford to purchase.

⁵ Redfin.com, Los Alamitos Housing Market, accessed June 3, 2021.

⁶ SCAG Local Profiles, Core Logic/Data Quick, May 2019. SCAG median home sales price calculated as household-weighted average of county medians.

⁷ Orange County Real Estate, Inc. Based on information from California Regional Multiple Listing Service, Inc. as of 2021-06-03 at 1:48 pm.


iv. Rental Prices

There are a limited number of units listed for rent in Los Alamitos. Most renter-occupied units are privately owned single-family homes and few are in larger apartment complexes. Therefore, available market data for monthly rents is limited. Table 2-27 summarizes the median gross monthly rent for Los Alamitos based on the American Community Survey.

Table 2-27
Median Gross Rent by Unit Size
2019

Unit Size	Average Monthly Rent
Studio	Not provided
1 bedroom	\$1,289
2 bedrooms	\$1,728
3 bedrooms	\$2,292
4 bedrooms	\$2,938

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table B25031, 2019.

As shown in Table 2-28, at least 52 percent of renter-occupied households in Los Alamitos spend 30 percent or more of their household income on rent.

Table 2-28
Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income
2019

Percent of Household Income Spent on Gross Rent	Number of Households	Percent of Renter-Occupied Households
Less than 10.0 percent	95	4%
10.0 to 14.9 percent	261	11%
15.0 to 19.9 percent	260	11%
20.0 to 24.9 percent	309	13%
25.0 to 29.9 percent	164	7%
30.0 to 34.9 percent	224	10%
35.0 to 39.9 percent	135	6%
40.0 to 49.9 percent	242	10%
50.0 percent or more	605	26%
Not computed	58	2%
Total	2,353	100%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table B25070, 2019.



v. Rental Affordability

Based on the average rents for housing in Los Alamitos and the surrounding areas, a very-low income family may not be able to afford a 2-bedroom unit. A low-income family would be able to afford up to a 3-bedroom unit. Four-bedroom units are only affordable to those in the moderate and above-moderate income categories. Lower-income large households may have difficulty finding adequate-size housing that is affordable.

C. Housing Needs

This section provides an overview of existing and future housing needs in Los Alamitos. It focuses on five categories:

- Housing need resulting from households overpaying for housing;
- Housing need resulting from overcrowding;
- Housing need for extremely low-income households;
- Housing need based on SCAG's Regional Housing Needs Assessment; and,
- Housing needs of special needs groups such as seniors, large households, persons with disabilities (including developmental disabilities), female-headed households, homeless persons and farmworkers.

1. Households Overpaying for Housing

Households experiencing overpayment are households paying more than 30 percent of their gross income on housing-related expenses, including rent or mortgage payments and utilities. High housing costs can cause households to spend a disproportionate percentage of their income on housing and can result in payment problems, deferred maintenance and/or overcrowding.

Overpayment is often more prevalent in renter-occupied than in owner occupied households. The Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) database, provided by HUD based on American Community Survey data, describes the number of households, by income, with housing cost burdens. The latest CHAS data for the 2013-2017 period for Los Alamitos are shown in Table 2-29. Of all owner-occupied households, 26% are overpaying for housing, and 9% are severely overpaying. The percentages are higher when analyzing lower-income households as a group. Of all lower-income owner-occupied households, 48% are overpaying, and 27% are severely overpaying.



Of all renter households, 48% are overpaying, and 23% are severely overpaying. Of all lower-income renter households, 81% are overpaying, and 42% are severely overpaying.

Table 2-29
Overpayment by Income Level, 2013-2017

Income Category¹	Owner Households	Percent Owner	Renter Households	Percent Renter
Household Income $\leq$ 30% HAMFI	205		370	
Households overpaying	140	68%	300	81%
Households severely overpaying	90	44%	300	81%
Household Income > 30% HAMFI and $\leq$ 50% HAMFI	195		390	
Households overpaying	90	46%	365	94%
Households severely overpaying	55	28%	210	54%
Household Income > 50% HAMFI and $\leq$ 80% HAMFI	205		525	
Households overpaying	60	29%	375	71%
Households severely overpaying	20	10%	25	5%
Subtotal: All lower-income households	605		1285	
Subtotal: All lower-income HH overpaying	290	48%	1040	81%
Subtotal: All lower-income HH severely overpaying	165	27%	535	42%
Household Income > 80% HAMFI and $\leq$ 100% HAMFI	190		190	
Households overpaying	100	53%	19	10%
Households severely overpaying	0	0%	4	2%
Household Income > 100% HAMFI	995		835	
Households overpaying	80	8%	60	7%
Households severely overpaying	0	0%	0	0%
Total Households	1,795		2,315	
Total Households Overpaying	470	26%	1,119	48%
Total Households Severely Overpaying	165	9%	539	23%

Note:

¹ HAMFI = HUD Area Median Family Income

"Overpaying" is defined as spending >30% of gross household income on housing costs.

"Severely overpaying" is defined as spending >50% of gross household income on housing costs.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, CHAS data for Los Alamitos, based on 2013-2017 ACS.



2. Overcrowding

An overcrowded unit is defined by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) as a housing unit occupied by more than one person per room (excluding bathrooms, kitchen, hallway and closet space). Overcrowding can affect public facilities and services, reduce the quality of the physical environment and create conditions that contribute to deterioration of the housing stock.

Table 2-30 summarizes estimates of overcrowding in Los Alamitos as estimated by the American Community Survey in 2019. Only four percent of total units were overcrowded. Of all 167 overcrowded units, 80.2% were renter-occupied units and 19.8% were owner-occupied units.

Severely overcrowded units have more than 1.5 persons per room and are a subset of overcrowded units. They account for 0.4% of all occupied housing units in the City, including 11 owner-occupied units and 7 renter-occupied units.

Table 2-30
Overcrowding, 2019

Persons per Room	Owner-Occupied Units	Renter-Occupied Units	Total	Percent ¹ of Total
1.00 or less	1,706	2,219	3,925	95.9%
1.01 to 1.50	22	127	149	3.6%
1.51 to 2.00	11	7	18	0.4%
2.01 or more	0	0	0	0%
Total Overcrowded	33	134	167	4.0%
% Overcrowded by Tenure	1.9%	5.7%	-	-
Total Severely Overcrowded	11	7	18	0.4%
% Severely Overcrowded by Tenure	0.6%	0.3%	-	-

Note:

¹ Percentage may not equal to 100% due to rounding.

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table B25014, 2019.

As shown, the number of overcrowded units in Los Alamitos is relatively low. Future affordable housing developments should consider including a limited number of units with 3 or more bedrooms to help accommodate larger households. Other affordable housing options that can alleviate overcrowding are ADUs and JADUs, which are permitted by the Zoning Code in all residential zones. The City has issued ten permits for ADUs in the last planning period (see Table 2-19, Residential Building Permits), and a



program to track their progress is included to determine whether they will become an effective means of accommodating lower income household need. No ADU sites are included in the City's Land Inventory for purposes of meeting the RHNA allocation for the 2021-2029 planning period.

3. 2021–2029 Growth Needs

SCAG is responsible for allocating housing needs to each jurisdiction in its region, including Los Alamitos. A local jurisdiction's "fair share" of regional housing need (also known as the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)) is the number of additional housing units needed to accommodate the expected growth in the number of households and to replace expected demolitions and conversion of housing units to non-residential uses. The "fair share" allocation is also designed to achieve a future vacancy rate that allows for healthy function of the housing market.

The allocation is divided into four income categories: very-low, low, moderate and above-moderate income. Cities must also plan for the growth needs in the extremely-low income category, which is assumed to be a subset equal to 50 percent of the very-low income allocation. The RHNA allocation is not a requirement for jurisdictions to construct these units; it is only a requirement to create policies and programs to encourage the construction of units and to identify adequate sites to accommodate the jurisdiction's "fair share."

Table 2-31 summarizes the City of Los Alamitos' RHNA for the 2021–2029 Planning Period.

Table 2-31
Regional Housing Needs Allocation
2021–2029

	Extremely Low Income	Very-low Income¹	Low Income	Moderate Income	Above-Moderate Income	Total Allocation
Housing Units	97	97	119	145	311	769

Notes:

¹ Although not provided in the RHNA state law requires cities to plan for units to accommodate extremely low income, which can be estimated at 50% of very-low income, or 97 units.

Source: Based on SCAG's 6th cycle Final RHNA Allocation, adopted March 2021.



4. Special Needs Groups

Certain segments of the population may have more difficulty finding decent, affordable housing due to their special needs. This section identifies the needs of specific groups, as required by State law, including: seniors, large households, female-headed households, persons with disabilities including developmental disabilities, homeless persons, and farmworkers.

a. Seniors

Seniors are considered a special needs group because they are likely to have fixed incomes and may require specially-designed housing. The primary housing concerns of the elderly include:

- Income—the elderly population is generally on a fixed income;
- Household composition—the elderly, especially elderly women, often live alone;
- Transportation—the elderly population is more likely to depend on public transportation and may need special accommodation due to physical disabilities/limitations; and,
- Health care—the elderly often need access to health care.

As shown in Table 2-32, senior households (with householders age 65 and older) comprised 28 percent of the total households in Los Alamitos in 2019. The 1,165 senior households correspond to a senior population of 1,876 in 2019. Home ownership data shown in the table below indicates that approximately 33% of seniors are renters, and 67% are homeowners.



Table 2-32
Householders by Tenure and Age
2019

Householder Age	Owner-Occupied Households		Renter-Occupied Households		Total Households	
	#	% Owner-Occupied Households	#	% Renter-Occupied Households	#	% Total Households
15–24 years	9	1%	46	2%	55	1%
25–34 years	31	2%	398	17%	429	10%
35–64 years	922	53%	1,521	65%	2,443	60%
Non-Senior Households	962	55%	1,965	84%	2,927	72%
65–74 years	369	21%	333	14%	702	17%
75–84 years	259	15%	36	2%	295	7%
85 plus years	149	9%	19	1%	168	4%
Senior Households	777	45%	388	16%	1,165	28%
Total	1,739	100%	2,353	100%	4,092	100%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table B25007, 2019.

As indicated in Table 2-33, in 2019, the American Community Survey estimated the median household income for households with a householder age 65+ years in Los Alamitos was \$60,250 and \$63,728 in Orange County.

Table 2-33
Senior Householder Median Income
2019

Householder Age	City of Los Alamitos 2019 Median Income	Orange County 2019 Median Income
65 plus years	\$60,250	\$63,728

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table B19049, 2019.

Table 2-34 shows the distribution of senior householders by household income in 2019. Of the senior households, 21 percent had an income of less than \$25,000. An additional 39 percent earned between \$25,000 and \$74,999.



Table 2-34
Household Income for Householders Age 65+ years
2019

Household Income	Householders Age 65+ years	Percent of Householders Age 65+ years
< \$25,000	240	21%
\$25,000-\$34,999	126	11%
\$35,000-\$49,999	112	10%
\$50,000-\$74,999	212	18%
\$75,000-\$99,999	109	9%
\$100,000-\$149,999	164	14%
\$150,000-\$199,999	106	9%
≥\$200,000	96	8%
Total	1,165	100%

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Table B19037, 2019.

According to the 2019 American Community Survey data,⁸ at least 199 out of 388 senior householders that rent experience overpayment (gross rent over 30 percent of household income); at least 227 out of 777 senior householders that are homeowners experience overpayment (monthly owner costs over 30 percent of household income). The slowly increasing number of seniors in the population is creating a demand for more affordable housing.

Currently, there is one affordable housing community in Los Alamitos for seniors aged 62 and over. Klein Manor, located east of Laurel Park, offers 71 apartment units including studios and one-bedroom units, as well as a few accessible units for the sensory/mobility impaired. Klein Manor is operated by the Retirement Housing Foundation and charges approximately 30% of the resident income for rent.

Senior housing needs can include low-income apartments, retirement communities, independent living centers, assisted living centers, nursing homes, and hospice care centers. The City runs several programs for senior citizens. Additional housing resources include privately-run senior communities in and around the City.

⁸ American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables B25072 & B25093, 2019.



Table 2-35
Senior Resources in Los Alamitos

Organization	Services Provided
Katella Senior Living Community	Independent living, assisted living, memory care, respite care
Senior Grocery Program	Food distribution
Los Alamitos Senior Club	Social activities and events with weekly meeting at Community Center
Dine In & Dough House	Twice a week lunch experience hosted by the Los Alamitos Recreation & Community Services Department

b. Large Households

Large households are defined as having five or more persons living in the same household. Large households are a special needs group because they require housing with higher bedroom counts. As shown in Table 2-36, 372 of the City's total households had five or more persons in 2019. This represents a 12% increase from year 2011 (332 households). Of the 372 large households, 219 (58.9%) are renters and 153 (41.1%) are owners. ACS also identified a total of 888 housing units with 4 or more bedrooms (see Table 2-16), which may indicate generally sufficient large housing units to accommodate large households.

Table 2-36
Large Households by Tenure
2019

Number of Persons in Unit	Owner-Occupied Households	Renter-Occupied Households	Total Households
Five	110	184	294
Six	14	30	44
Seven or more	29	5	34
Total	153	219	372

Note:

Total Households Citywide= 4,092

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table B25009, 2019.

Note that renters occupy 6.0% of overcrowded units (see Table 2-30), which is a relatively low percentage. Only 81 of 888 units with four or more bedrooms are occupied by renters,⁹ coinciding with the overcrowding data.

⁹ American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables B25042, 2019.



Larger units are typically priced higher and may be affordable only to moderate and above moderate income households. There may be a challenge for lower income large households to find affordable and adequate housing. The City implements programs to encourage development of affordable housing units and provide information on, and referral to, state and federal assistance programs.

c. Female-Headed Households

Female-headed households are considered a special needs group due to their historically low rates of homeownership, lower income, and high poverty rates. Table 2-37 summarizes the female-headed households by tenure, with and without children. Approximately 33 percent of Los Alamitos' households are female-headed, and 18 percent of total households are female-headed family households. Approximately 20 percent of renter-occupied households are female-headed families compared to 14 percent of owner-occupied households that are female-headed families.

Table 2-37
Female-Headed Family Households by Tenure
2019

Householder Age	Owner-Occupied Households		Renter-Occupied Households		Total Households	
	Number	% of Owner-Occupied Households ¹	Number	% of Renter-Occupied Households ²	Number	% of Total Households ³
Female householder, no spouse present, with children under 18 years	19	1%	308	13%	327	8%
Female householder, no spouse present, without own children	220	13%	169	7%	389	10%
Total	239	14%	477	20%	716	18%

Notes:

¹ Total Owner-Occupied Households= 1,739

² Total Renter-Occupied Households= 2,353

³ Total Households= 4,092

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table B25115, 2019.



As shown in Table 2-38, in 2019 the majority of female-headed households (82 percent) were above the poverty level. Approximately 31 percent of female-headed households with children were below the poverty level.

Table 2-38
Poverty in Female-Headed Family Households
2019

Household Type	Below Poverty Level		Above Poverty Level	
	Number	% of Household Type ¹	Number	% of Household Type ¹
Female householder, no spouse present, with own children under 18 years	123	31%	275	69%
Female householder, no spouse present, without own children	7	2%	311	98%
Total	130	18%	586	82%

Notes:

¹ ACS figures subject to margin of error; total female-headed households, no spouse present, with own children under 18 years= 398; total female-headed households, no spouse present, without own children= 318

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table B17012, 2019.

d. Persons with Disabilities

The disabled population includes several special needs groups such as, but not limited to, the physically handicapped, developmentally disabled, and severely mentally ill. Typically housing for the needs of these populations include independent living units and supportive housing communities. Affordability and accessibility are the two major housing needs for persons with disabilities.

Accessibility needs, both within the home and to/from the housing unit, often require specially designed housing units. The City's reasonable accommodation ordinance (Municipal Code Chapter 17.42) provides a process for disabled individuals or those acting on their behalf to make requests for reasonable accommodation in the form of relief from various land use regulations such land use, zoning, or building laws and policies.

Table 2-39 shows the number of disabilities by type for Los Alamitos residents. The 2019 ACS identified 1,039 persons in the City with disabilities, of which 486 (46.8%) were persons over the age of 65. Individuals may be affected by one or more types of disability. The most prevalent disabilities in the City are ambulatory difficulty (24.6%) and cognitive difficulty (19.0%).



Table 2-39
Number of Disabilities by Disability Type and Age
2019

Disability Type	Ages under 18		Ages 18-64		Ages 65 and over	
	# of disabilities	% of total disabilities	# of disabilities	% of total disabilities	# of disabilities	% of total disabilities
Hearing Difficulty	0	0%	45	2.3%	246	12.4%
Vision Difficulty	20	1.0%	142	7.2%	84	4.2%
Cognitive Difficulty	76	3.8%	175	8.8%	126	6.4%
Ambulatory Difficulty	28	1.4%	145	7.3%	315	15.9%
Self-Care Difficulty	38	1.9%	108	5.4%	132	6.7%
Independent Living Difficulty	*	*	90	4.5%	214	10.8%
Total	162	8%	705	35.5%	1,117	56.3%
Total Disabilities	1,984	Total Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population with a Disability				1,039

* data not provided

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Subject Table S1810, 2019.

In 2019, the 486 senior residents with one or more disabilities represented nearly 26% of the total senior population (1,876). The most prevalent disabilities among seniors are ambulatory difficulty (15.9%) and hearing difficulty (12.4%). As discussed above, Klein Manor, a subsidized housing project, includes several accessible units for the sensory/mobility impaired. Assisted living resources also include Katella Senior Living Community as well as other providers around the City.

Developmental Disabilities

Per Senate Bill No. 812, the Housing Element must discuss the housing needs of persons with developmental disabilities. As defined by federal law, “developmental disability” means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- Is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
- Is likely to continue indefinitely;
- Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: a) self-care; b) receptive and expressive language; c) learning; d) mobility; e) self-direction; f) capacity for independent living; or g) economic self-sufficiency;



- Reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

The Census does not record developmental disabilities. According to the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, 2013 data shows that approximately 1.6 percent of the population can be defined as developmentally disabled.^{10, 11} This equates to 185 persons in the City of Los Alamitos with developmental disabilities, based on the 2019 ACS population of 11,534 persons. Based on SCAG data, as of June 2019, there are 170 children (under 18 years old) and 89 adults (18 years and over) with developmental disabilities in the City.¹²

The State department of Developmental Services provides community-based services to developmentally disabled persons through contracted regional centers. The Regional Center Orange County (RCOC) is responsible with the care of persons with developmental disabilities in Orange County. RCOC currently serves 176 individuals with developmental disabilities in Los Alamitos. Table 2-40 provides a breakdown by age of those helped through RCOC programs.

Table 2-40
Developmentally Disabled Residents by Age
2021

0–14	15–22	23–54	55–64	65+	Total
81	46	44	2	3	176

Source: RCOC, 2021.

Many developmentally disabled persons can live and work independently within a conventional housing environment. More severely disabled individuals require a group living environment where supervision is provided. The most severely affected individuals may require an institutional environment where medical attention and physical therapy are provided. Because developmental disabilities

¹⁰ Braddock et al (2015), The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Emerging from the Great Recession.

¹¹ American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Table DP05, 2013.

¹² CA DDS consumer count by CA ZIP, age group for the end of June 2019.



exist before adulthood, the first issue in supportive housing for the developmentally disabled is the transition from the person's living situation as a child to an appropriate level of independence as an adult.

Resources

The most obvious housing need for persons with disabilities is housing that is adapted to their needs. Most single-family homes are inaccessible to people with mobility and sensory limitations. Housing may not be adaptable to widened doorways and hallways, access ramps, larger bathrooms, lowered countertops, and other features necessary for accessibility. Location of housing is also an important factor for many persons with disabilities, as they often rely upon public transportation to travel to necessary services and shops. "Barrier free design" housing, accessibility modifications, proximity to services and transit, and group living opportunities are important in serving this group.

A variety of housing options and support services are provided by local and regional service agencies in Orange County, including:

- The Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) initiative is a collaborative effort of the U.S. Administration on Aging and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, in support of state efforts to develop "one-stop shop" centers in local communities that help older adults and individuals with disabilities make informed decisions about their service and support options and serve as the single point of entry to the long-term care system. ADRC of Orange County helps people who are aging or have a disability, their families and caregivers, in understanding their options and successfully connecting with the services and supports they need.
- County of Orange Social Services Agency In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) provides supportive services to persons who are aged, blind, or disabled, and who are limited in their ability to care for themselves and cannot live at home safely without assistance. Recipients of Security Supplemental Income (SSI/SSP) are eligible for IHSS, and people with higher income might still be eligible but subject to payment.
- Dayle McIntosh Center (DMC) is a non-profit organization that facilitates both individual and community independent living options for people with disabilities through support services, skills training, transition assistance, services for the deaf, and community services.
- Glennwood Housing Foundation, Inc is a non-profit corporation providing non-profit housing and supported living services to adults with developmental and/



or intellectual disabilities. Glennwood House of Laguna Beach offers individual apartment style living on a 33,000 square foot site that includes ADA compliant state-of-the-art living, dining, kitchen, two recreational/multi-media lounges, and communal social spaces. The program aims to assist participants in developing daily living skills that enable them to live independently and live, work, and play in the local community.

- The Arc Los Angeles and Orange Counties is committed to providing for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the ability to form and work towards goals through training and education, based on their individual abilities. The Arc is the world's largest community based organization of and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Los Angeles & Orange Counties chapter serves over 200 children and adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities from 26 cities in the area.
- Help for Brain Injured Children (H.B.I.C.) is a non-profit organization that focuses on the physical and environmental condition of the neurologically impaired child and young adults. H.B.I.C. assists in the medical rehabilitation and educational processes with the most appropriate programs available, including an adult day program, a certified non-public school (Cleta Harder Developmental School), and behavioral intervention.
- The Lighthouse Group is a non-profit organization serving adults with special needs by providing community and support through monthly clubs, camp experiences and other events. Lighthouse Orange County serves 50-70 participants on a weekly basis.
- ACCESS is a shared-ride service provided by Orange County Transportation Authority for people who are unable to use the regular, fixed-route bus service because of functional limitations caused by a disability. ACCESS service is provided within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of, and during the same hours as, the Orange County Bus service. Subscription service and same-day taxi service are also available at the cost of the OC ACCESS base fare.

e. Homeless Population and Transitional Housing

Due to the transient nature of homelessness, enumeration of this population is difficult. The homeless population tends to move from place to place based on available services such as food and temporary living quarters. People experiencing homelessness may live in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or motel or hotel vouchers paid by third-party agencies such as nonprofits, religious organizations and local government agencies. Unsheltered homeless people use as primary nighttime location a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for people such as the streets, abandoned buildings, vehicles or parks.



The most recent data on the homeless population in Orange County is provided through the 2019 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Survey and Report. The data provide a snapshot of homelessness on a particular date and time. The 2019 PIT Count for Orange County determined there was one unsheltered homeless individual and 21 sheltered individuals/families in Los Alamitos.¹³ The unsheltered individual was not identified as a transitional aged youth (age 18-24), veteran, or senior (age 62 and over). While PIT counts for earlier years are not available at the city level, Orange County saw an increase of 2,068 persons or 43% in PIT count from 2017 to 2019. Less than 0.2% of the City of Los Alamitos population experienced homelessness in 2019, including both sheltered and unsheltered. The City is in a better situation than the overall county.

In Los Alamitos, there are two emergency/transitional shelters serving specialized populations. The Precious Life Shelter serves homeless pregnant women with a total of 27 beds and a three-step program: emergency program, transitional program, and single parent efficiency program. Casa Youth Shelter provides shelter and supportive services for homeless or at-risk youth ages 12 to 17. The facility has 12 beds and serves an average of more than 200 youth per year. Many of Casa Youth Shelter's clients are referred from other cities. In addition to these shelters, We Care provides rental and utility assistance for Los Alamitos families and individuals with emergency need.

At the time of the 2019 PIT Count for Orange County, 738 emergency shelter and transitional housing beds remained vacant. Of these, 242 unused beds were in the North Planning Area (including Los Alamitos), and 183 were at the Armory Cold Weather Shelter Program (Fullerton and Santa Ana locations). Therefore, the City should have sufficient capacity and resources to accommodate people experiencing homelessness within its jurisdiction, and no additional facilities would be required.

The City permits homeless shelters with up to 20 beds and conditionally allows those with more than 20 beds in the Planned Light Industrial (P-L-I) zone. The P-L-I zone is appropriate for such facilities because these lands are located near commercial and school sites and in areas where other governmental services are available. The City allows transitional and supportive housing in all residential districts subject to only those restrictions that apply to other residential uses of the same type in the same zone.

AB 101 requires that Low-Barrier Navigation Centers (LBNC) be a by-right use in areas zoned for mixed-use and nonresidential zoning districts permitting multifamily uses. LBNC provide temporary room and board with limited barriers to entry while case

¹³ Everyone Counts 2019 Point In Time Final Report, County of Orange, California, July 30, 2019.



managers work to connect homeless individuals and families to income, public benefits, health services, permanent housing, or other shelter. Policy Action 4.6 has been provided to require that the Zoning Ordinance be amended to meet this requirement.

f. Farmworkers

The 2019 American Community Survey estimated only 8 (less than 0.07 percent) of Los Alamitos' residents were employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining. These 8 workers are in production, transportation, and material moving occupations. Active agricultural production is limited in Orange County. It is assumed that very few, if any, of the residents are employed in active agricultural production or harvesting. The 2018 ACS estimated no resident employed in the agriculture and related industries. Therefore, there is no identified need for farmworker housing in Los Alamitos. Nevertheless, as with other special needs, these farmworker households, if any, can benefit from City incentives for developers to increase/maintain affordable units that are available to all segments of the population.

g. Extremely-Low Income Households

Although extremely-low income households are not specifically identified by the State as a special needs group, their specific housing needs warrant further analysis. Extremely-low income (ELI) households are defined as households with incomes less than 30 percent of the area median income (AMI). ELI households are a subset of the very low-income household category. The provisions of Government Code Section 65583 (a)(1) require quantification and analysis of existing and projected housing needs of extremely-low income households. The AMI for a 4-person household in Orange County is \$106,700. ELI household incomes are defined by HCD and HUD as those earning less than \$40,350.¹⁴ In 2019, at least 12.7 percent of Los Alamitos households were within the extremely-low income category (refer to Tables 2-13 and 2-14; household income less than \$25,000).

Existing Needs

Table 2-41 provides a summary of housing problems experienced by extremely-low income households in the City of Los Alamitos. According to data from the 2013 to 2017 CHAS provided by HUD, 575 households (14% of total households) in Los Alamitos are considered extremely low-income. The majority (64%) of ELI households are renters. Up to 77 percent of extremely-low income households experience at least one type of

¹⁴ Per HUD, the Extremely Low Income (ELI) income limit is the greater of either: 1) 60% of Very Low Income limit (\$67,250), which equals \$40,350, or 2) poverty guideline established by Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS), which equals \$26,200.



housing problem, including incomplete kitchen and plumbing facilities, overcrowding and severe overcrowding, and overpayment. Renter ELI households are more likely to experience overpayment or severe overpayment (81% for either) than owner ELI households (68% and 44%, respectively).

Table 2-41
Housing Problems for Extremely Low-Income Households
2013–2017

	Renters	Owners	Total Households
Extremely-low Income Households	370	205	575
% with any Housing Problem ¹	81%	68%	77%
% Cost Burden ² > 30%	81%	68%	77%
% Cost Burden ² > 50%	81%	44%	68%

Notes:

¹“Housing Problem” defined as any occupied housing units lacking a complete kitchen, lacking complete plumbing, having 1.01 or more persons per room (overcrowded), or costing more than 30 percent of the occupant household’s income (overpayment).

²Percentage of household income spent on housing cost.

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, CHAS, based on the 2013-2017 ACS.

Projected Needs

To calculate projected ELI housing needs, the City assumed 50% of its very low income Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) consists of ELI households. From its very low income need of 194 units (see Table II-31), the City has projected a need of 97 units for ELI households.

The needs of extremely low-income households may include housing units designed for transient/homeless populations, multifamily rental housing, factory-built housing, mobile homes, housing for agricultural employees, supportive housing, single room occupancy units, and workforce housing. Extremely low income households are eligible to receive rental assistance through the Orange County Housing Authority’s Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program. There are no affordable housing units designated for ELI households within the City. Small ELI households may also find affordable housing in typically affordable options such as Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels, and accessory dwelling units (ADUs). ADUs are permitted in all residential zones. While SRO was removed from the allowed uses during a Zoning Code update in 2019, the City plans to add SRO as a permitted use in the P-L-I zone in 2022 as described in Policy Action 4.8.



CHAPTER 3

HOUSING RESOURCES AND CONSTRAINTS

A. Governmental Constraints

State law requires that housing elements identify and analyze potential and actual governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement, or development of housing for all income levels, including housing for people with disabilities. The analysis should identify the specific standards and processes of these constraints and evaluate their impact on the supply and affordability of housing. The analysis should determine whether local, regulatory standards pose an actual constraint and must also demonstrate local efforts to remove constraints that hinder a jurisdiction from meeting its housing needs. Governmental constraints may include policies, standards, requirements or actions imposed by government on land and housing use and development. Although State and federal agencies may also impose governmental constraints upon housing, these agencies are beyond the control of local government and are therefore not included in this analysis.

1. Land Use Controls

a. Los Alamitos 2035 General Plan

Every city in California is required by State law to have a General Plan, which establishes policy guidelines for development in the city. The General Plan is the foundation for all land use controls. The Land Use Element identifies the location, distribution and density of land uses throughout the city. Los Alamitos utilizes a number of planning tools, including zoning regulations and the subdivision ordinance, to implement the General Plan.

The Los Alamitos 2035 General Plan provides for three residential and one mixed use land use designations in the City. Table 3-1 summarizes these designations and their associated density ranges and acreages. Densities for residential designations are expressed in dwelling units per acre (du/ac).



Table 3-1
Los Alamitos 2035 General Plan
Residential Land Use Designations

Designation	Description	Acreage	Density Range
Single Family Residential	Single family detached homes on individual lots	258	1-6 du/ac
Limited Multiple Family Residential	Single family detached and attached residences, including small lot subdivisions, townhouses, courtyard homes, duplexes and triplexes. Live/work uses are also permitted, subject to the uses permitted by the Professional Office designation.	18	6-20 du/ac, Max office space 500 square feet per unit
Multiple Family Residential	Single family detached and attached residences, including all development permitted in other residential categories as well as stacked flats and other building types with 4 or more units. Other uses such as convalescent hospitals, churches, and mobile home parks are also permitted subject to special procedures such as a Conditional Use Permit.	145	20-30 du/ac
Mixed Use	Vertical or horizontal mix of commercial, office, public/quasi-public, and/or residential uses on the same parcel. Stand-alone (not mixed-use) commercial, office, and public/quasi-public uses are also permitted. For parcels that front Los Alamitos Boulevard or Katella Avenue, the ground floor is required to consist of those uses permitted or conditionally permitted in the General Commercial Zoning District.	19	30 du/ac

Source: Los Alamitos 2035 General Plan.

When the General Plan was prepared in 2013, there were approximately 4,421 dwelling units in the City. The build-out analysis identified a maximum potential of 251 net additional units that could be built. In total, 4,672 dwelling units are anticipated within the City limits at build-out. DOF reports 4,437 dwelling units within the City as of January 2021, leaving a potential for 235 units to be added to the City's housing stock. Since the adoption of the General Plan, the City has undertaken the preparation of a Town Center Strategic Plan, which is intended to provide for higher density (up to 60 units per acre) residential in a mixed use atmosphere. The intent of the Town Center is to create a full integrated commercial and residential environment which provides an activated and vibrant downtown. As provided in Appendix B, Land Resources, the City has assumed that some of its lower income RHNA will be accommodated in the Town Center. In addition, two larger properties which have housed businesses in the City are



currently being marketed for sale by their owners, and the businesses are planned for closure. The City has seen a significant interest in the redevelopment of these sites, and anticipates that a portion of its RHNA will be accommodated on these lands (also see Appendix B and Section 4, which provides Policy Actions for the creation of new zoning designations and the rezoning of properties included in the City's sites inventory). The expansion of high-density residential lands over those included in the City's current General Plan will provide additional opportunities for housing at all income levels, expand the City's options for meeting its RHNA allocation, and eliminate any potential constraint associated with General Plan designations and land availability.

All Multi-family properties which are adding square footage are required to comply with the City's requirement for Site Development Permit.

Growth Management Element

The Growth Management Element of the City's General Plan contains policies for the planning and provision of traffic improvements that are necessary for the City's orderly growth and development. The policies and programs presented in the Element are for the establishment of specific traffic Level of Service (LOS) standards, a development mitigation program, participation in inter-jurisdictional planning forums, development of a seven-year capital improvement program, and adoption of a Transportation Demand Management Ordinance.

Under the Element's Policy 1.2, all new development within the City are required to establish a development phasing plan commensurate with required improvements. Within three years of the issuance of the first building permit or within five years of the first grading permit for a development project, whichever occurs first, the project is required to construct and complete the necessary improvements to transportation facilities to which the project contributes measurable traffic to attain the level of service standards established in this Element. The Element is specifically tied to transportation and not land use, and therefore the City has not found the Growth Management Element to constrain the provision of housing or unduly impact the cost of housing.

b. Zoning Code

The City's Zoning Code establishes more specific development standards, allowable uses and limitations. Zoning regulations control development by establishing requirements



related to density, height, lot size, yard setbacks and parking spaces. These site development standards work to ensure a quality living environment for all Los Alamitos residents.

There are four residential zoning districts:

- R-1: Single-Family Residential
- R-2: Limited Multiple-Family Residential
- R-3: Multiple-Family Residential
- M-H: Mobilehome Park

The City permits senior housing projects for low- and very low-income households in the C-F (Community Facilities) zone with a Conditional Use Permit. Homeless shelters are permitted in the P-L-I (Planned Light Industrial) zone (with a CUP for more than 20 beds). The City also has one mixed-use zoning district (TCMU or Town Center Mixed Use), which permits residential uses with provisions (e.g., multi-family dwelling must be integrated into a project as either horizontal or vertical mixed use). The City currently applies a Live/Work Overlay Zone (LW) over the R-2 zone in the downtown area, which is intended to allow live/work development and uses on certain lots, while still maintaining the primary zoning. Table 3-2 summarizes the residential zoning districts and permitted residential uses.



Table 3-2
Permitted Uses

Land Use	R-1	R-2	R-3	M-H	C-O	C-G	P-L-I	TCMU
Accessory Dwelling Unit	P	P	P	P				
Boarding House	--	--	CUP	--				
Group Home—6 residents or fewer	P							
Homeless Shelters—up to 20 beds					--	--	P	--
Homeless Shelters—more than 20 beds					--	--	CUP	--
Live/Work Unit	--	AUP	--					AUP
Mobile Home Parks	--	CUP	CUP	CUP				
Multiple-Family Dwelling	--	P	P	--				AUP
Resident Manager's Unit	--	AUP	AUP	--				
Single-Family Dwelling	P	P	P	P				--
Senior Housing	--	P	P	P				P
Supportive Housing	P	P	P	P				AUP
Transitional Housing	P	P	P	P				AUP
Two-Unit Dwelling (Duplex)	--	P	P	--				
Residential Care Facilities	--	--	CUP ¹	--	CUP	CUP	--	--

Note:

¹7 or more persons only

P = Permitted Use

AUP = Administrative Use Permit

CUP = Conditional Use Permit Required

-- = Use Not Allowed

Source: Los Alamitos Municipal Code, 2021.



The Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process, which requires Planning Commission action, is no different for a market rate or affordable residential development. A residential development plan, or the addition of square footage to an existing multiple-family residential structure, is already subject to another review process called the “site development permit.” This permit is applied for and considered by the Planning Commission concurrently with the requirement for a Conditional Use Permit. The Commission would approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove the Conditional Use Permit application and site development permit applications, imposing conditions necessary to ensure compatibility with surrounding uses, to preserve the public convenience, health, interest, safety, or welfare, and necessary to make the findings required by the Los Alamitos Municipal Code at the same time. These findings represent a potential constraint to the provision of housing, so Policy Action 4.8 includes a requirement to modify the required findings.

The Administrative Use Permit (AUP) is similar to the CUP in purpose and procedures, other than the AUP requires action by the Development Services Director rather than the Planning Commission. Unlike the CUP process, no public notice or public hearing shall be required for an AUP. The AUP process is no different for a market rate or affordable residential development.

Manufactured or mobile homes are permitted in all residential zones on a permanent foundation if the Planning Commission determines the proposed parcel is compatible for the use. A mobile home on a permanent foundation is included under the definition of “single-family dwelling” and is subject only to the same development standards as a conventional single-family dwelling in the same zone.

Table 3-3 summarizes the residential zoning requirements in the City.



Table 3-3
Summary of Residential Zoning Requirements

Zoning District	Parcel Area (Sq Ft)	Minimum Dwelling Area (Sq Ft)	Maximum Density	Maximum Height Limit (Main Structures) (Ft)	Maximum Height Limit (Accessory Structures ³) (Ft)	Maximum Site/Parcel Coverage	Minimum Front Yard (Ft)	Minimum Front Yard (cul-de-sac) (Ft)	Minimum Side Yard (Ft)	Minimum Side Yard (corner lot) (Ft)	Minimum Rear Yard (Ft)
R-1	6,000	No requirement	6 du/ac; 1 unit per lot	30	15	50%	20	10	5	10	10
R-2*	9,000	800	20 du/ac	35	15	60%	20 ⁴	10	5 ⁶	10	10
R-3	7,200	Studio - 450; 1-Bedroom - 650; 2+Bedroom - 800	25 du/ac	35 (or 3 stories) ²	15	50%	20 ⁵	10	5 ⁶	10	10
M-H	5 acres	--	10 du/ac ¹	20	15	--	--	--	--	--	--
C-O	No requirement			40 feet (or 3 stories)	--	1.50 FAR	15	--	Not required unless abutting a residential zoning district, then 10 feet	10	10 ft unless rear lot abuts a C-G or P-L-I zone
C-G	6,000	--	--	40 feet (or 3 stories)	--	1.00 FAR	None required	--	Not required unless abutting a residential zoning district, then 15 feet	None required	Not required unless abutting a residential zoning district, then 15 feet
P-L-I	6,000	--	--	40 feet (or 3 stories)	--	1.50 FAR	15	--	Not required unless abutting a	15	10 ft unless abutting a residential



3

Housing Element

Housing Resources and Constraints

									residential zoning district, then 40 feet		zoning district, then 40 feet
C-F	Based on CUP or Site Development Permit Approval Process										
TCMU	10,000	--	30 du/ac	60	60	2.00 FAR for nonresidential components	0-10 ft	0-10 ft	Not required unless abutting a residential zoning district, then 10 feet	10	Not required unless abutting a residential zoning district, then 15 feet

Notes:

¹minimum lot or space size for individual mobile home is 2,000 sq. ft

²Structures:

- For any portion in excess of 25 feet shall be set back an additional 5 feet.
- Shall not exceed 2 stories and 25 feet in height on lots with a common property line with an R-1 zoned property

³Accessory dwelling units shall conform to the setback requirements for the main structure

⁴When a lot in an R-2 or R-3 zone is approved for single-family residential use by a subdivision or lot split, with a minimum area of less than 9,000 sq. ft., the parcel may have a minimum front setback area of 15 feet.

⁵Front setbacks may vary provided an average building setback of 20 feet is maintained along an entire block face, with no setback less than 15 feet.

⁶Where a dwelling or dwellings have entry from an interior side yard; the entry must open onto an outdoor court. The minimum length of the outer court wall which parallels the side lot line shall be 15 feet and shall have a minimum height of four feet and a maximum height of six feet. The dwelling entry shall be set back a minimum of 15 feet from such side lot line.

*All live/work uses in the (LW) overlay zone shall comply with the development standards applicable to the primary zone and the supplemental standards established in Section 17.28.180 (Live/Work Standards).

-- = Not listed

Source: Los Alamitos Municipal Code, Title 17



The minimum setback, maximum site coverage and maximum height requirements are specifically designed to work with the parcel area requirements to not reduce the ability for a project to achieve the maximum permitted density. The majority of constructed multifamily projects in the City yield densities of 20 du/ac and higher; in the neighboring cities, a number of projects yield densities above 30 du/ac. The City's residential zoning requirements provide flexibility, especially for multi-family development, by allowing for average front yard setbacks instead of strict minimum setbacks. There is also flexibility for increased height through a Conditional Use Permit.

The City's requirements are similar to other surrounding communities and do not constrain the provision of housing, nor do they unduly impact the cost of housing.

As mentioned above, the City is preparing a Town Center Strategic Plan, which is intended to provide for higher density (up to 60 units per acre) residential in a mixed use atmosphere. As provided in Appendix B, Land Resources, the City has assumed that some of its lower income RHNA will be accommodated in the Town Center. Therefore, Policy Action 4.5 has been proposed to require the zoning modification to allow up to 60 units per acre in the Town Center Mixed Use (TCMU) zone. The maximum height limits for TCMU would be increased to allow higher rise buildings, although setback requirements are expected to remain as they are already minimal. Policy Action 4.5 would also require sites included in the inventory (Figure B-1, Appendix B) to develop as designated in Table B-2 (Appendix B).

In addition, two larger properties (Arrowhead site, zoned P-L-I and Lampson site, zoned C-F; see Appendix B) which have housed businesses in the City are currently being marketed for sale by their owners. With the businesses planned for closure and a significant interest in the redevelopment of these sites, the City anticipates that a portion of its RHNA will be accommodated on these lands (see Appendix B and Chapter 4). Policy Action 4.4 is included to require the creation of a new zoning designation, R-4, and the rezoning of Arrowhead and Lampson sites included in the City's sites inventory. The R-4 zone would allow 30 to 36 units per acre by right, not including density bonus provisions. The height limits would be increased to allow higher rise buildings, although setback requirements are expected to remain uniform across all residential zones.

The proposed zoning changes would increase residential densities allowed over those in the City's current Zoning Ordinance. Allowing higher densities will provide additional opportunities for housing at all income levels, expand the City's options for meeting its RHNA allocation, and eliminate any potential constraint associated with zoning designations and land availability.



c. Parking Requirements

Table 3-4 summarizes the residential parking requirements in Los Alamitos. Parking requirements do not constrain the development of housing directly. However, parking requirements may reduce the amount of available lot areas for residential development.

The City has found that these parking requirements are necessary to adequately provide for the number of vehicles typically owned by each housing type. In addition, the City has established reduced standards for very low, low and moderate housing projects, to reduce the costs associated with the provision of parking for affordable housing projects. The City has not found these parking requirements to constrain the provision of housing or unduly impact the cost of housing.



Table 3-4
Residential Parking Requirements

Type or Residential Development	Required Parking Spaces (Off Street)
Accessory Dwelling Unit	One space ¹
Single-Family Dwelling	Two covered spaces for each dwelling unit for units with up to four bedrooms. Three covered spaces for units with five or more bedrooms.
R-2 Limited Multiple-Family	Two spaces for each dwelling unit
Multi-Family Dwellings ²	• One and a half parking spaces for each studio unit • Two spaces for each one-bedroom unit • Two and ¾ spaces for each two-bedroom unit • Three and a half spaces for each three-bedroom unit • Four spaces for each four-bedroom unit, an additional ½ space for each room in excess of the first four bedrooms
Multi-Family - Affordable Housing Developments (moderate income and below) ²	• One Parking space for each studio • One parking space for each affordable one-bedroom dwelling unit • Two parking Spaces for each affordable dwelling unit over one bedroom, regardless of the number of bedrooms
Homeless Shelter	Two spaces for the facility plus one space for each six occupants at maximum allowed occupancy
Senior Residential Housing Projects	One and 1/10 spaces for each unit
Mobilehome Parks	Two covered tandem parking spaces for each dwelling unit and one-half open parking space for guests for each dwelling unit
Mixed Uses	As required for each separate use in the mixed-use development
Live/Work Unit	Two covered spaces per unit, plus one customer space, which can be in a driveway
Residential Care Facilities	¼ space to one and half spaces per unit or room, to be determined by the Planning Commission based on the age of residents, type of transportation facilities provided, and on-site amenities to be provided. ³



**Table 3-4
Residential Parking Requirements**

Notes:

¹ With exceptions as specified in Section 17.28.020(E)9.

² In addition:

- Project with 4 or fewer units: A minimum of 1 unassigned, designated guest space
- Project with 5 or more units: A minimum of 0.33 unassigned designated guest spaces per unit
- Plus, where a common recreation room is provided, 2 spaces

The total number of parking spaces required is determined by the aggregate number of units within the project as a whole.

³ The applicant shall submit a study prepared by a City-approved independent consultant that provides justification for the parking proposed.

Source: Los Alamitos Municipal Code, Chapter 17.22.



2. Density Bonus Ordinance

Section 17.28.050 of the City's Municipal Code states that residential density bonuses, incentives, or concessions for the production of affordable housing shall be granted in compliance with Government Code Section 65915, as amended from time to time. State law requires a city or county to grant one density bonus and incentives or concessions, waivers or reductions of development standards, and parking ratios if requested, for developers who agree to construct housing that contains affordable housing as specified in Government Code Section 65915 (b)(1). The city shall grant the incentive or concession upon request, unless the city makes a written finding that the incentive or concession does not result in identifiable and actual cost reductions, would have a specific, adverse impact, or would be contrary to state or federal law.

The City's density bonus ordinance requires residential development to set aside at least one of the following, in consistence with Government Code Section 65915 (b)(1):

- Ten percent of the total units for lower income households;
- Five percent of the total units for very low income households;
- A senior citizen housing development or a mobile home park that limits residency based on age requirements for housing for older persons;
- Ten percent of the total dwelling units in a common interest development for persons and families of moderate income, provided that all units in the development are offered to the public for purchase;
- Ten percent of the total units of a housing development for transitional foster youth, disabled veterans, or homeless persons, subject to a recorded affordability restriction of 55 years and shall be provided at the same affordability level as very low income units;
- Twenty percent of the total units for lower income students in a student housing development that meet certain requirements; or
- One hundred percent of all units in the development, including total units and density bonus units, but exclusive of a manager's unit or units, are for lower income households, except that up to 20 percent of all units may be for moderate-income households.

Development concessions or incentives may include:

- a reduction in site development standards;
- a modification of zoning code requirements or architectural design requirements that exceed the minimum building standards approved by the California Building Standards Commission;



- approval of mixed-use zoning in conjunction with the housing project; or
- other regulatory incentives or concessions proposed by the developer or city or county which result in identifiable and actual cost reductions.

A project that receives a density bonus and concession or incentive must retain affordability of the units for at least 55 years. As provided in Policy Action 4.7, the City will annually review its Density Bonus provisions to assure compliance with State law.

3. Senior Citizen Housing

The Zoning Code allows Senior Citizen housing in the R-2 (Limited Multiple-Family Residential), R-3 (Multiple-family Residential), M-H (Mobile home Park), TCMU (Town Center Mixed Use), and C-F (Community Facilities) zones with a Conditional Use Permit. Development standards for senior citizen housing and residential care facilities are found in Section 17.28.250 of the Municipal Code, and are as follows:

- Off-street parking shall be provided for each project in compliance with the standards in Chapter 17.22 (See Table 3.4).
- At a minimum, proposed developments shall comply with the applicable zone regulations relative to structure setbacks, lot coverage, landscaping, and other development standards.
- New projects proposed on property abutting lots that are zoned or developed commercially or industrially shall include specific measures approved by the Planning Commission to mitigate potential impacts from adjacent uses (e.g. the construction of decorative block walls, the use of sound attenuation materials, the inclusion of a landscaped buffer, etc.).
- Sound attenuation measures shall be provided for new senior housing projects that comply with State requirements for residential occupancy.
- For senior housing developments in a residential zone, the density standards of that zone shall apply. For senior housing developments and residential care facilities in all other zones, where such uses are permitted, no density limit shall apply.
- Minimum and maximum dwelling unit size shall be governed by the Uniform Building Code and Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. The Planning Commission may increase these standards upon review of the proposed occupancy and on-site amenities.



4. Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing and Single Room Occupancy Units

a. Homeless Shelters and Transitional Housing

To accommodate its share of the region's homeless, there are a number of organizations in and around the City that offer shelter and services to homeless persons. State housing law requires that cities identify sites that are adequately zoned for homeless shelters and transitional housing. Table 3-5 provides a summary of emergency shelters and transitional housing located in the City of Los Alamitos.

Table 3-5
Homeless Facilities in Los Alamitos

Facility Name	Type of Facility	Target Population	Number of Shelter Beds
Precious Life Shelter	Emergency/Transitional /Supportive	Pregnant homeless women and their infants	27
Casa Youth Shelter	Emergency	Youth	12

Source: Official websites of Precious Life Shelter and Casa Youth Shelter, accessed June 2021.

There is also a nonprofit organization sponsored by local churches, community groups, corporations and concerned citizens, WE CARE of Los Alamitos, a family support center serving families, veterans, and senior citizens in the areas of Northwest Orange County. WE CARE pools the resources of the community to meet the emergency needs of families and individuals such as rental assistance, utility assistance, therapy services, food, personal care items, and more. The City also financially assists shelters in the region, as described in Appendix C and Appendix D.

The City of Los Alamitos defines emergency shelters and transitional housing in its Municipal Code, and established the allowable locations and standards for these uses with the adoption of Ordinance 13-04 in July of 2013. To comply with the provisions of SB 2, the City amended the Zoning Ordinance to allow for transitional and supportive housing as a residential use, subject only to those requirements of other residential uses in the same zone.

**i. Adequate Sites for Emergency Shelters**

Pursuant to SB 2, jurisdictions with an unmet need for emergency shelters are required to identify a zone(s) where emergency shelters will be allowed as a permitted use without a Conditional Use Permit or other discretionary permit. The identified zone(s) must have sufficient capacity to accommodate the shelter need, and at a minimum provide capacity for at least one year-round shelter.

Section 17.10.020 of the City's Municipal Code permits homeless shelters of up to 20 beds by right in the P-L-I zone. It also allows for shelters for more than 20 beds in the P-L-I zone through a Conditional Use Permit. While each facility is limited to the 20 beds, the Planned Light Industrial zone (P-L-I) could accommodate several facilities within its 154 acres. More specifically, the limitation of each facility to 20 beds - does not limit the Planned Light Industrial Zone (P-L-I) area to only 20 beds.

Other requirements include:

- A waiting and intake area of 10 square feet per bed with a minimum of 100 square feet;
- A written management plan and resident manager;
- An emergency shelter may not be located closer than 300 feet from another emergency shelter; and
- Residents are limited to a six-month maximum stay.

Recent state law also restricts parking requirements for emergency shelters to that necessary for employees only. The Zoning Ordinance currently does not comply with this requirement, and Policy Action 4.6 requires that this requirement be corrected.

Per City Ordinances 19-03 and 13-04, emergency shelters for homeless persons that are subject to a multi-jurisdictional agreement, subject to California Government Code Section 65583(d), shall be considered an allowed use even if inconsistent with Municipal Code Section 17.28.160, provided the agreement includes standards and operational criteria acceptable to the participating jurisdictions.

ii. Transitional and Supportive Housing

Facilities of this nature offer an interim home for homeless individuals and families as they transition into permanent housing. Transitional and supportive housing is permitted as a residential use in Los Alamitos and are also allowed through a AUP in the TCMU zone. These uses are only subject to those restricts that apply to other residential dwelling of the same type in the same zone.



iii. Low-Barrier Navigation Centers

AB 101 requires that Low-Barrier Navigation Centers (LBNC) be a by-right use in areas zoned for mixed-use and nonresidential zoning districts permitting multifamily uses. LBNC provide temporary room and board with limited barriers to entry while case managers work to connect homeless individuals and families to income, public benefits, health services, permanent housing, or other shelter. "Low Barrier" means best practices to reduce barriers to entry, and may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) The presence of partners if it is not a population-specific site, such as for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault, women, or youth.
- (2) Pets.
- (3) The storage of possessions.
- (4) Privacy, such as partitions around beds in a dormitory setting or in larger rooms containing more than two beds, or private rooms.

Policy Action 4.6 has been provided to require that the Zoning Ordinance be amended to include Low-Barrier Navigation Center as defined by state law.

b. Single Room Occupancy Units

Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units are small, one-room units occupied by a single individual, and may either have a shared or private kitchen and bathroom facilities. SROs are rented on a monthly basis typically without rental deposits, and can provide an entry point into the housing market for extremely low income individuals, formerly homeless and disabled persons.

To comply with the provisions of AB 2634, the City adopted Ordinance 13-04 in 2013 to allow the development of SRO housing. Policy Action 4.8 has been added to conditionally allow SRO in the P-L-I zone. Facilities with SRO units are subject to the requirements of Municipal Code Section 17.28.260, which address development and facility operation.

5. Accessory Dwelling Units

Accessory dwelling units provide additional housing opportunities for people of all ages and economic levels, while maintaining compatibility with the surrounding single-family residential neighborhood. The City of Los Alamitos permits accessory dwelling units in the R-1, R-2, R-3 and M-H zones.



Per Municipal Code Chapter 17.28.020, “Accessory dwelling unit” or “ADU” means an attached or a detached residential dwelling unit that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons and is located on a lot with a proposed or existing primary residence. It shall include permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel as the single-family or multifamily dwelling is or will be situated. Requirements for an ADU include:

- Maximum size of ADU shall not exceed 850 square feet for a studio or one-bedroom unit and 1,000 square feet for a unit with two bedrooms, and the total floor area of an attached ADU shall not exceed 50 percent of the floor area of the existing primary dwelling;
- An attached ADU must have independent exterior access from the proposed or existing primary dwelling;
- One off-street parking space must be provided for an ADU unless certain conditions are met in Municipal Code Chapter 17.28.020 E.9.; and
- The height of an ADU shall not exceed 16 feet unless the ADU is within the existing space of a single-family dwelling, an accessory structure, or multifamily dwelling structure.

“Junior accessory dwelling unit” or “JADU” means a unit that is no more than 500 square feet in size and contained entirely within a single-family residence. A JADU may include separate sanitation facilities, or may share sanitation facilities with the single-family residence. Requirements for a JADU include:

- A JADU shall not be less than 220 square feet and shall not exceed 500 square feet in size;
- A JADU located within a proposed or existing single-family residence must include a separate entrance from the main entrance of the residence;
- A JADU must include an efficiency kitchen, including a cooking facility with appliances, and a food preparation counter and storage cabinets that are of reasonable size in relation to the size of the JADU;
- No additional off-street parking is required for a JADU beyond that required at the time the existing primary dwelling was constructed.

The City’s standards are consistent with current State law. However, as standards have been changing for ADUs and JADUs, Policy Action 4.7 requires that the City annually review its ADU and JADU requirements for compliance with State law.



6. Housing for Persons with Disabilities

According to the US Census Bureau, persons with disabilities, including those with developmental disabilities, are individuals with a long-lasting physical, mental or emotional condition. These conditions can make it difficult for a person to do daily activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning or remembering. These conditions can also prevent a person from going outside the home alone or to work at a job.

a. Reasonable Accommodation Procedures

As a matter of State law (SB 520), jurisdictions are now required to analyze potential and actual constraints upon the development, maintenance and improvement of housing for persons with disabilities, and demonstrate local efforts to remove governmental constraints and provide reasonable accommodations for housing designed for persons with disabilities. With the 2013 adoption of the Reasonable Accommodation Ordinance No. 13-05 the City of Los Alamitos established a process for requesting reasonable accommodation. Ordinance No. 19-03 updated the process to conform to federal and state fair housing laws in 2019. Reasonable accommodation procedures are explained in Los Alamitos Municipal Code Section 17.42. An application for a reasonable accommodation from a zoning regulation, policy or practice is made on a form provided by the Development Services Department, accompanied by a fee. The Development Services Director shall issue a written determination to approve, conditionally approve, or deny a request for reasonable accommodation. All improvements constructed under a reasonable accommodation authorized by Code, which deviate from the City's development standards at the time that the improvement is constructed, are required to be removed upon the vacation of the unit by the person to whom the reasonable accommodation was granted, unless the Director makes a finding per Municipal Code Section 17.42.050.

b. Zoning and Other Land Use Regulations

Examples of the ways in which the City facilitates housing for persons with disabilities through its regulatory and permitting procedures are:



- The City of Los Alamitos currently permits residential care facilities, regardless of the number of residents, in the C-O (Commercial- Professional Office) and C-G (General Commercial) zones with a Conditional Use Permit.
- The City of Los Alamitos currently permits residential care facilities for seven or more persons in the R-3 (Multiple-Family Residential) zone with a Conditional Use Permit.
- The City defines family as “a group of persons, whether related or unrelated, who live together in a nontransient and interactive manner, including the joint use of common areas of the premises which they occupy and sharing household activities and responsibilities such as meals, chores, and expenses.” Live-in domestic help would qualify under the family definition for sharing household activities and responsibilities. The City has determined that the current definition does not pose a constraint on housing for persons with disabilities.
- For residential care facilities, the City requires a quarter to one and half parking spaces for each unit or room.

State law already provides that transitional housing, supportive housing, and residential care facilities for 6 or fewer persons are allowed in all residential zones of a city with the same development standards as other residential uses in those zones. Table 3-2 has been revised to clarify this.

The City has not received any applications for a residential care facility in the recent past. However, a Conditional Use Permit application for a residential care facility for seven or more persons would be evaluated based on compliance with the development standards and requirements stated in the Zoning Code and the Conditional Use Permit requirement would not constrain development of residential care facilities.

7. Building Codes and Enforcement

Building and safety codes are adopted to preserve public health and safety, and ensure the construction of safe and adequate housing. These standards also have the potential to increase the cost of housing construction and maintenance.

a. Building Codes

The City of Los Alamitos has adopted the 2019 California Building Code, which is based on the most recent International Building Code, which establishes construction standards for all residential buildings. The City amends the code as needed to further define requirements based on local conditions.



The following construction codes, subject to the modifications set forth in Section 15.04.010 of the Municipal Code, have been adopted by the City:

1. The 2019 California Administrative Code (Title 24, Part 1);
2. The California Building Code (Part 2, which is based on the 2018 International Building Code);
3. 2019 California Residential Code (Part 2.5, based on the 2018 International Residential Code);
4. 2019 California Electrical Code (Part 3, based on the 2017 National Electrical Code);
5. 2019 California Mechanical Code (Part 4, based on the 2018 Uniform Mechanical Code);
6. 2019 California Plumbing Code, (Part 5, based upon the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code);
7. 2019 California Energy Code, (Part 6);
8. 2019 California Historical Building Code (Part 8);
9. 2019 California Existing Building Code (Part 10, based on the 2018 International Existing Building Code);
10. 2019 California Green Building Standards Code (Part 11, known as the "CALGreen" Code);
11. 2019 California Referenced Standards Code (Part 12).

The majority of amendments to the code do not apply to or affect residential construction. Prior to adoption of these amendments, the City analyzed their potential impacts and found that these amendments are required to ensure the public safety, health and welfare.

b. American with Disabilities Act

The federal Fair Housing Act of 1998 (FHA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are intended to assist in providing safe and accessible housing. ADA provisions include requirements for a minimum percentage of units in new developments to be fully accessible for persons with physical disabilities. Compliance with these regulations may increase the cost of housing construction as well as the cost of rehabilitating older units, which may be required to comply with current codes. However, the enforcement of ADA requirements is not at the discretion of the City, but is mandated under federal law.



8. Development Fees

The City charges various development and permit fees to cover administrative costs associated with the development of residential projects. These fees ensure quality development and the provision of adequate services. Often times, development fees are passed through to renters and homeowners in the price/rent of housing, thus affecting the affordability of housing.

The Building Industry Association of Orange County conducts periodically a land development fee survey and provides a comparative summary for Los Alamitos and surrounding jurisdictions. The most recent fee survey (2013-2014) utilizes a hypothetical subdivision and house size to standardize the reporting of fees. The prototype subdivision used in 2013-2014 was 50 detached units on 10 acres at a density of 5 dwelling units per acre. The building fees are based on a 2,500 square foot, single-family detached unit valued at \$166,850, with 4 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms and a 400 square foot garage. The results showed the development fees in Los Alamitos were comparative to neighboring jurisdictions including Cypress, Westminster and Garden Grove. While fees for individual items vary among cities, the overall fee level in Los Alamitos are similar to the neighboring cities.

Table 3-6 shows the most recent development fee schedule implemented in Los Alamitos from July 1, 2021. The total development and permit fees for a recently built single-family home (4,260 square feet, including demolition of existing unit) were \$8,435.53 (plus entitlement fees). The total development and permit fees for a recent condominium project were \$91,253.95 (plus entitlement fees) or \$18,250.79 per unit. The total development and permit fees for a recent apartment project (four 2,229-square-foot units) were approximately \$13,090.64 (plus entitlement fees) or \$3,272.66 per unit. Based on the residential projects constructed in Los Alamitos, the City has not found the development and permit fees to hinder the supply of housing or negatively impact the affordability of housing.



Table 3-6
Development Fee Summary (2021-2022)

Description	Los Alamitos
Planning	
Preliminary Review	\$234
Negative Declaration ¹	Actual Cost
Initial Environmental Assessment ¹	\$234
Planning Plan Check- Major (> 250 Sq. Ft)	\$468
Planning Plan Check- Minor (Additional Sq. Ft of ≤ 250 Sq. Ft)	\$117
Zoning Ordinance Amendment (map or text) ¹	Deposit \$2,500 /actual cost
Tentative Tract Map	\$1,682 (\$1,472 for a Tentative Parcel Map)
Site Plan Review	\$3,507 Major; \$2,572 Minor
Extension of Time Requests- Discretionary	Deposit \$443
Conditional Use Permits and Variances	\$2,572 Major; \$1,286 Minor; Variances \$935



Table 3-6
Development Fee Summary (2021-2022)

Description	Los Alamitos
Building	
Building Inspection Fees	\$2,258 for \$100,001 valuation.*
Building Plan Review Fees	\$1,883 per \$100,001 valuation.*
Surcharge- Technology Fee	20% of Building Permit Fee
Surcharge- General Plan Maintenance Fee	9.3% of Building Permit Fee
Engineering and Subdivision	
Final Tract Map	\$1,306
Parcel Map	\$725 per parcel
Lot Line Adjustment	\$725 per parcel
Access- Personal/Homeowner	\$373
Driveway- Residential	\$186
Grading	\$725 plan check, \$373 inspection
Improvement	\$933 plan check, \$560 inspection
Capital Facilities and Connections	
Park In-Lieu Fees	\$18,076 single-family \$15,161 duplex \$13,412 multi-family \$9,913 mobile home

Notes:

¹ Actual Cost using FBHR

* Provided as example of Fee Schedule

Indicates typical fees, extra fees may apply for additional reviews

Source: 2021-22 Recommended Fee Level, City of Los Alamitos Master Fee Schedule Implementation: July 1, 2021

9. Local Processing and Permit Procedures

Processing time for residential projects varies according to the complexity of the proposed development. Projects not requiring a Conditional Use Permit, tentative tract or parcel map or other additional entitlement are subject to ministerial (administrative) review by the Planning staff when the project is submitted for building permits.

A tentative parcel map, residential development plan, Conditional Use Permit, or the addition of square footage to an existing multiple-family residential structure shall be subject to the Site Development Permit process. Any proposed addition to an existing multi-family residential, mixed-use or group of related structures whereby the addition is 2,500 square feet or less of gross floor area is subject to a Minor Site Development



Permit, which consists of a staff-level review with public notice but no public hearing. Other types of development are likely subject to a Major Site Development Permit, which requires a discretionary Planning Commission review process that includes public notice with a public hearing as required for all Planning Commission actions. The staff and/or Planning Commission shall consider the following criteria:

- Compliance with the Zoning Code and all other applicable City regulations and policies and
- Compatibility with neighboring properties and developments with regard to setbacks, building heights, massing, location of parking facilities, and similar site design and building design features that shape how a property appears within a broader, definable neighborhood or zone context.

Typically, the site plan review and Conditional Use Permit processes take eight to twelve weeks from the date of application submittal. If the project also includes Planning Commission action on a Tentative Parcel or Tract Map then staff will process it concurrently with the site plan review, Conditional Use Permit and any required environmental documentation. If the project requires City Council approval, it may take up to six months.

Engineering plan check for a typical project in Los Alamitos normally takes two to four weeks. Building department plan check for the same type of project may also take from two to four weeks. Overall, the typical processing time for a 5-unit multiple-family project, from project submittal to building permit issuance, is typically 10 to 16 weeks. Table 3-7 outlines the typical processing timeframes for all residential development.

Table 3-7
Typical Processing Times

Approval Type	Timeframe
Conditional Use Permit	60-90 days
Site Plan Review	60-90 days
Tentative Parcel/ Tract Map	60-90 days
Ministerial	5-10 days for first review

Source: City of Los Alamitos, 2021.



10. Environmental and Infrastructure Constraints

a. Environmental Constraints

Environmental hazards affecting housing units include geologic and seismic conditions, which pose the greatest threat to the built environment. The following hazards may impact future development of residential units in the city.

i. Seismic Hazards

Los Alamitos is in a region of high seismic activity and is subject to potentially destructive earthquakes. While there are no known active or potentially active faults located in the City of Los Alamitos, the entire Southern California region is considered to be seismically active. Five faults, the Newport-Inglewood, Norwalk, El Modena, Whittier-Elsinore, and Elysian Park Faults are situated within close proximity to Los Alamitos. Surface rupture resulting from earthquakes is unlikely to occur in the City because no faults have been identified within its boundaries. Also, due to its flat topography, Los Alamitos residents are not exposed to geologic hazards such as landslides.

ii. Flooding

The Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) maintains storm drainage and flood control in Los Alamitos. Three natural surface water bodies located in and adjacent to Los Alamitos are the Coyote Creek, Carbon Creek and San Gabriel River. The two concrete-lined creeks are intermittent and can be dry for some part of the year. The concrete-lined San Gabriel River flows year-round in the lower end. Most flood control facilities within the City currently provide protection for a 25-year storm.

The City of Los Alamitos participates in and promotes the National Flood Insurance Program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The program provides communities and individuals with flood hazard information and provides flood insurance for property owners within participating jurisdictions.



iii. Toxic and Hazardous Wastes

The local regulatory authority for the on-site storage of hazardous materials in Los Alamitos is the Orange County Fire Authority. Within the Orange County Fire Authority, the Safety and Environmental Services section enforces codes and ordinances relative to fire and life safety issues associated with commercial, industrial, and residential development, as well as hazardous materials. Under Assembly Bill 2286, businesses that handle hazardous materials (including hazardous wastes) or extremely hazardous substances at reportable quantities are required to submit a Hazardous Materials Business Emergency Plan (HMBEP) in CERS. The Orange County Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) verifies information disclosed by businesses and provides it to agencies that are responsible for the protection of public health and safety and the environment, such as fire departments, hazardous materials response teams and other local environmental regulatory groups.

iv. Fire Hazards

The City of Los Alamitos contracts with the Orange County Fire Authority for fire protection and emergency medical services. The local fire station in Los Alamitos is located at 3642 Green Avenue. The fire station houses three Fire Captains, three Engineers, and three Firefighters. Additional resources are also available from 77 Orange County Fire Stations, the City of Long Beach, and Los Angeles County. Due to the low density character of the community and sparse wildland areas in the City, the wildland fire hazard is considered to be insignificant or low.

v. Noise

The existing noise environment surrounding the City of Los Alamitos is influenced primarily by transportation related noise sources. These transportation related noise sources include traffic noise from nearby roadways (i.e., I-605, Katella Avenue and Los Alamitos Boulevard) and aircraft noise from the Joint Forces Training Base. Stationary noise sources include air conditioning units, power generators, air compressors, school bells, and power equipment. The City of Los Alamitos General Plan has traffic noise contours for assessing the compatibility of residential uses with transportation related noise sources. The City has also adopted a Noise Ordinance that sets criteria for residential areas impacted by stationary noise sources, including “not to exceed” noise levels for various periods of time and regulations for special activities.

**b. Infrastructure Constraints****i. Water**

The Golden State Water Company owns and operates the extensive network of water lines that serves Los Alamitos. The water system supply sources include a mixture of groundwater from the Orange County Groundwater Basin and imported water from the Colorado River Aqueduct and State Water Project (imported and distributed by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC)). The system has historically met at least 60 percent of its total water demand by pumping water from groundwater sources. Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) is the intermediate wholesaler between MWDSC and the Golden State Water Company for imported water and prepares the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) for Orange County.

The City is located in an urbanized area and is generally built-out. Additional housing units will be accommodated through redevelopment or increased units on parcels with existing development. Water infrastructure facilities are generally accessible throughout the City. Fire flow has been determined adequate in most areas. Where there is low fire flow, buildings are required to be sprinklered. Based on the 2020 MWDOC UWMP analysis and discussion with the City of Los Alamitos' water service provider, sufficient water capacity is available to provide water service for additional units constructed to meet the City's RHNA allocation for the planning period.

ii. Sewer

Los Alamitos' wastewater is carried through pipes owned by the Rossmoor/Los Alamitos Area Sewer District (RLAASD) then to two larger sewer trunk lines owned by the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD). These trunk lines eventually connect to treatment plant facilities owned by the OCSD located in Huntington Beach. There are approximately 56.4 miles of sewer lines in the Rossmoor/Los Alamitos area.

Similar to water infrastructure, the main sewer infrastructure is available at most locations within the City. Based on RLAASD's Sewer System Management Plan (2017) and discussion with the Rossmoor/Los Alamitos Area Sewer District, there is sufficient sewer capacity available to provide service for additional units constructed to meet the



City's RHNA allocation for the Planning Period. Improvements to the sewer system may be necessary for certain parcels in the City if the existing infrastructure in that particular location cannot accommodate a higher intensity use. This would be determined on a project-by-project basis.

11. On and Off-Site Improvements

When subdividing land, the City may require the developer/subdivider to dedicate land or pay in-lieu fees to provide necessary on and off-site improvements. The subdivision committee determines the appropriate dedications which may include dedication of land for local streets, arterial highways, alleys, trails, paths and pedestrian ways, flood control facilities, parks, easements for landscape maintenance, public utility easements and public transit facilities.

Since Los Alamitos is generally built-out, new development would primarily be infill and subdivisions would result in few new parcels. Most subdivisions would utilize the existing circulation network. Private streets may need to be constructed for access to individual lots. Table 3-8 summarizes the required widths for private streets.

Table 3-8
Private Street Widths

Street Type	Minimum Pavement Width	Minimum Right-of-Way Width
Private street serving 4 or fewer parcels	28'	40'
Private street serving 5 or more parcels	40'	56'

Source: City of Los Alamitos Municipal Code, Chapter 16.



B. Non-Governmental Constraints

1. Vacant and Underutilized Land

A detailed analysis of vacant and underutilized land in the City of Los Alamitos is provided in Appendix B.

2. Land Prices

The cost of land has a key influence on the cost of housing and the availability of affordable units. Land prices are determined by a number of factors including, but not limited to, land availability and permitted development density. As land becomes less available, the price of land increases. The price of land also increases as the number of units permitted on each lot increases. In Orange County, undeveloped land is limited and combined with a growing population land prices have increased.

There are few vacant parcels of land remaining in Los Alamitos. As a result, few, if any, transactions of only land have occurred in the past few years. Based on transactions in nearby cities and the price of land in the overall County, the price of land in Los Alamitos is estimated to be \$38 to \$77 per square foot.

3. Construction Costs

Construction costs are primarily determined by the costs of materials and labor. They are also influenced by market demands and market-based changes in the cost of materials. Construction costs depend on the type of unit being built and the quality of the product being produced. Table 3-9 summarizes estimated construction cost based on development type in urban area of Orange County, which are representative for Los Alamitos.



Table 3-9
Construction Cost Estimates

Development Type	Density (units per acre)	Unit Size (square feet)	Cost per Square Foot
Single-Family Residential	3-6	1,890 – 3,000	\$87.55
Single-Family Residential – detached 3-story	12-14	1,900 – 2,300	\$124.34
Multi-family Residential – 2-story	11-15	2,400 – 2,560	\$88.21
Multi-family Residential – attached 2- story condo	14-17	1,450 – 1,900	\$103.93
Multi-family – attached 3-story	18-22	2,050 – 2,250	\$125.27

Source: Typical average costs in Orange County urban area from Building Industry Association, Orange County Chapter, 2021

4. Financing

Mortgage interest rates have a large influence over the affordability of housing. Higher interest rates increase a homebuyer's monthly payment and decrease the range of housing that a household can afford. Lower interest rates result in a lower cost and lower monthly payments for the homebuyer.

When interest rates rise, the market typically compensates by decreasing housing prices. Similarly, when interest rates decrease, housing prices begin to rise. There is often a lag in the market, causing housing prices to remain high when interest rates rise until the market catches up. Lower-income households often find it most difficult to purchase a home during this time period.

Figure 3-1 shows the average interest rates between July 2018 and June 2021. The interest rates have generally declined from December 2018 through January 2021. Interest rates have fluctuated, but are currently low, at around 3 percent. Interest rates are determined by national policies and economic conditions and there is little that a local government can do to affect these rates. However, in order to extend home buying opportunities to lower-income households, jurisdictions can offer interest rate write-downs. Additionally, government insured loan programs may be available to reduce mortgage down payment requirements.

Loan limits have generally increased for different types of lenders in 2021, giving qualifying homebuyers more buying power. While the mortgage rates hit historical low due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some lenders may ask for extra asset documents before closing due to the volatility in the financial markets. The economy is recovering fast in



2021 and is likely to continue the trend in the coming months. However, mortgage rates are also increasing and the housing market is experiencing a slowdown in purchase application activity. Furthermore, it has yet to translate into a weaker home price trajectory because the shortage of inventory continues to cause pricing to remain elevated. These conditions may create obstacles to homeownership by low-income households.

Figure 3-1
Mortgage Rates
July 2018 – June 2021



Source: Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Survey, U.S. weekly average mortgage rates as of 6/10/2021.

The City has not found any evidence that nongovernmental constraints affect its ability to meet the RHNA. In addition, the City cannot influence banks, lending institutions or the suppliers of building materials and labor cost alike. Although the City will continue to work with the affordable housing development community to reduce costs and encourage development through fee waivers, density bonus provisions and other means over which it has control, it cannot impact the national economy which heavily influences land prices, mortgage rates and labor/material costs.

5. Energy Conservation

Southern California Edison, which provides electricity service in Los Alamitos, offers public information and technical assistance to developers and homeowners regarding energy conservation. Southern California Edison also provides incentives for energy efficient new construction and home improvements. For new construction, the building



owner and/or contractor can participate in the Savings By Design program or the California Advanced Homes Program, which helps home builders to prepare for future energy code changes, build homes better than code and reach Zero Net Energy (ZNE).

Homeowners also have the option of installing efficient appliances including a heat pump water heater, smart thermostat and/or a Home Area Network (HAN) to receive rebates. Both homeowners and renters may qualify for the Residential Energy Efficiency Loan (REEL) program which offers financing options for energy efficiency upgrades. Under the Energy Savings Assistance program, income-qualified customers may be eligible to receive energy-efficient appliances at no charge or a minimal charge.

The Southern California Gas Company, which also provides service to Los Alamitos, offers various rebates and savings programs that promote reduced energy consumption and sustainable design. Rebates include energy efficient appliances upgrade for both single-family and multi-family units. Through the Energy Efficient New Homes program, builders can receive up to \$1,000 per single family item or \$1,400 per multi-family item for constructing homes with qualifying natural gas appliances that exceed the Title 24 requirements.

One of the more recent strategies in building energy-efficient homes is following the U.S. Green Building Council's guidelines for LEED Certification. LEED-certified buildings demonstrate energy and water savings, reduced maintenance costs and improved occupant satisfaction. The LEED for New Construction program has been applied to numerous multi-family residential projects nationwide. The LEED for Homes includes standards for new single-family and multi-family home construction. The LEED certification standards are one piece of a coordinated green building program.

A green building program considers a broad range of issues including community site design, energy efficiency, water conservation, resource-efficient material selection, indoor environmental quality, construction management, and building maintenance. The end result will be buildings that minimize the use of resources; are healthier for people; and mitigate the effects on the environment.

The following presents a variety of ways in which Los Alamitos can promote energy conservation:

- Provide information regarding rebate programs and energy audits available through Southern California Edison;
- Refer residents and businesses to green building certification programs such as LEED for Homes;



- Develop incentives, such as expedited plan check, for developments that are utilizing green building;
- Promote funding opportunities for green buildings, including available rebates and funding through the California Energy Commission; and
- Provide resource materials regarding green building and energy conservation.



CHAPTER 4

HOUSING POLICY PROGRAM

A. Introduction

This chapter describes the City’s Housing Policy Program for the 2021–2029 RHNA Planning Period. The Policy Program details the specific policy actions the City will undertake to address present and future housing needs, meet the requirements of State law and consider the input of residents and stakeholders. The Policy Program serves as a guide for policy makers and city staff and will assist in the decision-making process for housing and housing-related activities during the 2021–2029 planning period.

In developing the Policy Program, the City assessed its housing needs, conducted a fair housing assessment (Appendix D), evaluated the performance of existing programs and received input from the community (Appendix A). The strategies or policy actions detailed in this program are accompanied by:

- an identification of the City department or agency responsible for implementation;
- anticipated targeted financing or funding source;
- quantified objectives (where applicable); and,
- anticipated timeframe for implementation.

The Housing Policy Program is organized into five Housing Strategy Areas:

- Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Housing Stock
- Preserving Housing Costs Affordability
- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
- Adequate Housing Supply
- Coordinated Housing Efforts

B. City of Los Alamitos Housing Policy Program

Housing Strategy Area 1: Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Housing Stock

The City of Los Alamitos is generally a “built-out” community comprised of long established neighborhoods. The City has not experienced significant construction of new housing units in recent years. Approximately 32 percent of the City’s housing stock is



between 30 and 50 years old and an additional 56 percent is over 50 years old. Much of the housing stock has been deemed to be in decent, suitable condition. However, due to the relative age of housing units there is an anticipated need for on-going maintenance and rehabilitation. Maintenance and rehabilitation activities help ensure the quality of the City's existing housing stock and neighborhoods is preserved.

Policy Action 1.1: Proactive Code Enforcement

The City currently has an active code enforcement program and shall continue to perform proactive and complaint-based code enforcement activities. When the activities involve housing construction deficiencies, the City shall inform the property owner of government programs such as the federal Title I Property Improvement Loan Program and other rehabilitation programs that may be available from nonprofit housing organizations such as Habitat for Humanity. The City shall also provide informational materials on the programs at City Hall and on the City's website.

Objective:	Continued Proactive Code Enforcement Activities, refer 3 households annually
Responsible Party:	Code Enforcement Division
Funding Source:	General Fund
Timeframe:	Ongoing, update website and distribution materials by December 31, 2021

Policy Action 1.2: Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Program

Extremely-low- and very-low-income Los Alamitos residents are eligible for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Single-Family Rehabilitation Housing Repair Loans & Grants Program, also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program. This program provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards. Homeowners that are unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere are eligible and must be age 62 or older and not able to repay a repair loan to qualify for grants.



The City shall continue to encourage residents to apply for the Section 504 Home Repair program by providing and disseminating information on the City's website and at City Hall. The Code Enforcement Division will continue to provide information on the program and encourage very-low-income residents to apply when addressing code violations.

Objective: Assist units owned by extremely-low- and very-low-income households, refer 3 households annually
Responsible Party: County of Orange/Code Enforcement Division
Funding Source: County of Orange
Timeframe: Ongoing, update informational materials and website by December 31, 2021

Policy Action 1.3: Rehabilitation of Multifamily Dwellings

The City will provide for regulatory incentives and in-kind technical assistance to nonprofit organizations, affordable housing developers, and property owners for the acquisition and rehabilitation of multifamily properties. To encourage acquisition and rehabilitation of multifamily units, the City Council shall consider a variety of incentives such as streamlined permit review, reduced development standards, parking reductions or other concessions on a case-by-case basis.

Objective: Encourage and facilitate rehabilitation of multi-family dwellings
Responsible Party: Planning Division/City Council
Funding Source: General Fund
Timeframe: As rehabilitation projects are proposed, incentives will be at City Council discretion on a case-by-case basis during 2021 to 2029

Housing Strategy Area 2: Preserve Housing Costs Affordability

The availability of suitable housing at an affordable cost has a direct positive influence on the ability of Los Alamitos' residents to remain in the City and maintain and/or enhance their quality of life. Preserving existing affordable housing units is especially critical to special needs persons in the community. Preserving affordable housing units and increasing assistance are ways in which the City can ensure current and future residents have the opportunity to obtain affordable housing.



Policy Action 2.1: Preservation of Units At-Risk of Converting to Market Rate

Continue to monitor units at-risk of conversion with priority on the Klein Manor (71 affordable units that accept Section 8 vouchers). The City does not have any units at-risk during the planning period or within ten years of the start date, however, it will continue to monitor affordable units and proactively assist property owners to continue income-restrictions.

Objective:	Continue to monitor “at-risk” units
Responsible Party:	Planning Division
Funding Source:	General Fund
Timeframe:	Ongoing, re-evaluate in 2029 during the next housing element planning period

Policy Action 2.2: Section 8 Housing Choice Rental Assistance Program

The Orange County Housing Authority continues to provide rental assistance to qualified households in Los Alamitos through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. The City shall continue to work with the Housing Authority to promote the Section 8 program and increase the number of households served as additional vouchers become available.

Objective:	Increase use of Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers through referral. Assist 12 households per year.
Responsible Party:	City Development Services Department/Orange County Housing Authority
Funding Source:	HUD
Timeframe:	2021–2029 upon issue of each Notice of Available Funds and new inquiry received

Policy Action 2.3: Energy Conservation

Monthly utility costs can affect a household’s ability to afford suitable housing. Reducing energy consumption and residents’ utility costs can assist households in reducing monthly housing expenses. The City will encourage residents to participate in energy



conservation incentive programs through the utility companies (Southern California Gas and Southern California Edison). To further promote efficient use of energy resources, the City shall investigate the feasibility and effectiveness of offering additional incentives or developing other strategies.

Objective:	Encourage participation in energy conservation incentive programs
Responsible Party:	Development Services Department
Funding Source:	General Fund
Timeframe:	Consider feasibility of offering additional incentives annually in the General Fund budget; annually update information on the City website with links to SoCalGas and SCE programs with the first update by December 31, 2021

Housing Strategy Area 3: Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

The City promotes fair housing and makes all programs available to low-income families and individuals, regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, political affiliation, sex, age, sexual orientation or other arbitrary factor. Housing should be available for all persons regardless of income, family status, age, race, sex, national origin or color. The City encourages the provision of housing to meet needs of those with special needs, including but not limited to, elderly households, persons with disabilities, including those with developmental disabilities, the homeless and all other segments of the community.

Policy Action 3.1 Housing for Persons with Disabilities

The City understands that persons with disabilities, physical and/or developmental, often require housing units not readily available in the private market and that affordability is a concern. The City shall encourage and facilitate development of housing for persons with disabilities. The City will assist developers in identifying outside funding sources and support efforts to pursue those opportunities—either as group



homes or in single family homes, when appropriate and feasible. The City may also offer incentives such as density bonuses, regulatory concessions and expedited processing on a case by case basis. The City will develop and disseminate informational materials to developers regarding the incentive program and identified funding sources.

Objective: Housing for Persons with Disabilities
 Responsible Party: Development Services Department
 Funding Source: General Fund
 Timeframe: As housing projects for persons with disabilities are proposed, incentives will be considered by the City Council on a case-by-case basis during 2021 to 2029

Policy Action 3.2: Fair Housing Information and Referrals

The City shall continue to provide referrals to the Fair Housing Council of Orange County for fair housing services including counseling services for tenant-landlord disputes and cases of alleged discrimination.

The City shall continue to publicize fair housing and complaint referral information at local community centers and in the Recreation & Community Services Schedule of Classes. The City will also provide information at City Hall and on the City's website.

Objective: Fair Housing Information and Referrals
 Responsible Party: Development Services Department/Fair Housing Council of Orange County
 Funding Source: General Fund
 Timeframe: Ongoing, update website and distribution materials by June 30, 2022

Policy Action 3.3: Active Outreach

Collaborate and coordinate with government agencies and nonprofit groups such as the Fair Housing Council of Orange County to support outreach and expansion of lending programs for homeownership among minority populations.

Objective: Fair Housing Information and Referrals
 Responsible Party: Development Services Department
 Funding Source: General Fund
 Timeframe: Annually with adoption of budget, subject to available funding.



Housing Strategy Area 4: Adequate Housing Supply

The City strives to ensure an adequate supply of housing is available to meet existing and future housing needs of all economic segments of the community.

Policy Action 4.1: Incentives for Development of Housing Affordable to Extremely-Low, Very-Low, Low and Moderate Income Households

The City recognizes the need for housing affordable to all income segments of the population, especially lower and moderate income households. The City shall encourage the development of housing affordable to lower and moderate income households throughout the City using incentives such as density bonus provisions (Municipal Code Section 17.28.050), expedited processing, and fee waivers/deferrals.

Objective:	Encourage development of lower and moderate income housing units.
Responsible Party:	Development Services Department
Funding Source:	General Fund
Timeframe:	Update informational materials and City website by June 30, 2022

Policy Action 4.2: Encourage and Facilitate Lot Consolidation

The City will encourage and facilitate the consolidation of vacant and underutilized lots for residential development through a variety of incentives, including but not limited to: financial incentives such as land write-downs, fee deferral or reductions, assistance with on- or off-site infrastructure costs, and other pre-development costs associated with the assemblage of multiple parcels. Consolidation will provide the opportunity to develop vacant and underutilized lots to their fullest potential. The City will work with private land owners and developers to assemble larger holdings to allow multi-family projects which increase the number of residents in the Town Center and other areas in the City. The City will evaluate the appropriateness of a variety of incentives and provide this information to the developers and other interested parties through the City's website and print material at City Hall.

Objective:	Encourage and facilitate lot consolidation
Responsible Party:	Development Services Department
Funding Source:	General Fund
Timeframe:	Update informational materials and City website by December 31, 2021; as City staff reviews projects in the Town Center and other areas in the City



Policy Action 4.3: Monitor Multifamily Development Fees

Development fees, including impact and permit fees, may impact the feasibility of residential development, especially the development of multifamily units. The City shall annually monitor the impact of fees for multifamily development. If fees are determined to be a constraint to multifamily development, the City shall establish programs or strategies to address constraint such as fee deferral or waivers at City Council's direction.

Objective:	Monitor the cost of fees (planning, building, etc.) associated with multifamily development and establish strategies as appropriate
Responsible Party:	Development Services Department
Funding Source:	General Fund
Timeframe:	2021–2029, Annually monitor fees and implement strategies as appropriate

Policy Action 4.4: Create R-4 Zoning to Allow Higher Density

The City shall create and adopt an R-4 zone which allows 30 to 36 units per acre as a base, not including density bonus provisions. The R-4 zone will be applied to both the Arrowhead and the Lampson properties (See Appendix B).

Objective:	Create a new R-4 zone to apply to two properties
Responsible Party:	Development Services Department
Funding Source:	General Fund
Timeframe:	2022

Policy Action 4.5: Modify TCMU Zoning to Allow Higher Density

The City shall modify the TCMU zone to allow up to 60 units per acre as a base, not including density bonus provisions; and require that the assigned affordable housing units be built consistent with Table B-2 and Figure B-1 on each parcel so designated.

Objective:	Modify the TCMU zone to allow higher residential densities
Responsible Party:	Development Services Department
Funding Source:	General Fund
Timeframe:	2022



Policy Action 4.6: Modify homeless shelter provisions

Review the Zoning Ordinance and make changes to ensure compliance with AB 101 (Low-Barrier Navigation Centers). Modify the definition of “homeless shelter” to include this use. Revise parking requirements for homeless shelters in Table 3-05 in the Zoning Ordinance to require parking for employees only and remove requirements for occupant parking.

Objective:	Modify the homeless shelter provisions to comply with state law
Responsible Party:	Development Services Department
Funding Source:	General Fund
Timeframe:	2022

Policy Action 4.7: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)

The City shall establish a monitoring program to determine the affordability of ADUs and Junior ADUs. The program will include tracking annual permits, an annual survey of rents in ADUs, and whether any ADUs are accepting housing subsidy or restricting their units to very low or low income households. Based on the monitoring results, the City may consider an incentive such as a floor area bonus for property owners that choose to dedicate their ADUs/JADUs as affordable units for rent to low-income households for at least 30 years. In addition, the City will annually review its Zoning standards for ADUs and JADUs to ensure compliance with State law.

Objective:	Facilitate ADUs to expand housing choices
Responsible Party:	Development Services Department
Funding Source:	General Fund
Timeframe:	Annually, monitoring beginning 2022 and incentive consideration in 2024 with Zoning Ordinance Annual Update

Policy Action 4.8: Zoning Code Update

The City’s Zoning Code shall be amended consistent with state law for employee housing, ADUs, Density Bonus and single room occupancy units as these requirements are amended by State law. The City shall also modify the findings required for



Conditional Use Permits and Site Development Permits to assure that the requirements for approval are based on quantified standards. The City shall conduct a thorough review of the Zoning Code to ensure compliance with state law at the time of update.

Objective: Modify the Zoning Code to comply with state law
 Responsible Party: Development Services Department
 Funding Source: General Fund
 Timeframe: 2022

Housing Strategy Area 5: Coordinated Housing Efforts

The City of Los Alamitos has very limited local resources to provide for housing and housing-related activities. Therefore, to maximize use of limited local resources, the City strives to build partnerships and coordinate housing efforts with outside agencies and organizations.

Policy Action 5.1: Housing Programs Information Dissemination

To promote the use of the City and County's housing programs and housing resources, the City shall develop, print, and publish electronic informational materials for distribution to residents and property owners. These materials will be placed on the City's website, at City Hall, in the City's newsletter and in other locations frequented by community members. The City shall also distribute program information, as appropriate, in conjunction with the City's code enforcement activities.

Objective: Dissemination of Housing Programs Information
 Responsible Party: Development Services Department
 Funding Source: General Fund
 Timeframe: Develop and distribute informational materials by March 31, 2022

Policy Action 5.2: Pursue External Funding for Housing Rehabilitation, Preservation and Production

To assist in the production, rehabilitation and preservation of housing for its residents, the City shall investigate and pursue, as appropriate, external funding sources including CDBG and HOME funds, State HCD grants and other existing and future federal and state funding opportunities.

The City is a participating city in the County of Orange's Urban County Program and may receive federal funds through the County's annual competitive proposal/application



process. To ensure the City is able to receive funds through the County, the City shall continue to meet with County staff and develop a proposal/application according to the County's requirements. If funds are secured, the City shall develop implementation and monitoring programs consistent with the fund requirements.

Objective: Obtain external funds for housing
Responsible Party: Development Services Department
Funding Source: Various federal, state and local sources
Timeframe: 2021–2029 upon issuance of each Notice of Available Funds

Policy Action 5.3: Partnerships and Coordination with Developers and Outside Agencies

To maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of existing and estimated future local resources, the City seeks partnerships with developers and applicable outside agencies in the development of affordable housing. The City shall evaluate the effectiveness of its current partnerships with developers and outside agencies. Based on its findings, the City will seek ways to expand and foster partnerships and increase cooperation within these partnerships to provide additional housing opportunities for lower income households.

The City will formulate an outreach strategy to provide information to residential developers on a variety of City-initiated incentives, such as development standards and density bonuses, reduced parking requirements and other programs related to residential projects. Much of this process can be integrated into the Town Center Mixed Use Strategic Plan process, which covers all the Town Center sites identified for affordable housing.

The City will also seek partnerships with outside agencies such as the County of Orange to obtain financing as appropriate.

Objective: Increase Partnerships and Coordination with Developers and Outside Agencies, with an emphasis during the Town Center Mixed Use Strategic Plan process
Responsible Party: Development Services Department
Funding Source: General Fund
Timeframe: Develop strategy and conduct outreach by June 30, 2022

**Policy 5.4: Promote Community Participation**

The City understands collaborating with residents and stakeholders is critical in formulating effective housing policies and programs. The City shall continue to encourage community participation by informing residents and stakeholders of public workshops and hearings related to housing through notices posted at City Hall, local community centers and the City's website; and mailers to relevant community stakeholders.

Objective:	Promote Community Participation
Responsible Party:	Development Services Department
Funding Source:	General Fund
Timeframe:	2021-2029, Ongoing

C. Quantified Objectives



Table 4-1 summarizes the quantified objectives by income category for the 2021–2029 planning period.

Table 4-1 Quantified Objectives 2021–2029	
Program/Income Level	Quantified Objective (dwelling units or households)
New Construction	
<i>Extremely-low Income (subset of Very Low Income Objective, assumed 50% of Very Low Income Objective)</i>	97
Very-Low Income	97
Low Income	119
Moderate Income	145
Above-Moderate Income	311
Total	769
Rehabilitation (Actions 1.2, 1.3, and 5.2)	
Extremely-low Income	12
Very-low Income	12
Low Income	--
Moderate Income	--
Above-moderate Income	--
Total	24
Preservation/Conservation	N/A
Extremely-low Income	--
Very-low Income	--
Low Income	--
Moderate Income	--
Above-moderate Income	--
Total	N/A
Assistance	
Action 2.2: Section 8 Housing Choice Rental Assistance Program	12 vouchers
Total	14



APPENDIX AA

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

A. Community Outreach Activities

The Housing Element was developed through combined efforts of City staff and consultants, the City's Planning Commission, City Council, and Los Alamitos residents and stakeholders. Community input was sought and received through community and stakeholder workshops, information disseminated through the City's website, electronic mail notifications, and public hearings. The input received was considered in the development of goals and policy actions provided in Chapter 4: Housing Policy Program. The comments received were provided as part of the draft Housing Element to the Planning Commission and City Council. These bodies will consider the public input prior to the adoption of the final Housing Element.

B. Community Workshop

On August 25, 2021, the City held a community workshop at the Los Alamitos City Hall Council Chambers. The workshop was advertised on the City's website, local newspaper, and in email blasts to the City's public outreach notice requestors and development community. The workshop was open to the general public and stakeholder groups such as affordable housing developers, community groups and housing advocacy groups were invited to participate (see list of invitees below).

During the workshop, participants generally asked questions about the City's responsibilities and future housing needs, and also discussed the upcoming Town Center Strategic Plan, which will incorporate inclusionary housing requirements for the parcels located within its boundary. Policy Action 4.5 was included to expand affordable housing in the Town Center area in synergy with the Strategic Plan.

Stakeholders invited to public workshop:

- Colliers International
- Habitat for Humanity Orange County
- Hutton Development Company
- ICRE
- Integra Realty Resources - Orange County



- JBL Holdings, LLC
- Kennedy Commission
- Kimley-Horn
- Kynsley
- Lennar, California Coastal Division
- Marcus & Millichap
- The Olson Company
- U.S. General Services Administration Office of Real Property Utilization & Disposal Public Buildings Service
- West Coast Hotel and Management, LLC
- WestEd
- David See
- Eddie and Donna Kesky
- Jim Gallagher
- Nick Zamvakellis
- A Community of Friends
- Affordable Homestead LLC
- Bibi Foundation
- City Ventures, LLC
- Cypress Equity Investments
- Families Forward
- Flo Engineering Inc.
- Green Development Company
- Housing Innovation Partners
- Integrity Housing
- Irvine Community Land Trust
- Olivecs Foundation
- The Kennedy Commission
- Universal Standard Housing
- USA Properties Fund, Inc
- ZMCO Inc.
- Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing
- Innovative Housing Development Corporation
- Jamboree Housing Corporation



C. Community Workshop Comments

The following notes were taken during the participant discussion at the community workshop held on August 25, 2021. Workshop participants included Los Alamitos residents.

- Attendees generally asked questions about the City's responsibilities and future housing needs
- Attendees also discussed the upcoming Town Center Strategic Plan, which will incorporate inclusionary housing requirements for certain parcels located within its boundary. The parcel locations and allocation of affordable units were also discussed.

D. Other Community Outreach Activities

Following the workshop, the Housing Element update was made available on the City's website for public review and comment. This effort was announced through a City-wide mailing to all residents, posting of notices on the City's website and in the newspaper, and announcements on social media. Following the public review period, the Planning Commission and City Council held hearings on the Housing Element, and on November 11, 2021, the City Council adopted the Element and directed staff to submit it for review by the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).



APPENDIX AB

RESIDENTIAL LAND RESOURCES

A. Adequate Sites Analysis

State law requires each jurisdiction in California to demonstrate the availability of adequate sites through appropriate zoning and development standards and the availability of public services and facilities. These available sites must provide the necessary policy and regulatory guidance to accommodate a variety of housing types at a variety income levels. The City of Los Alamitos must demonstrate through policies and regulations that the estimated capacity of adequate sites will be able to accommodate the projected housing need for the 2021-2029 Planning Period.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the regional agency responsible for allocating projected new housing demand to individual jurisdictions within the region. The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process identifies each jurisdiction's "fair share" allocation for new construction need. The "fair share" allocations consider factors such as market demand for housing, employment trends, availability of adequate sites, public facilities, transportation infrastructure and type and tenure of existing housing units. The "fair share" allocation is further adjusted to minimize over-concentration of lower-income households in any one jurisdiction.

The RHNA allocations are divided into four state-defined income categories;

- Very-low income: 31 to 50 percent of the County median income;
- Low income: 51 to 80 percent of the County median income;
- Moderate income: 81 to 120 percent of the County median income; and
- Above-moderate income: more than 120 percent of the County median income.

State legislation also requires jurisdictions to analyze and plan for the growth needs for extremely-low income households, earning 30 percent or less of the County median income. State law allows local jurisdictions to estimate extremely-low income need as 50 percent of the very-low income allocation. The RHNA for the Planning Period of October 15, 2021 through October 15, 2029 identifies the City of Los Alamitos' share of the region's housing need as 769 new housing units.



1. Capacity to Meet Regional “Fair Share” Goals

The City’s RHNA allocation of 769 units is shown below in Table B-1, and is further broken down into income categories. The City must demonstrate it has or will make available adequate sites with appropriate zoning and development standards and with services and facilities to accommodate the RHNA allocation.

Table B-1
2021–2029 RHNA Allocation

	Very-low Income¹	Low Income	Moderate Income	Above-Moderate Income	Total
2021-2029 RHNA	194	119	145	311	769

Notes:

¹ Although not provided in the RHNA state law requires cities to plan for units to accommodate extremely low income, which can be estimated at 50% of very low income, or 97 units.

Source: SCAG.

California housing element law allows local governments to obtain credit toward its RHNA housing goals in three ways: constructed and approved units, vacant and underutilized land, and the preservation of existing affordable housing. The City is predominantly built out and has primarily underutilized sites and marginally vacant land available to accommodate future residential development. However, supplemental zoning and development standards to encourage and facilitate housing for lower income households must be enacted to satisfy the requirements of state law.

The City currently permits multifamily and single family residential development within the R-3 zone with a maximum density of 25 du/ac. AB 2348 establishes “default” density standards. If a local government adopts density standards consistent with the “default” density standard (at least 20 du/ac for Los Alamitos, as amended by SB 1030), the sites with those density standards are accepted as appropriate for accommodating the jurisdiction’s share of regional housing need for lower income households. The capacity analysis of underutilized and redevelopment sites is based on a minimum density of 30 du/ac with proposed zoning changes.



Table B-2 provides a summary of parcels with residential development potential to meet the RHNA. A map showing the parcel locations is provided in Figure B-1. These lands are dispersed to the extent possible and located in high resource areas to further fair housing principles. The City owns one site (Site 2d) in Table B-2, and will market it for joint venture with the affordable housing development community as discussed below. The site will be offered, consistent with the Surplus Land Act, through a Request for Proposals.

The City aims to accommodate lower income units in small sites in the Town Center, in coordination with the Town Center Mixed Use Strategic Plan in development. Two larger sites are also suitable for affordable housing: part of the site currently owned and occupied by Arrowhead Products (Site 5), and another parcel on Lampson Avenue occupied by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Services (Site 6). These sites have housed businesses in the City and are currently being marketed for sale by their owners, and the businesses are planned for closure. The City has seen a significant interest in the redevelopment of these sites for the development of housing.

Table B-2
Sites Inventory

Sites Description							
Site ID	APN	Address	Acres	Existing GP	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Projected Density
1	242-203-27 242-203-28	10909 Los Alamitos Blvd	1.43	Mixed Use	TCMU	TCMU	60
2a	242-171-02	10956 Los Alamitos Blvd	0.68	Mixed Use	TCMU	TCMU	60
2b	242-171-07	10900 Los Alamitos Blvd	3.1	Mixed Use	TCMU	TCMU	60
2c	242-172-01	10900 Pine Street	0.48	Mixed Use	TCMU	TCMU	60
2d*	242-172-02	10902 Pine Street	0.17	Mixed Use	TCMU	TCMU	60
3	222-091-01 222-091-21	11021 Reagan Street 3636 Katella Avenue	1.05	Mixed Use	TCMU	TCMU	60
4a	222-093-12	11182 Los Alamitos Blvd	0.74	Mixed Use	TCMU	TCMU	60
4b	222-093-13	11182 Los Alamitos Blvd	0.13	Mixed Use	TCMU	TCMU	60
5	241-241-10	4411 Katella Avenue	11	Retail Overlay	P-L-I	R4	30
6	130-012-35	4655 Lampson Ave	12.4	Community & Institutional/JFTB	C-F	R4	30

*Site 2d is owned by the City of Los Alamitos.



Housing Element Residential Land Resources

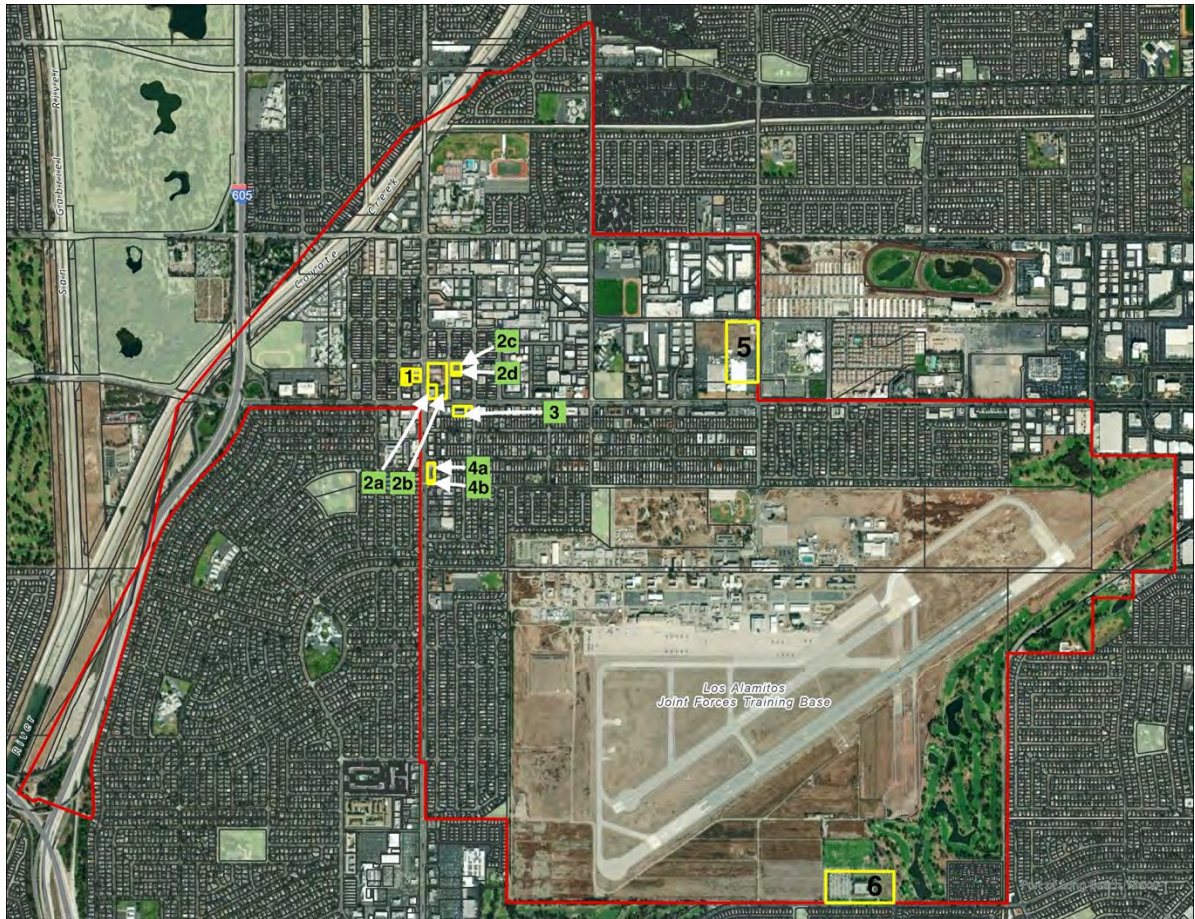


Projected Units

Site ID	Maximum Units	Very Low Income	Low Income	Moderate Income	Above Moderate Income	Units for RHNA
1	86	7	4	5		16
2a	41	2	2	2		6
2b	186	10	9	9		28
2c	29	11	8	9		28
2d	10	4	3	3		10
3	63	3	4	4		11
4a	44	2	3	2		7
4b	8	1		1		2
5	330	78	48	57	147	330
6	372	78	48	60	186	372
Total	1169	196	129	152	333	810
RHNA		194	119	145	311	769
Surplus Capacity		2	10	7	22	41



Figure B-1. Location of Sites Inventory



The City proposes a new residential zone (R-4) to allow 30 to 36 units per acre by right, and will apply the R-4 zoning to the Arrowhead and Lampson sites (Policy Action 4.4). The City also proposes to increase the allowable density in the Town Center Mixed Use zone to 60 units per acre (Policy Action 4.5). There have not been residential developments above 30 units per acre in Los Alamitos, given the size and population base of the City. Although located in Orange County (a Metropolitan jurisdiction), the City is a suburban jurisdiction with a population under 25,000 (11,538 in 2021 per DOF Table E-5). Historical development trends and zoning designations for residential uses at around 20 units per acre are typical for these cities of more 'suburban' nature and smaller size in the area, including the City of Cypress to the north. In larger cities, for



example, the City of Garden Grove to the east, past affordable housing projects have been approved at densities above 60 and even 70 units per acre, such as Wesley Village Apartments (75.8 units per acre) and Sungrove Senior Apartments (62.6 units per acre). The City of Long Beach to the west of Los Alamitos is a Metropolitan jurisdiction and allows dense high-rise apartments up to 250 units per acre.

To expand housing choices and increase affordable housing units in suburban cities that are primarily built out, increasing residential densities is a logical and acknowledged approach and is becoming a trend. The City of Cypress is located immediately to the north of Los Alamitos and currently allows up to 20 units per acre. To accommodate their RHNA, Cypress identified two alternatives for potential sites, both of which involve rezoning to allow at least 30 units per acre on most sites and 60 units per acre on certain sites for all income categories. As discussed in detail in Appendix D (Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing), the proposed higher densities will enable the City to increase housing supply in high resource areas and address the housing needs for all segments of the population. The Town Center Mixed Use zoning will be modified in synergy with the Town Center Mixed Use Strategic Plan, which aims to revive the Town Center through boosting economic potential, increasing jobs and creating a sense of community. As shown in Table B-2, sites 1 through 4, which all occur in the Town Center area, have been assigned units in anticipation of the development of residential units as part of the Strategic Plan's implementation of an aggressive, place-making redevelopment program. The City envisions the redevelopment of the Town Center as an opportunity to create a traditional downtown, with both businesses and homes that create a close-knit neighborhood.

As a primarily built out small city, the sites identified in Table B-2 are necessarily redevelopment sites, and only two are over 10 acres. Redevelopment of underutilized sites is a strong trend in the region, where many cities are reaching capacity and have limited vacant land available. Because of the limited development in Los Alamitos over the last 20 years, the City considered surrounding jurisdictions' projects in order to determine realistic capacity for its RHNA allocation. The following projects are planned or under construction in surrounding jurisdictions:

City of Cypress:

- Cypress Town Center By Melia Homes proposes the development of a portion of the Los Alamitos Race Course parking lot area (approximately 7 acres) into a residential multi-family community consisting of 135 dwelling units consistent with the Cypress Town Center and Commons Specific Plan 2.0.



- Citrus Square Senior Community proposes 50 affordable condominium units and 48 market-rate condominium units at an approximately 6.3-acre site that is currently used by the Cypress School District for its administrative and maintenance operations.

City of Garden Grove:

- Garden Brook Senior Village consists of repurposing an existing 8-story, unfinished, steel structure into a 394-unit affordable senior housing project with 12,938 square feet of commercial retail space with general plan amendments and rezoning to provided 5.09 acres of developable site area. The developer received entitlement approval, a density bonus of 35% and three concessions.

City of Westminster:

- Bolsa Row is a mixed-use development located in the heart of little Saigon and synergistically centered around a lively festival street. The 5-story residential at-grade wrap building will consist of 200 for-rent units and onsite amenities including a pool and spa facility, recreation, fitness and leasing space. The development will also include a hotel and retail space on the 6-acre site.

In the western Orange County region, projects with densities from 20 units per acre to above 70 units per acre have been approved and funded on larger sites, including underutilized/redevelopment sites. These projects also prove the feasibility of planned development on larger sites to accommodate units for a range of income levels (a mix of affordable and market rate). Therefore, in Los Alamitos, the Arrowhead and Lampson sites (Sites 5 & 6 in Figure B-1) are promising for residential redevelopment at 30 units per acre and are planned for a mix of units.

The Lampson site (Site 6) is currently zoned as Community Facilities (C-F) and consists of one office building and parking lot. The City has actively engaged with and received positive responses from the development community for future residential developments. Policy Action 4.4 calls for creation of a new zone (R-4) to be applied to the Lampson site to facilitate housing development at 30 to 36 units per acre.

The Arrowhead site (Site 5) is the northeast portion of the property currently occupied by Arrowhead Products, an aviation/aerospace manufacturer. The site is currently zoned Planned-Light-Industrial (P-L-I) with Retail Overlay. The north side of the property is largely vacant and considered to be underutilized. The City envisions future mixed-use developments on the site, such as retail/commercial fronting the streets (Lexington Drive) and residential on the north side. Policy Action 4.4 also requires creation and adoption of a new zone (R-4) to the Arrowhead site to facilitate future housing development at 30 to 36 units per acre.



Additionally, several Town Center sites contain parcels that are less than ½ acre in size. For a site to be able accommodate housing affordable to lower income households pursuant to AB 2348, the site must accommodate a minimum of 16 units per site. These sites are covered in the Town Center Mixed Use Strategic Plan currently in development, which aims to revive the Town Center area through redevelopment with a focus on mixed use development and improvements in community infrastructure and amenities. The Town Center sites included in the Sites Inventory (Table B-2) are selected by the City and the Strategic Plan team based on suitability for residential development or as part of mixed-use development and redevelopment potential. The selected sites are intended to serve various income levels and include a portion of affordable units to facilitate an economically balanced and integrated community. These sites are also most likely to develop through lot consolidation, for the following reasons:

- 1) Single ownership on multiple parcels. Site 1 includes seven parcels, which are developed as a strip mall with parking lot; Site 3 is a smaller strip mall with two buildings on two parcels.
- 2) Shared pad with no actual boundaries and nearby associated uses. Sites 2a through 2d consist of Los Alamitos Plaza on a single block and two adjacent parking lots across from Pine Street (two-lane undivided). Site 2b is a commercial building in the southwest corner of Site 2a; despite separate ownerships, they are on the same pad/block with no walls or any other physical division. Site 2c is a parking lot associated with the Los Alamitos Plaza and shares ownership with Site 2a, and Site 2d (smaller parking lot) is owned by the City. Because Sites 2a through 2d currently operate as a single commercial plaza, they are likely to be redeveloped as a whole as facilitated by the Town Center Strategic Plan. The City has actively conducted outreach to Town Center property owners to engage them for possible lot consolidation and mixed-use development concepts. So far without apparent objection, the City can further leverage its owned parcel to provide incentives/concessions to encourage redevelopment including affordable housing units. Similarly, as part of a strip mall block, Sites 3a and 3b are adjacent without any physical boundary and share driveways. Despite separate ownerships, Sites 3a and 3b are most likely to undergo redevelopment as a whole through lot consolidation as facilitated by the Strategic Plan.

Policy action 4.2 of the Housing Policy Program (Chapter 4) encourages and facilitates residential lot consolidation through a variety of incentives such as land write-downs, fee deferral or reductions, assistance with on- or off-site infrastructure costs, and other pre-development costs associated with the assemblage of multiple parcels. This will further increase the redevelopment potential for Sites 1 through 4.



In addition to the lands identified to meet its RHNA allocation, the City has also previously identified additional vacant and underutilized sites below that have the potential to accommodate housing units for the moderate and above-moderate income levels.

a. Vacant Land

Los Alamitos is essentially a built-out city. There are minimal areas of vacant land available for residential development. Table B-3 summarizes the only vacant parcel in the City currently zoned for residential use and its potential capacity. The parcel is in an already established neighborhood that presents no known environmental or infrastructure constraints. A total of 5 units could be developed on the site at a density of 25 du/ac. This vacant parcel has the capacity to accommodate fewer than 16 units; therefore, it is assumed that it could accommodate units affordable to moderate and above-moderate income households.

Table B-3
Vacant Land Permitting Residential Development

APN	Address	GP/Zoning Designations	Permitted Density	Acres	Projected Units¹
242-202-06	10912 Walnut St.	Multiple Family Residential/R-3	1,750 gross sq. ft./ unit (25 du/ac max.)	0.17	5

Notes:

¹ Projected units are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

Source: City of Los Alamitos, Development Services Department.

b. Underutilized Land

In addition to the vacant parcels described above, there are a number of underutilized parcels, most of which are within the “Apartment Row” and “Old Town West” neighborhoods zoned R-3. These parcels are currently developed with single-family dwellings. However, the existing parcels provide opportunities for additional units.

The scarcity of vacant land, current market conditions and development trends continue to provide conditions favoring redevelopment and reuse of underutilized land at higher densities in these neighborhoods, as described above. There are limited areas for growth within the City, increasing the demand for more intensive infill development.



Contrary to the trend observed pre-2010, median/average sales prices have gradually increased and the average days-on-market have dropped for single family homes (25.5 days in August 2021¹)². These conditions are less attractive to investors who purchase homes and redevelop the land with for-sale or rental multifamily buildings. Long-time homeowners also see fewer opportunities to increase the value of their property through developing additional units. However, several projects have been successful in these neighborhoods (see Table B-4) which prove the potential for redevelopment at higher densities depending on market conditions. Therefore, these sites are included herein because they provide development potential, but are not listed in the Sites Inventory.

**Table B-4
Selected Housing Projects in 2014-2021**

Location	Address	Units Built	Area (acres)	Built Density
Apartment Row	4321 Howard Avenue	3 apartments & 1 ADU	0.22	13.6 du/ac
Old Town West	10922 Walnut Street	4-unit apartment	0.17	23.5 du/ac
Apartment Row	3751 Farquhar Ave	4 condo townhomes	0.2	20 du/ac
Apartment Row	4061 Farquhar	5 condo townhomes	0.22	22.7 du/ac
Apartment Row	3691 Howard Avenue	5-unit condos	0.21	23.8 du/ac

Source: City of Los Alamitos, Development Services Department.

This analysis looks at the redevelopment capacity of sites with existing single family units to provide a conservative estimate of the realistic capacity for additional units. It is also feasible that existing small multifamily buildings may be redeveloped at higher densities during the planning period.

i. Apartment Row

The “Apartment Row” neighborhood is generally bounded by commercial uses fronting on Katella Avenue to the north, commercial uses fronting on Los Alamitos Boulevard to the west, Farquhar Avenue and the Joint Forces Training Center to the south and Lexington Drive to the east. The area contains mostly small multifamily dwellings and duplexes, with some scattered single family homes. The area is currently zoned R-3 and the General Plan designation is Multi-Family Residential.

¹ Los Alamitos Housing Market Trends, redfin.com, accessed on September 2021.

² Historical Real Estate Data for the city of Los Alamitos, CA, newhomesdirectory.com, accessed on September 2021.



Since the 1960's, Apartment Row has experienced an increase in the number of multifamily units. Redevelopment at higher densities continues while the number of single-family homes declines. The remaining single-family homes in this area were constructed in the 1960's and earlier. These parcels are in already established neighborhoods that present no known environmental or infrastructure constraints.

Based on the development trends in this neighborhood, the remaining single family residential parcels have a greater likelihood of transitioning to multifamily residential units. Underutilized parcels (parcels currently developed with single family units) with realistic capacity for additional residential units in the Apartment Row neighborhood are detailed in Table B-5. These parcels have a total projected capacity of 98 units with a minimum permitted density of 20 du/ac. These parcels have the capacity to accommodate less than 16 units per site. Therefore, it is assumed that these parcels have the potential to accommodate units affordable to moderate and above-moderate income households. The parcels shown below are all currently built as single-family units, which have fewer dwelling units per acre than what is allowed in this area. These homes are a mix of owner and rental occupied structures, but since this is an apartment area in a multi-family zone the potential is that all of any future units built on these parcels could be rental apartments or condo units.

Table B-5
Underutilized Land- Apartment Row Neighborhood

APN	Address	Year Built	Existing Units	Acres	Net Capacity ¹	Existing Use/Zone/Notes
22213243	4281 FARQUHAR AVE	1960	1	0.218	3	SFR/R-3
22213209	4312 HOWARD AVE	1955	1	0.218	3	SFR/R-3
22213207	4292 HOWARD AVE	1960	1	0.218	3	SFR/R-3
22213131	4301 HOWARD AVE	1957	1	0.215	3	SFR/R-3
22213104	4272 GREEN AVE	1957	1	0.218	3	SFR/R-3
22213101	11102 NOEL ST	1952	1	0.218	3	SFR/R-3
22212152	4241 GREEN AVE	1960	1	0.234	3	SFR/R-3
22211130	4131 GREEN AVE	1926	1	0.212	3	SFR/R-3



Housing Element
Residential Land Resources



Table B-5
Underutilized Land- Apartment Row Neighborhood

APN	Address	Year Built	Existing Units	Acres	Net Capacity ¹	Existing Use/Zone/Notes
22211126	4181 GREEN AVE	1947	1	0.212	3	SFR/R-3
22209112	3571 GREEN AVE	1976	1	0.190	2	SFR/R-3
22206233	3701 FARQUHAR AVE	1957	1	0.207	3	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
22206232	3711 FARQUHAR AVE	1925	1	0.207	3	
22206144	3780 GREEN AVE	-	1	0.227	3	SFR/R-3
22206115	3822 GREEN AVE	1950	1	0.218	3	SFR/R-3
22206101	3652 GREEN AVE	1947	1	0.289	4	SFR/R-3
22205241	4091 FARQUHAR AVE	1962	1	0.218	3	SFR/R-3
22205236	4141 FARQUHAR AVE	1960	1	0.180	2	SFR/R-3
22205226	4231 FARQUHAR AVE	1960	1	0.244	3	SFR/R-3
22205210	4102 HOWARD AVE	1956	1	0.218	3	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
22205209	4094 HOWARD AVE	1949	1	0.218	3	
22205207	4072 HOWARD AVE	1925	1	0.165	2	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
22205206	4062 HOWARD AVE	1960	1	0.218	3	
22205204	4046 HOWARD AVE	1960	1	0.218	3	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
22205136	4041 HOWARD AVE	1953	1	0.218	3	
22205133	4071 HOWARD AVE	1952	1	0.218	3	
22205123	4191 HOWARD AVE	1953	1	0.218	3	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot



Table B-5
Underutilized Land- Apartment Row Neighborhood

APN	Address	Year Built	Existing Units	Acres	Net Capacity ¹	Existing Use/Zone/Notes
22205122	4201 HOWARD AVE	1953	1	0.218	3	consolidation
22205119	11141 NOEL ST	1957	1	0.245	3	SFR/R-3
22205108	4132 GREEN AVE	1926	1	0.218	3	SFR/R-3
22205105	4092 GREEN AVE	1961	1	0.218	3	SFR/R-3
22204318	3951 FARQUHAR AVE	1926	1	0.205	3	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
22204317	3941 FARQUHAR AVE	1948	1	0.207	3	
22204312	3901 FARQUHAR AVE	1959	1	0.207	3	SFR/R-3
22204301	3972 HOWARD AVE	1952	1	0.114	1	SFR/R-3
Total				7.266	98	

Notes:

¹Net Capacity was determined by multiplying the minimum permitted density of 20 du/ac by the parcel size, then subtracting the number of existing units.

Source: City of Los Alamitos, Community Services Development.

ii. Old Town West

The “Old Town West” neighborhood is generally bounded by Sausalito Avenue to the north, Oak Street to the west, commercial uses fronting on Katella Avenue to the south and commercial uses fronting on Los Alamitos Boulevard to the east. The area is currently zoned R-3 and the General Plan designation is Multi-Family Residential. The area contains a mixture of multiple family and single-family residential homes.

The area has been transitioning from single family residential to multiple family residential. The parcels below are in already established neighborhoods that present no know environmental or infrastructure constraints. The majority of the single-family units in this area were built in the 1950’s or earlier. The area began redeveloping with multifamily homes in the 1970’s and 1980’s. Single-family residential units continue to be replaced with condominiums and apartments, with construction as recent as 2016.



Housing Element

Residential Land Resources



Based on the development trends in this neighborhood, the remaining single family residential parcels are likely to redevelop with multifamily residential units. Underutilized parcels (parcels currently developed with single family homes) with realistic capacity for additional residential units in the Old Town West neighborhood are detailed in Table B-6. These parcels have a total projected net capacity of 113 units with a minimum permitted density of 20 du/ac. There are opportunities to provide at least 16 units per site in at least one area with contiguous parcels through lot consolidation (noted in bold in Table B-6). Zoning for these parcels provides sufficient capacity to accommodate lower income housing, and they can serve as backup sites to meet the RHNA. The sites with a capacity of less than 16 units per site have potential to accommodate units affordable to moderate and above-moderate income households.

Table B-6
Underutilized Land- Old Town West Neighborhood

APN	Address	Year Built	Existing Units	Acres	Net Capacity ¹	Existing Use/Zone/Notes
24219101	10742 OAK ST	1953	1	0.235	3	SFR/ R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
24219102	10752 OAK ST	1953	1	0.165	2	
24219103	10764 OAK ST	1953	1	0.165	2	
24219111	10842 OAK ST	1953	1	0.165	2	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
24219112	10852 OAK ST	1953	1	0.165	2	
24219113	10851 WALNUT ST	1953	1	0.155	2	SFR/R-3
24219115	10831 WALNUT ST	1953	1	0.155	2	SFR/R-3
24219122	10761 WALNUT ST	1953	1	0.155	2	SFR/R-3
24219124	10741 WALNUT ST	1953	1	0.224	3	SFR/R-3
24219129	10814 OAK ST	1953	1	0.180	2	SFR/R-3
24219203	10762 WALNUT ST	1955	1	0.172	2	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
24219204	10772 WALNUT ST	1934	1	0.172	2	
24219207	10804 WALNUT ST	1961	1	0.172	2	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
24219208	10812 WALNUT ST	1953	1	0.172	2	
24219215	10791 CHESTNUT ST	1967	1	0.172	2	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
24219216	10781 CHESTNUT ST	1957	1	0.172	2	



Table B-6
Underutilized Land- Old Town West Neighborhood

APN	Address	Year Built	Existing Units	Acres	Net Capacity ¹	Existing Use/Zone/Notes
24219220	10832 WALNUT ST	1952	1	0.152	2	SFR/R-3
24219306	10802 CHESTNUT ST	1899	1	0.344	5	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
24219307	10842 CHESTNUT ST	1938	1	0.637	11	
24220113	10871 WALNUT ST	1963	1	0.155	2	SFR/R-3
24220202	10872 WALNUT ST	1963	1	0.164	2	SFR/R-3
24220215	10931 CHESTNUT ST	1898	1	0.172	2	SFR/R-3
24220216	10911 CHESTNUT ST	1898	1	0.344	5	SFR/R-3
24220217	10901 CHESTNUT ST	1898	1	0.172	2	SFR/R-3
24220218	10891 CHESTNUT ST	1956	1	0.172	2	SFR/R-3
24220221	3372 FLORISTA ST	1912	1	0.222	3	SFR/R-3
24223106	10672 OAK ST	1950	1	0.202	3	SFR/R-3
24223109	10702 OAK ST	1950	1	0.165	2	SFR/R-3
24223119	10651 WALNUT ST	1950	1	0.189	2	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
24223120	10641 WALNUT ST	1950	1	0.189	2	
24223204	10652 WALNUT ST	1950	1	0.167	2	SFR/R-3
24223205	10662 WALNUT ST	1950	1	0.189	2	SFR/R-3
24223207	10682 WALNUT ST	1950	1	0.189	2	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
24223208	10692 WALNUT ST	1950	1	0.189	2	
24223211	10722 WALNUT ST	1950	1	0.181	2	SFR/R-3
24223213	10711 CHESTNUT ST	1950	1	0.189	2	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
24223214	10701 CHESTNUT ST	1950	1	0.161	2	
24223215	10691 CHESTNUT ST	1950	1	0.189	2	
24223217	10671 CHESTNUT ST	1950	1	0.189	2	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot



Housing Element Residential Land Resources



Table B-6
Underutilized Land- Old Town West Neighborhood

APN	Address	Year Built	Existing Units	Acres	Net Capacity ¹	Existing Use/Zone/Notes
24223219	10651 CHESTNUT ST	1950	1	0.189	2	consolidation
24223221	10631 CHESTNUT ST	1950	1	0.161	2	SFR/R-3
24223305	10662 CHESTNUT ST	1950	1	0.189	2	SFR/R-3 Opportunity for lot consolidation
24223306	10672 CHESTNUT ST	1950	1	0.189	2	
24223310	10712 CHESTNUT ST	1950	1	0.189	2	
24223311	10722 CHESTNUT ST	1950	1	0.180	2	
24223327	10682 CHESTNUT ST	1950	1	0.186	2	
24223328	10702 CHESTNUT ST	1950	1	0.186	2	
Total				9.187	113	

Notes:

¹Net Capacity was determined by multiplying the minimum permitted density of 20 du/ac by the parcel size, then subtracting the number of existing units.

Source: City of Los Alamitos, Community Services Development.



B. Preservation of Assisted Units At-Risk of Conversion

State law requires analysis of assisted housing units eligible to convert from income-restricted to market-rate housing during the 2021-2029 planning period and within ten years of the start of the planning period (2039). Assisted housing units are multifamily rental units that receive (or have received) government assistance under federal, state and/or local programs including tax-credits, density bonuses and federal or state loans.

The City does not have any assisted housing units that are eligible to convert from income-restricted to market-rate during the planning period or within ten years of the start of the period (by 2039). As discussed in detail in Chapter 2 and Appendix D, the City has one affordable housing community for seniors aged 62 and over. Klein Manor offers 71 apartment units including studios and one-bedroom units, as well as a few accessible units for the sensory/mobility impaired. Klein Manor is subsidized by the Housing Choice Voucher Program Section 8 and charges approximately 30% of the resident income for rent. Klein Manor is operated by the Retirement Housing Foundation and does not have an expiration date for its affordability (Section 8 rentals). Therefore, the City has no units at risk of conversion to non-affordable status.



APPENDIX AC

REVIEW OF PAST PERFORMANCE

The following Table describes the City's progress in meeting its policy actions during the 2014-2021 planning period. The impact of these actions on special needs households, including seniors, persons with disabilities and the homeless, is addressed in each assessment.

Table C-1 Review of 2014-2021 Housing Element Past Performance: Goals and Policies	
Goal/Policy	Progress in Implementation
1. Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Housing Stock:	
Policy Action:	
1.1 Continued Proactive Code Enforcement Activities	<i>The City's Code Enforcement Division continues to respond to complaints regarding code violations on private property and assists in promoting maintenance of existing housing. While rehabilitation programs have discontinued at the county level, the City should consider providing property owners informational materials on the federal Title I Property Improvement Loan Program and nonprofit housing organizations such as Habitat for Humanity. This policy action will be continued with modifications.</i>
1.2 Encourage at least three residents to apply for the Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Program.	<i>In the last five years (2016 to 2021), the City's Code Enforcement Division has issued 246 citations to single family homes and 112 citations to multi-family units related to substandard building/property conditions such as plumbing, roof damage, electrical, building, windows, lack of heating, or property maintenance issues. These property owners were not known to use any financial assistance for the required repairs. While the County of Orange Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Program discontinued during the 2014-2021 planning period, the City has posted information on its website and refers interested parties to the Section 504 Home Repair program, which provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards. This policy action will be continued with modifications.</i>


Table C-1
Review of 2014-2021 Housing Element Past Performance: Goals and Policies

Goal/Policy	Progress in Implementation
<i>1.3 Encourage use of Mobile Home Exterior Grant Program</i>	<i>The County of Orange Mobile Home Exterior Grant Program discontinued in 2014. This policy action will be removed.</i>
<i>1.4 Resident involvement in neighborhood enhancement</i>	<i>The City's Neighborhood Preservation Division (Code Enforcement) informally monitors housing conditions throughout the City. The City Pride Awards were discontinued before the 2014-2021 planning period. This policy action will be removed. The City will continue to advocate for neighborhood enhancement on its website and outreach materials and engage residents in enforcement of Policy Actions 1.1 and 1.5.</i>
<i>1.5 Encourage and facilitate rehabilitation of multifamily dwellings</i>	<i>The City conducted a fee study in 2017. However, City Council did not adopt any incentives for rehabilitation of multifamily dwellings. The current permit fees are comparative to neighboring cities and do not constitute an abnormal barrier to rehabilitation. City Council will consider incentive/bonus on a case-by-case basis for rehabilitation of affordable housing. This policy action will be continued with modifications.</i>
2. Preserve Housing Costs Affordability	
<i>2.1 Continue to monitor "at risk" units</i>	<i>Although once thought of as "at risk" of losing affordability covenants, Klein Manor's 71 units of affordable housing are currently subsidized by the Housing Choice Voucher Program Section 8 and will continue to be affordable with no expiration date yet. This policy action will be continued.</i>
<i>2.2 14 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers</i>	<i>Although much funding for this program has been reduced, the City's Development Services Department continues to refer residents in need of assistance to this program. The City has not received any inquiry on Section 8 during the last planning period. This policy action will be continued into the next planning period.</i>



Table C-1
Review of 2014-2021 Housing Element Past Performance: Goals and Policies

Goal/Policy	Progress in Implementation
2.3 Encourage participation in energy conservation incentive programs	<i>The City continues to require all residential construction to comply with the energy conservation requirements of Title 24. The City ensures compliance through the building permit plan check and inspection process. Since 2020 the City of Los Alamitos implemented a flat rate fee of four hundred fifty (\$450) for Planning Review and Building Permits for solar panel installation under 15 kW and an additional \$15 per kW above 15 kW. During the 2014-2021 planning period, 198 permits have been issued for single family dwellings and 3 were issued for multi-family dwellings.</i> <i>The City Council considered reinstating the permit rebate program for 2017 which reimbursed 100% of permits to parties whom purchased from Los Alamitos Businesses. This program was not approved and has been discontinued since 2012.</i> <i>This policy action will be continued with modifications.</i>


Table C-1
Review of 2014-2021 Housing Element Past Performance: Goals and Policies

Goal/Policy	Progress in Implementation
3. Equal Housing Opportunity	
<i>3.1 Housing for Persons with Disabilities</i>	<i>The City maintains a Reasonable Accommodation Ordinance in accordance with state law. Los Alamitos Municipal Code Section 17.42 explains reasonable accommodation procedures. The City did not adopt any incentive for special needs housing. Future requests from developers will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This policy action will be continued with modifications.</i>
<i>3.2 Fair Housing Information and Referrals</i>	<i>The City continues to refer fair housing related inquiries to the Fair Housing Council of Orange County. The City did not receive any such inquiries in 2014-2021. This policy action will be continued into the next planning period.</i>
4. Adequate Housing Supply	
<i>4.1 Encourage development of lower and moderate income housing units.</i>	<i>The City continues to encourage developers to provide rental housing for families with children, but has not developed a specific encouragement or incentive program.</i> <i>The City continues to encourage additional housing opportunities for special needs, lower income and moderate income households; however, no specific programs or funding sources have been utilized. During the Planning Period, Precious Life Shelter, a shelter for homeless women demolished an existing 2-bedroom house and constructed two apartment buildings with two units each.</i> <i>During 2017-2020, the City updated its Zoning Code to allow accessory dwelling units and junior accessory dwelling units in all residential zones by right per state law.</i> <i>In 2019, the City updated its Zoning Code density bonuses for development of low and moderate income housing pursuant to State law. No density bonus was applied for or granted during 2014-2021. This policy action will be continued with modifications.</i>



Table C-1
Review of 2014-2021 Housing Element Past Performance: Goals and Policies

Goal/Policy	Progress in Implementation
4.2 Encourage and facilitate lot consolidation	<i>The City has not been in a financial position to incentivize lot consolidation but will consider potential incentives that will encourage lot consolidation in the Old Town West neighborhood. This policy action will be continued with modifications.</i>
4.3 Monitor multi-family development fees and establish strategies as appropriate	<i>The City of Los Alamitos currently does not impose obtrusive development fees upon residential development. The City's only fees are park fees and traffic impact fees where applicable. Fees that occur in most cities such as library fees, pool fees, public facility fees do not exist in the City of Los Alamitos. The City continues to monitor such fees for their reasonableness. This policy action will be continued into the next planning period.</i>
5. Coordinated Housing Efforts	
5.1 Dissemination of Housing Program Information	<i>The City posts housing programs and resources at different government levels and from outside organizations on its website, through Housing Assistance Links under the Planning Division page. This policy action has been successful and will be continued into the next planning period.</i>
5.2 Obtain external funds for housing	<i>The City's Development Services Department continues to seek external funding sources for various housing programs. The City received multiple grants during 2014-2021: CDBG-CV – CARES Act was used for annual shared costs for homeless shelters (North Orange County Service Planning Area); LEAP Grant is used for Housing Element update; SB2 Planning Grant is used for Town Center Mixed Use Zone Strategic Plan; and SCAG Sustainability Grant is used for Active Transportation Plan. This policy action will be continued into the next planning period.</i>
5.3 Housing for workers employed in Los Alamitos	<i>The City continues to position itself within the development community as a place to live, work, and learn. The development of new housing units has been primarily initiated by private developers. The top employers in the City have not changed substantially, and employment housing is not an issue under current conditions. This policy action will be removed.</i>


Table C-1
Review of 2014-2021 Housing Element Past Performance: Goals and Policies

Goal/Policy	Progress in Implementation
5.4 Increase Partnerships and coordination with Developers and Outside Agencies	<i>The City continues to work with the development community to develop innovative land use techniques such as mobile homes on a permanent foundation and accessory dwelling units in all residential zones. The City has a mixed-use overlay zoning distraction (-TCMU or Town Center) which allows multi-family dwelling integrated into a project as either horizontal or vertical mixed use, but not as a stand-alone use. The City did not conduct outreach to affordable housing developers during 2014-2021. The City will update outreach materials and seek partnerships during planning processes including the Town Center Mixed Use Strategic Plan. This policy action will be continued into the next planning period.</i>
5.5 Promote Community Participation	<i>The City of Los Alamitos continues to promote participation in policy related decisions through public noticing, advertising in local newspapers, community forums and public hearings. This policy action will be continued into the next planning period.</i>
5.6 Promote Affordable Housing	<i>In 2014, the City passed Ordinance No.14-07 which removed the CUP requirement for affordable housing. As of June 2021, affordable housing is no longer a standalone/specified use in Table 2-02: Allowed Uses and Permit Requirements for Residential Zones (LAMC 17.08.020). Affordable housing is a by-right use subject to the same requirements as other residential uses allowed in each zone. This policy action has been completed.</i>



Table C-2
Review of 2014-2021 Housing Element Past Performance: Quantified Objectives

Objective	Progress in Implementation
New Construction: Very Low: 14 Low: 10 Moderate: 11 Above Moderate: 26 Total: 61	Very Low: 0 Low: 0 Moderate and Above Moderate: 66 Total: 66
Rehabilitation: Information not available	The rehabilitation grant and loan programs have discontinued at the County of Orange and are available through federal programs such as the Title I Property Improvement Loan Program and Section 504 Home Repair Program. The City does not have records of the number of households assisted through the programs.



APPENDIX AD

ASSESSMENT OF FAIR HOUSING

AB 686 requires that all housing elements due on or after January 1, 2021, contain an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) consistent with the core elements of the analysis required by the federal Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Final Rule of July 16, 2015.

Under state law, AFFH means “taking meaningful actions, in addition to combatting discrimination, that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics.”

The City has completed the following:

- Include a Program that Affirmatively Furthers Fair Housing and Promotes Housing Opportunities throughout the Community for Protected Classes (applies to housing elements beginning January 1, 2019).
- Conduct an Assessment of Fair Housing, which includes a summary of fair housing issues, an analysis of available federal, state, and local data and local knowledge to identify fair housing issues, and an assessment of the contributing factors for the fair housing issues.
- Prepare the Housing Element Land Inventory and Identification of Sites through the lens of Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.

To comply with AB 686, the City has completed the following outreach and analysis.

A. Outreach

As discussed in Appendix A, Community Outreach of this Housing Element, the City held a community workshop and hearings. The City made concerted efforts to reach all segments of the population for input into the Housing Element update. The community workshop was held on August 25, 2021, at which time participants generally asked questions about the City’s responsibilities and future housing needs, and also discussed the upcoming Town Center Strategic Plan, which will incorporate inclusionary housing requirements for the parcels located within its boundary. Following the workshop, the



Housing Element update was posted on the City’s website for public review and comment. The public review period for the Housing Element Update was announced through a City-wide mailing to all residents, posting of notices on the City’s website and in the newspaper, and announcements on social media. Following the public review period, the Planning Commission and City Council held hearings on the Housing Element. Comments received through the outreach activities have been considered in the development of the Housing Policy Program.

B. Assessment of Fair Housing

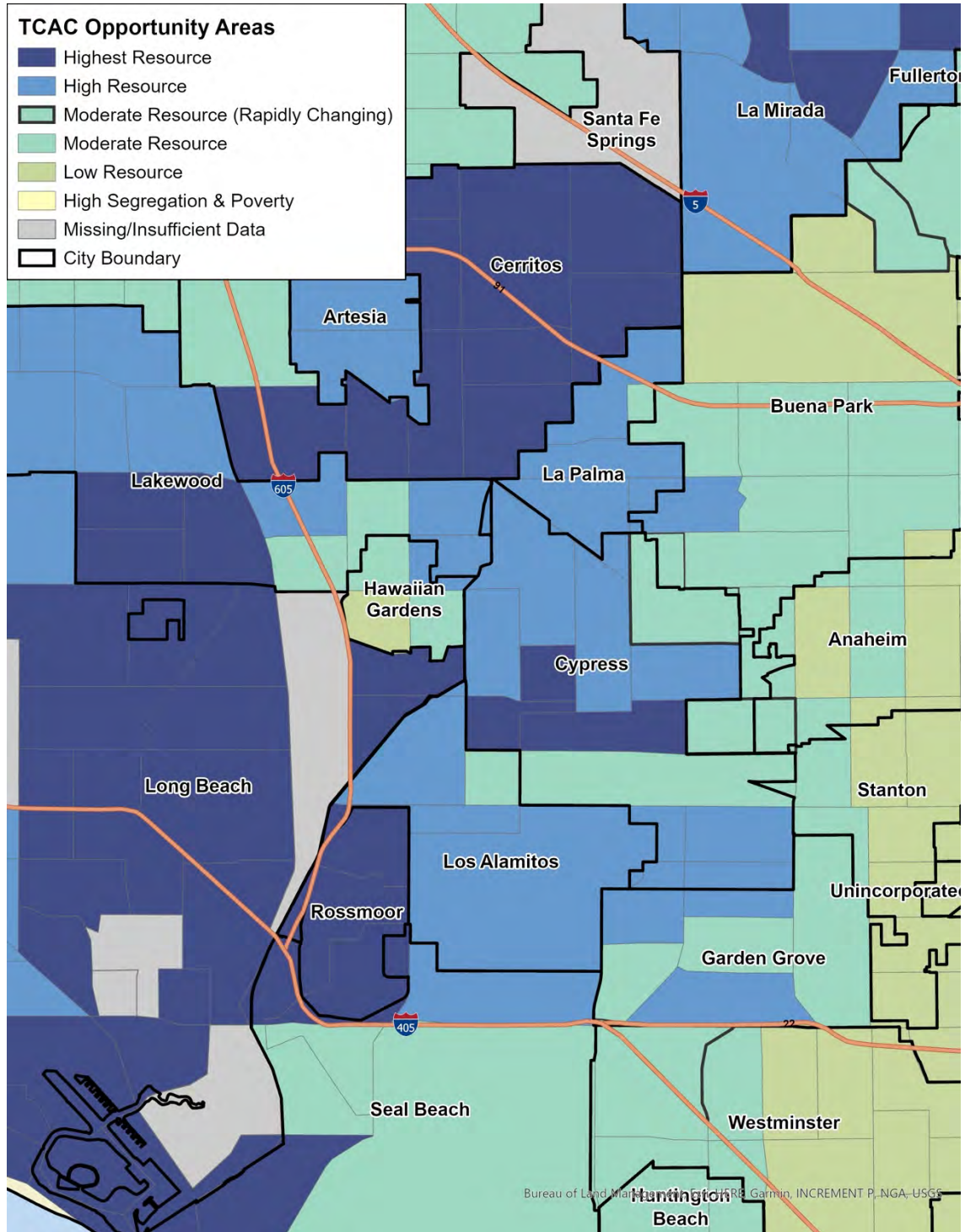
Section 65583 (10)(A)(ii) requires the City of Los Alamitos to analyze areas of segregation, racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty, disparities in access to opportunity, and disproportionate housing needs, including displacement risk. The 2021 California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC) Opportunity Areas are rated by a composite score of resource levels in the following aspects: access to effective educational opportunities for both children and adults, low concentration of poverty, low levels of environmental pollutants, and high levels of employment and close proximity to jobs, among others. High and highest resource areas are those with high index scores for a variety of educational, environmental, and economic indicators. These indicators include access to effective educational opportunities for both children and adults, low levels of environmental pollutants, high levels of employment and close proximity to jobs, and low concentration of poverty, among others.

According to Figure D-1, TCAC Opportunity Areas, the majority of the City is considered “High Resource” and the western strip is considered “Highest Resource.” The block north of Katella Avenue and east of Bloomfield Street is considered “Moderate Resource.” TCAC and HCD did not designate any portion of the City of Los Alamitos as a “Low Resource” area which typically has the most limited access to all resources.

Areas of high segregation and poverty are those that have an overrepresentation of people of color compared to the County, and at least 30% of the population in these areas is below the federal poverty line (\$26,500 annually for a family of four in 2021). There is no “High Segregation and Poverty” area in or adjacent to the City of Los Alamitos (Figure D-1). The closest “High Segregation and Poverty” area is found in the City of Garden Grove and located approximately 3.8 miles to the east of Los Alamitos.



Figure D-1. TCAC Opportunity Areas





1. Integration and Segregation Patterns

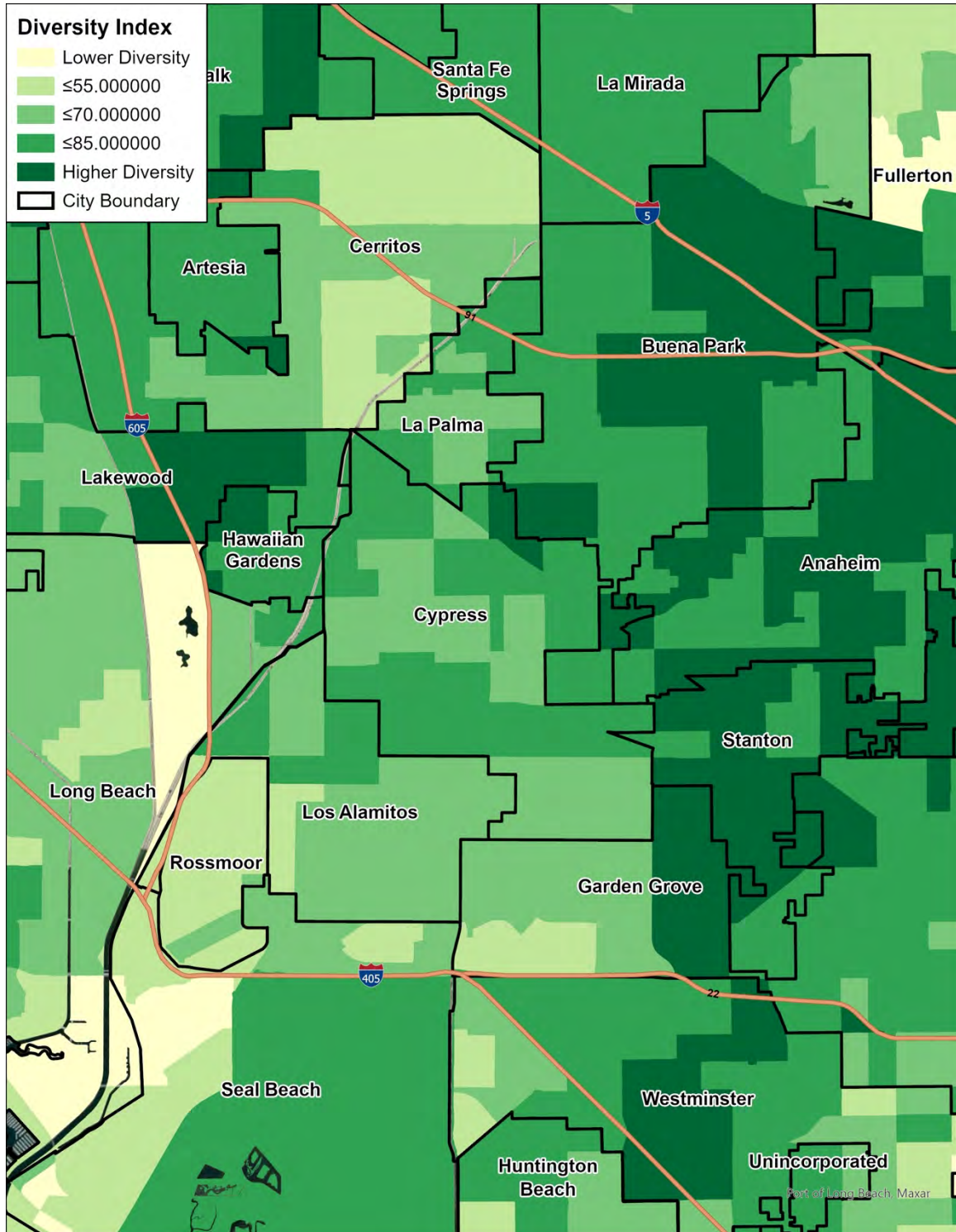
To assess patterns of segregation and integration, the City analyzed four characteristics: race and ethnicity, disability, income, and familial status.

a. Race and Ethnicity

The diversity index was used to compare the racial and ethnic diversity within the City and surrounding communities. Diversity Index ratings range from 0 to 100, where higher numbers indicate higher diversity among the measured groups. As shown in Figure D-2, Diversity Index, the majority of the City has a mid-range diversity rating (55-70). Portions of the northern City have a relatively higher diversity rating of 70-85 on TCAC's diversity index. Along the western City boundary is an area with a slightly lower diversity rating of 52.1. Areas immediately adjacent to the City have similar diversity ratings to within City limits. Higher Diversity ratings (>85) are seen in the City of Hawaiian Gardens in Los Angeles County to the north, the cities of Cypress, Garden Grove, and Westminster to the northeast, east and southeast in Orange County, respectively. According to the 2015–2019 American Community Survey, less than half (47.6%) of Los Alamitos residents identify as White, non-Hispanic. In comparison, only less than 20% of the residents to the east in City of Garden Grove (58.6%) and about a third (36.3%) to the north in City of Cypress identify as White, non-Hispanic because they have bigger Asian/Hispanic groups. There are no racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty ("R/ECAP's", HUD, 2009-2013) in or adjacent to Los Alamitos, the nearest R/ECAP being in the City of Long Beach in Los Angeles County to the southwest. There are several Asian/Hispanic Majority tracts in the cities of Hawaiian Gardens, Cypress, Garden Grove and Westminster that overlap with higher diversity ratings (>85). The City is actively pursuing affordable housing development opportunities throughout the City, as identified in Policy Actions 4.1 and 4.2. The City will also expand housing options and availability in high resource areas through a pilot program for ADUs and JADUs (Policy Action 4.7) and zoning changes to allow higher densities (Policy Actions 4.4 and 4.5). These programs can help promote a racially and ethnically integrated community.



Figure D-2. Diversity Index





HCD has not published the adjusted Racially Concentrated Areas of Affluence (RCAA) methodology for California as of August 2021. While no data has been released on RCAA, the national metric may be referenced for general considerations here: RCAA is defined as census tracts where 1) 80% or more of the population is white, and 2) the median household income is \$125,000 or greater (slightly more than double the national the median household income in 2016). As shown in Figure D-3, Median Income, much of the City area (Census Tract 1100.15 and part of Census Tract 1101.08) has median income greater than \$125,000. Census data reveals that these areas have no more than 70% white population that is not Hispanic. Therefore, these areas do not have the potential to be a RCAA. Within both tracts, the City is looking to develop affordable housing in the Town Center Mixed Use Strategic Plan and along the southern City boundary on Lampson Avenue (Policy Actions 4.4 and 4.5).

b. Disability

In 2014, only two blocks along Katella Avenue in the central City had a population with disability percentage higher than 10% (but lower than 20%). According to the 2015–2019 ACS, most of the City had a population with disability percentage between 10% and 20%. This may be associated with a slowly aging population. From 2010 to 2019, Los Alamitos experienced growth in the Retirement (55-64 years) and Senior Citizen (65 years and over) populations, while the populations of other age groups somewhat declined. The median age increase from 38.7 years in 2010 to 39.7 years in 2018 may also suggest a slow aging trend, though the change is limited. The City complies with all requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and California Building Code to provide accessible and “barrier free” units for disabled residents through reasonable accommodation procedures as explained in Los Alamitos Municipal Code Section 17.42. Therefore, despite an overall slight increase in the population with a disability, and a potentially continuing aging trend in the City’s residents, they appear to be well integrated in the community and have equal access to all housing and economic opportunities.

c. Income

The City also assessed the concentrations of households below the poverty line across the City to analyze access to adequate housing and jobs. As shown in Figures D-3 and D-4, the majority of the City has a low percentage of residents (<10%) who fall below the poverty line (\$26,500 for a family of four in 2021), and one area south of Katella Avenue (Census Tract 1100.14) has a slightly higher percentage (12.6%) of residents who fall below the poverty line.



Figure D-3. Median Income (2019)

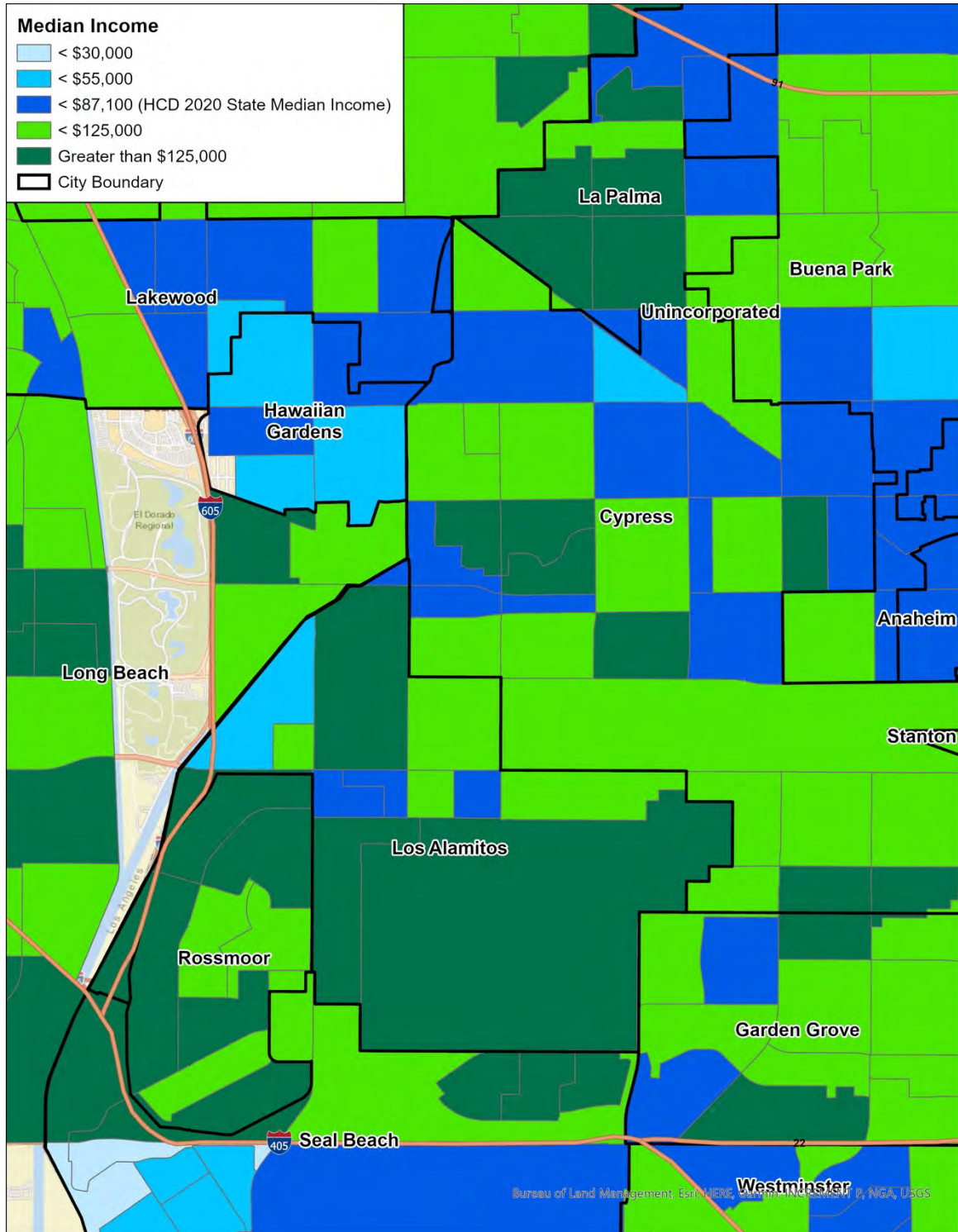
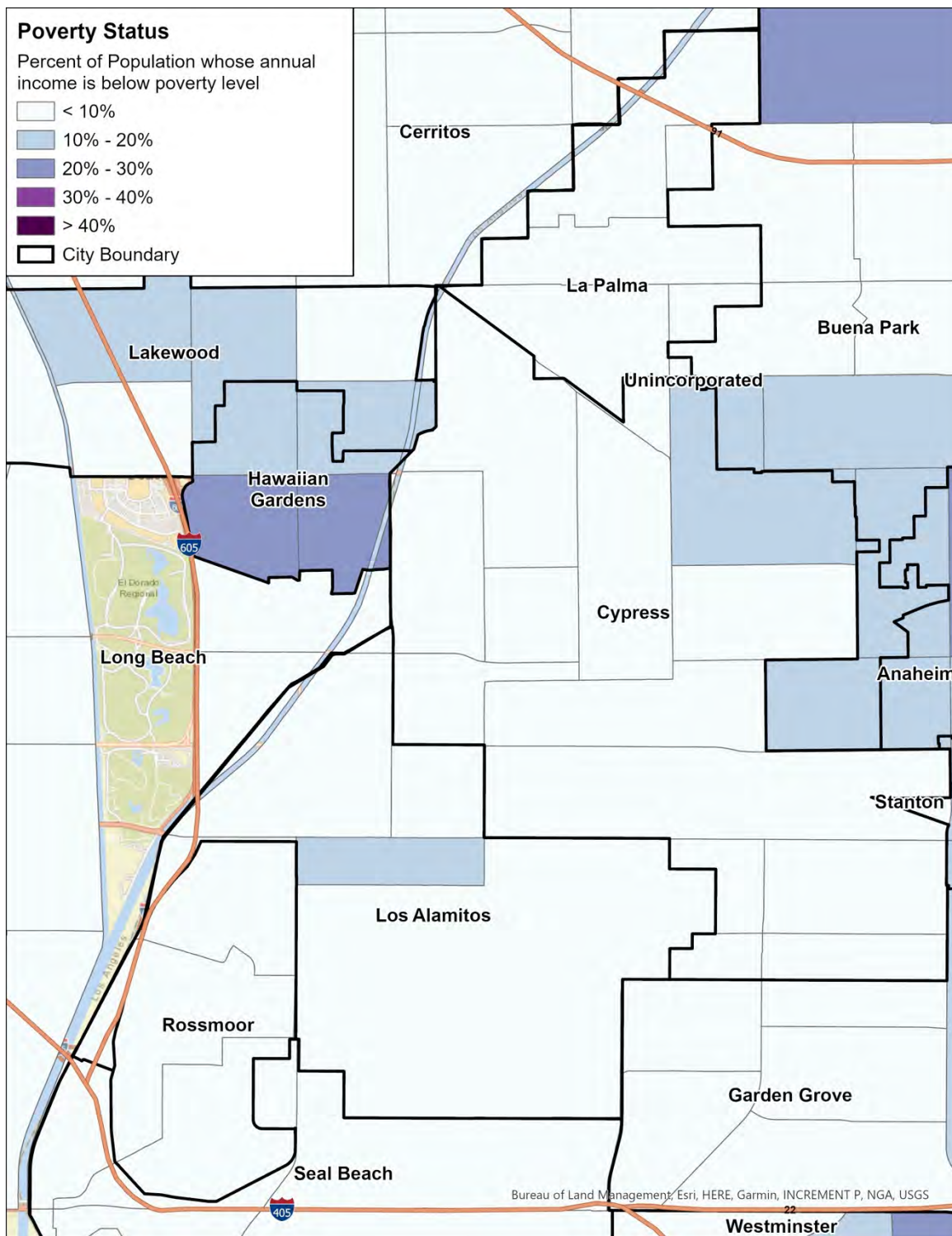




Figure D-4. Poverty Status





In 2014, in addition to Tract 1100.14, the majority of the northern City (north of Katella Avenue) also had slightly higher than 10% of residents who fall below the poverty line. As shown in Table 2-21 of this Housing Element, the City of Los Alamitos has a vacancy rate of less than 3.3% for all housing units, and the American Community Survey (2019) estimated vacancy rates at 1.4% for rental units and 1.6% for ownership units. These vacancy rates are very low and could suggest limited room for mobility and high demand for affordable units.

d. Familial Status

The City of Los Alamitos has less than 20% of population 18 years and over living alone, and between 40% and 60% of population 18 years and over living with spouse. In the southern City (Census Tract 1100.15), over 80% of children live in married-couple households; in the northern City, between 60% and 80% of children live in married-couple households. In two northern tracts (1101.08 and 1100.14), there are 20% to 40% of children that live in female-headed single-parent households. These data indicate a popular demand for units with at least two bedrooms; while such units are abundant in the City (over 89% of either owner- or renter-occupied units, or combined), affordability may be an issue as suggested by overpayment described below. There is likely a need for more affordable housing units to meet population needs.

e. Assessment and Actions

Given the factors discussed above, there is no evidence of segregation based on disability, and barely any based on income in the City, although there exists opportunity to improve economic and racial integration within Los Alamitos. As shown in Figures D-3 and D-4, concentrations of lower income households are more prevalent in surrounding jurisdictions than Los Alamitos. The cities of Hawaiian Gardens and Garden Grove to the north and east have more areas with over 10% of population living below the poverty line compared to Los Alamitos. In Orange County, the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Costa Mesa, Irvine, Placentia, and Santa Ana all have areas with over 30% of the population living below the poverty line. With a median income higher than the state level in 2019 (\$88,729 in Los Alamitos; \$75,235 in California, 2015-2019 ACS), the City is not considered disadvantaged economically (median income is 80% or less than the statewide average), although one area along the northwestern City boundary (Block Group 3, Census Tract 1101.08) is below the threshold. In Census Tracts 1101.08 and 1100.14, over half of the population have low to moderate incomes. Concentrations of households with similar incomes may suggest a uniform local development pattern and need for more varied housing stock. Improving availability and distribution of affordable housing will encourage a more economically diverse community. To that end, the Sites



Summary (Appendix B) includes lands in the northwest and central portions of the City (Tracts 1101.08 and 1100.14), to encourage diversity throughout the City's residential neighborhoods.

As shown in Figure D-5, Job Proximity Index, the western City is in medium proximity to employment opportunities (Jobs Proximity Index between 40 and 60), and the eastern City boundary has a higher Jobs Proximity Index of 60-80. In contrast to the TCAC Opportunity Areas (Figure D-1), this suggests that access to jobs may not be the single driving factor behind the concentration of lower income households, but more likely the type of jobs and housing available and other socioeconomic factors.

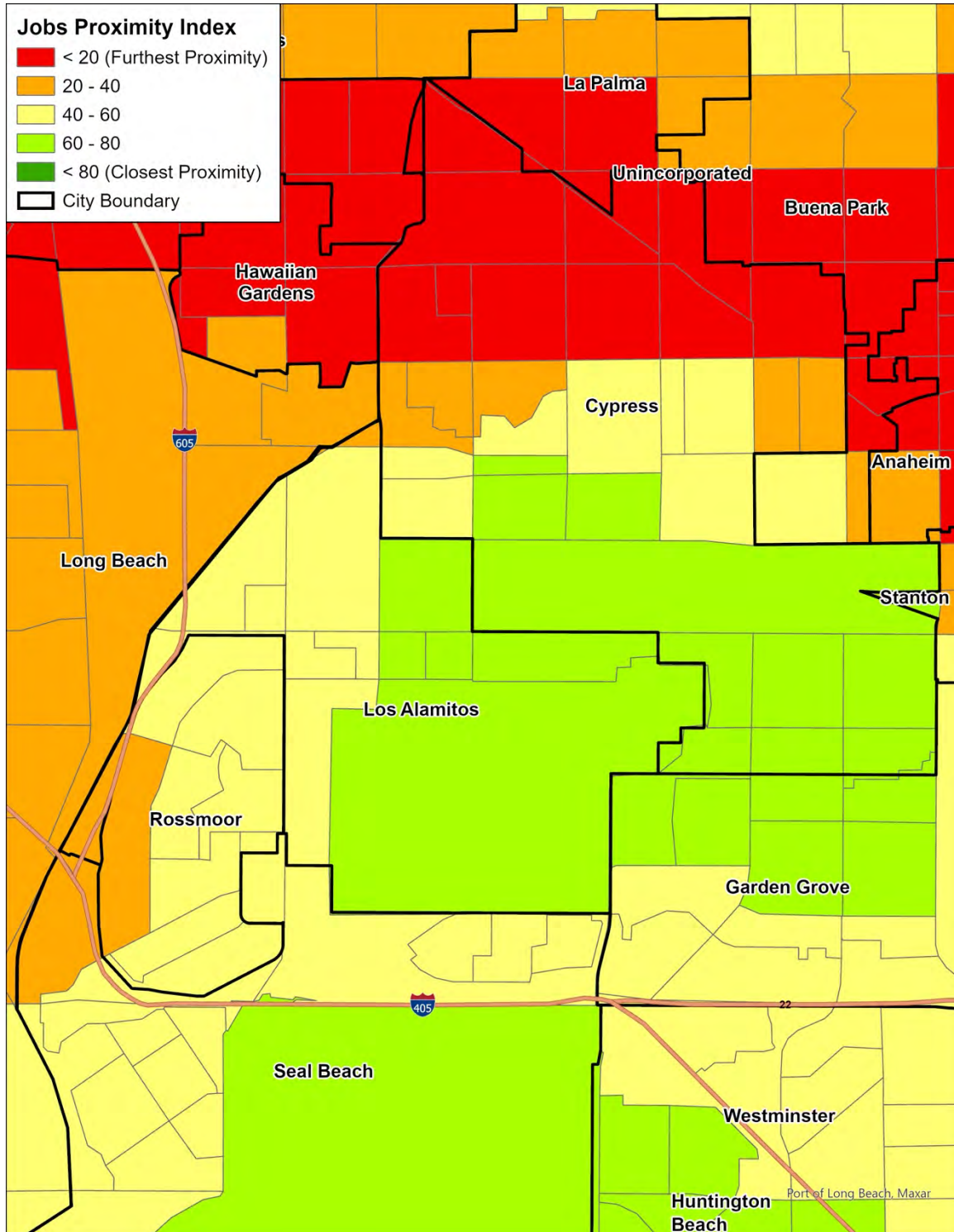
The City has been actively planning for future development and redevelopment to increase local employment opportunities and housing stock. With the help of an SB 2 Planning Grant, the City is developing a Los Alamitos Town Center Strategic Plan for the area generally around Katella Avenue & Los Alamitos Boulevard. The Strategic Plan aims to increase economic potential, create a destination with amenities for all population sectors, and promote a sense of community through incorporation of mixed use development, improvements on bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and designing high quality gathering places. Using funding provided by the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Compass Blueprint Program, the City prepared a Katella + Los Alamitos Commercial Corridors Plan, which provided commercial design guidelines and economic development strategies to enhance the City's two main corridors in image, amenities and economic potential. Future developments and redevelopments under these plans will diversify and increase local job opportunities for the Town Center area, and improve job proximity for lower income populations along Katella Avenue.

The City offers assistance to two local non-profit organizations, the Youth Center and the Los Alamitos Museum Association, by providing City buildings for their use, cleaning and maintenance support, and including them in the quarterly Recreation brochure mailed to City residents to enrich cultural and educational opportunities for families and beyond. The City leads the Serve Los Al Committee which serves as a monthly networking avenue for many local non-profit organizations, runs an annual volunteer event (Serve Los Al) and quarterly donation drives (toy drive, back to school supplies, etc.).

The City also assisted in the establishment of the Los Alamitos Senior Club, a non-profit entity that provides networking and programs to the 50+ population. The Club hosts various activities (e.g. exercise classes, Senior Lunch, Bingo, Senior Grocery Program) using facilities at the Community Center. The City offers staff support to assist with their monthly newsletter and meeting agenda/minutes.



Figure D-5. Jobs Proximity Index





The City's Recreation & Community Services Department partners with the Special Olympics Southern California to offer programming for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Currently, the City offers a tennis program and basketball program.

Recently, the City realized that the COVID-19 pandemic can disproportionately affect potentially disadvantaged persons and households. The City implemented several programs to help senior residents and coordinated with outside organizations to distribute grants to assist small businesses. Since April 2020, the City's Recreation & Community Services Department provides free groceries to adults 60 years and older at the Los Alamitos Community Center every Tuesday. Up to 120 participants are served at each distribution. The City also coordinated with agencies and organizations such as the county government and Small Business Association to offer various loan and grant programs including the California Relief Grant, The Restaurant Revitalization Fund, OC Emergency Rental Assistance Program, COVID-19 Layoff Aversion Support Fund Program and SafeDineOC Restaurant Program. In 2020, the City accepted applications for the Emergency Relief Small Business Grant Program in two phases, which ultimately awarded \$5,000 grants to 52 businesses. City staff coordinated with managers of the program, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), to contact businesses to encourage application and assist with submittal and application review to confirm eligibility. In addition, the City regularly pushed out information for grant/loan opportunities offered by other entities via social media and email to those individuals subscribed to the City's weekly email blast. These programs help preserve jobs and reduce potential impacts to households that may suffer from unemployment during the pandemic.

The City actively promotes multi-modal transportation through planning. The City just completed its Active Transportation Plan (ATP, 2021), which based on local and regional planning documents, recommended pedestrian and bicycle treatments along 18 routes including the main corridors, Katella Avenue and Los Alamitos Boulevard, with detailed design guidelines. Implementation of the ATP will achieve myriad environmental, health, and economic benefits and also enhance the equity and mobility in the City.

2. Access to Opportunity

The TCAC Opportunity Areas identified in Figure D-1 were reviewed by the City, and one potentially inaccurate designation was identified. The western strip of the City is categorized as "Highest Resource" by TCAC/HCD, which contains the Los Alamitos Channel and Interstate 605 and has no development potential. Also, the area identified as "Moderate Resource" is in Census Tract 1101.13 which primarily falls within the City of Cypress' boundaries, and thus data for this tract may not accurately describe the



portion in the City of Los Alamitos. The Los Alamitos portion of Tract 1101.13 consists of institutional/public, commercial and industrial developments. The Cypress portion consists of residential, commercial and institutional developments. Tract 1101.13 is primarily built out; in the Los Alamitos portion, the property in the northwestern corner of Lexington Drive & Katella Avenue is underutilized and part of the property is identified for future housing development (see Site 5, Figure B-1).

In addition to the Composite Score of TCAC Opportunity Areas shown in Figure D-1, the City also analyzed individual scores for economic, education and environmental domains. The northern City (north of Katella Avenue) scores the highest in the economic domain (>0.75), which indicates more positive economic outcome. A small area in the northwestern corner scores lower (0.25-0.50, relatively less positive economic outcome) than the adjacent areas, likely due to its location in a tract (1101.17) that falls primarily in the City of Cypress. Tract 1100.14 south of Katella Avenue has a lower score of 0.43, while the southern City has a relatively high score of 0.73. Overall, the City has comparable or better economic outcomes in comparison to the neighboring jurisdictions.

The majority of the City scores the highest (>0.75) in the education domain, which indicates more positive education outcomes. The exception is the small area in the northwest corner of Ball Road & Bloomfield Street (located in Tract 1101.17) and the block north of Katella Avenue and east of Bloomfield Street (located in Tract 1101.13). The area in Tract 1101.17 scores 0.73 in the education domain, which is close to the bulk of the City. It is unclear why the block in Tract 1101.13 scores lower (0.44), because it contains an elementary school and middle school and no residential uses. Similar to other indices discussed above, the lower education score applies to the entire Tract 1101.13, which contains several residential areas in the City of Cypress and may not represent the Los Alamitos portion well. Overall, the City has comparable or better education outcomes in comparison to the neighboring jurisdictions.

The majority of the City scores the lowest in the environmental domain (<0.25), with the exception of the northwestern area in Tract 1101.17 (scores 0.58), the block in Tract 1101.13 (scores 0.32), and Tract 1100.14 (scores 0.32). These lower scores indicate less positive environmental outcomes, which are comparable to the City of Seal Beach to the south, but lower than other neighboring cities including Hawaiian Gardens, Cypress, Stanton, Westminster, and Garden Grove. Without more data and evidence, one speculative cause for the lower environmental scores in Los Alamitos and Seal Beach may be the Joint Forces Training Center and Naval Weapons Station.



The City's mid to higher range Jobs Proximity Index scores may be a benefit of the Joint Forces Training Center, as similar scores are observed in Seal Beach with the Naval Weapons Station. In contrast, the neighboring cities of Cypress, Garden Grove, Westminster, and Hawaiian Gardens all have areas with the lowest scores (<20, furthest proximity). Currently, the western City has relatively lower Jobs Proximity Index scores (40-60); the segregation and integration assessment also finds that certain areas in the western City have more lower income households. As noted, these areas will benefit from new development and redevelopment facilitated by the Los Alamitos Town Center Strategic Plan and the Katella + Los Alamitos Commercial Corridors Plan. These plans will facilitate better infrastructure and amenities in the Town Center and along Katella Avenue and Los Alamitos Boulevard, and provide higher residential densities than currently allowed in these areas, thereby providing a variety of housing products affordable to lower income households.

In summary, these findings may suggest that in the western City, including the Town Center area, jobs that are near housing may not meet the needs of the residents located there, creating a jobs/housing imbalance and lower job proximity. In addition, someone may be able to both work and live in an area with a good number of jobs; however, they may still only be able to access positions with low wages and find it hard to afford housing costs.

Currently, there is one affordable housing development in Los Alamitos for seniors aged 62 and over. Klein Manor, located in the northeast corner of Bloomfield Street & Katella Avenue, offers 71 apartment units including studios and one-bedroom units, as well as a few accessible units for the sensory/mobility impaired. Klein Manor is subsidized by the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) and charges approximately 30% of the resident income for rent. Klein Manor is located within walking distance of Laurel Park, hospitals and dental clinics, restaurants, retail and personal services along Katella Avenue. A bus stop served by OC Bus Route 50 is located just south of the community on Katella Avenue. Klein Manor is operated by the Retirement Housing Foundation and does not have an expiration date for its affordability (Section 8 rentals).

The lack of more affordable housing projects in the City is partly due to lack of City funding to develop or subsidize affordable housing. The City is taking a new approach on future affordable housing projects. Similar to many projects/cities in Southern California, the City will leverage City-owned lands and seek partnership with affordable housing developers. The developers will have access to Tax Credit and other programs through state and federal agencies and compete for these funds.



As described in the Land Resources section (Appendix B) of the Housing Element, the City is seeking development opportunities for the Arrowhead and Lampson Avenue properties to provide affordable housing. The City is also developing the Town Center Strategic Plan to encourage affordable housing in the Town Center, a high resource area. The Strategic Plan will allow up to 60 units per acre on certain sites and envisions mixed use developments to revive the town center, increase job opportunities and improve the jobs/housing balance.

The City has included Policy Action 4.7 to encourage diversity in housing choices in high opportunity areas such as Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Junior ADUs (JADUs). The City is also removing barriers to a variety of housing choices through zoning modification and creating a new zone to apply to certain high opportunity areas to allow higher densities (Policy Actions 4.4 and 4.5).

3. Disproportionate Housing Need and Displacement Risk

a. Overcrowding

As discussed earlier in the Housing Needs Analysis section (Table 2-30, Chapter 2) of this Housing Element, overcrowding is not a significant issue in the City of Los Alamitos. As of the 2015-2019 ACS, only 4.0% of all occupied units in the City are considered overcrowded, and renter units have a higher percentage (5.7%, 134 units) of overcrowding than owner units (1.9%, 33 units).

b. Homelessness

In 2019, there was one unsheltered homeless person in Los Alamitos according to the PIT Count for Orange County. Two emergency/transitional shelters serve specialized populations including homeless pregnant women and youth in the City. The City diverts the CDBG-CV funding toward annual shared costs for homeless shelters (North Orange County Service Planning Area). The City allows homeless shelters in the P-L-I (Planned Light Industrial) zone (with a CUP for more than 20 beds) and treats transitional and supportive housing as a residential use subject only to those requirements of other residential uses in the same zone.

c. Overpayment

The median rent for a two-bedroom unit in Los Alamitos can be out of reach for very low-income renters, and a three-bedroom unit may be unaffordable to a low-income renter. As shown in Figure D-6, overpayment by renters in 2019 was not unique to the City of Los Alamitos and is a chronic issue to be addressed both locally and regionally. As is shown in Table 2-29 (Overpayment by Income Level, 2013-2017), as of the 2013-2017



CHAS, between both renters and owners, 70.4% of lower income households in Los Alamitos pay at least 30% of their income toward housing costs. Regionally, overpayment among renters is especially prevalent (>80%) in an unincorporated area north of the City of Garden Grove, City of Anaheim and City of Santa Fe Springs in Los Angeles County.

The rate of homeowners overpaying for housing is lower at 38.7% of all owner households in Los Alamitos, although the overpaying rate is higher for lower-income owners (47.9 percent). Overpayment increases the risk of displacement for residents who are no longer able to afford their housing costs. Regionally, overpayment among homeowners is generally lower than renters and below 60% for most of western Orange County. As shown in Figure D-7, while the majority of Los Alamitos has a homeowner overpayment rate below 40%, Census Tract 1100.14 in the central City has a higher overpayment rate (61.9%) compared to the neighboring cities of Cypress, Hawaiian Gardens, and Seal Beach. The City has included policy actions under Housing Strategy Area 4 to incentivize development of affordable housing and has included an action in Policy Action 3.3: Active Outreach to connect minority populations to lending programs for homeownership.

d. Age of Housing Stock

In addition to extensive overpayment, nearly 88% of the housing stock in Los Alamitos is older than 30 years, with over half (56%) over 50 years old. The age of housing often indicates the need for some type of repair or rehabilitation. The Code Enforcement Division monitors the condition of housing stock through proactive and complaint-based code enforcement. The City has not conducted a housing conditions survey within the last five years. While much of the housing stock has been deemed to be in decent, suitable condition in the City, the repair costs can be prohibitive such that the owner or renter live in unhealthy, substandard housing conditions or the renter is displaced if the house is designated as uninhabitable and the owner does not complete repairs. To prevent these situations, the City will continue the active code enforcement program and refer property owners to government programs that help fund home improvement and rehabilitation. The City will also consider offering incentives for acquisition and rehabilitation of multifamily properties on a case-by-case basis. The City will continue to collaborate with the County and local nonprofit organizations to target efforts in the rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, acquisition and COVID related assistance programs throughout the City and ensure equal access to the programs across all socioeconomic groups through information dissemination through multiple locations. (See Policy Actions 3.1 through 3.3 and 5.1).



e. Mortgage Loan Indicators

Data related to home loan applications is made available annually by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, through the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA). The data is organized by census tracts rather than local jurisdictions, and thus the following analysis is based on census tracts located entirely within the City of Los Alamitos (1101.08, 1100.14, 1100.15¹). Among first mortgage loan applications originated in Los Alamitos in 2020, 51.5% were made to white applicants and 18.6% to Asian applicants. For 22.9% of loans issued, race data was not available. Among first mortgage loan applications originated in Los Alamitos in 2020, a small number were made to Black or African American (7, 1.3%), American Indian or Alaska Native (1, 0.2%), and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (1, 0.2%) homebuyers. The percentages for white, Asian and Black or African American applicants are lower than the corresponding race distribution of Los Alamitos. Considering the 22.9% of loans with unavailable data on race and geographical area covered in the analysis, the pattern is consistent with the City-wide race distribution. HMDA data combines data on Hispanic or Latino identity within other race categories; approximately 5% (27) of 538 loan applications that were originated went to borrowers identifying as Hispanic or Latino. The majority (35, 55.6%) of the 63 loan applications that were denied were denied to white applicants (including 7 borrowers that also identified as Hispanic or Latino). Ten (15.9%) applications were denied to Asian borrowers, and one (1.6%) was denied to borrowers identified as American Indian or Alaska Native.

In 2019, the origination rate to white applicants was slightly higher than in 2020, with 59.1% of the 242 loans originated for home purchases going to white residents. Black or African American (0.8%, or 2 loans) and Asian (16.9%, or 41 loans) residents had slightly lower percentages of loans originated. The American Indian or Alaska Native group had the same number of loans as in 2020, though the percentage was marginally higher than 2020 (0.4%, or 1 loan). Race data was not available for 19.4% of first mortgage loans originated. Of the 35 first mortgage loans that were denied in 2019, 65.7% were denied to white applicants (23 loans, including 3 borrowers that also identified as Hispanic or Latino). Five (14.3%) applications were denied to Asian borrowers. Approximately 7.4% of loans originated and 1.7% of loans denied were for applicants who identify as Hispanic or Latino, though these loans are also counted within other race categories. Through Policy Actions 3.1 through 3.3 and 5.1, the City will support agencies and nonprofit groups to ensure equal access to lending programs for people in protected classes including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

¹ Part of Tract 1100.15 is in City of Cypress but contains non-residential developments only and thus will not affect home loan data.



Figure D-6. Overpayment by Renters

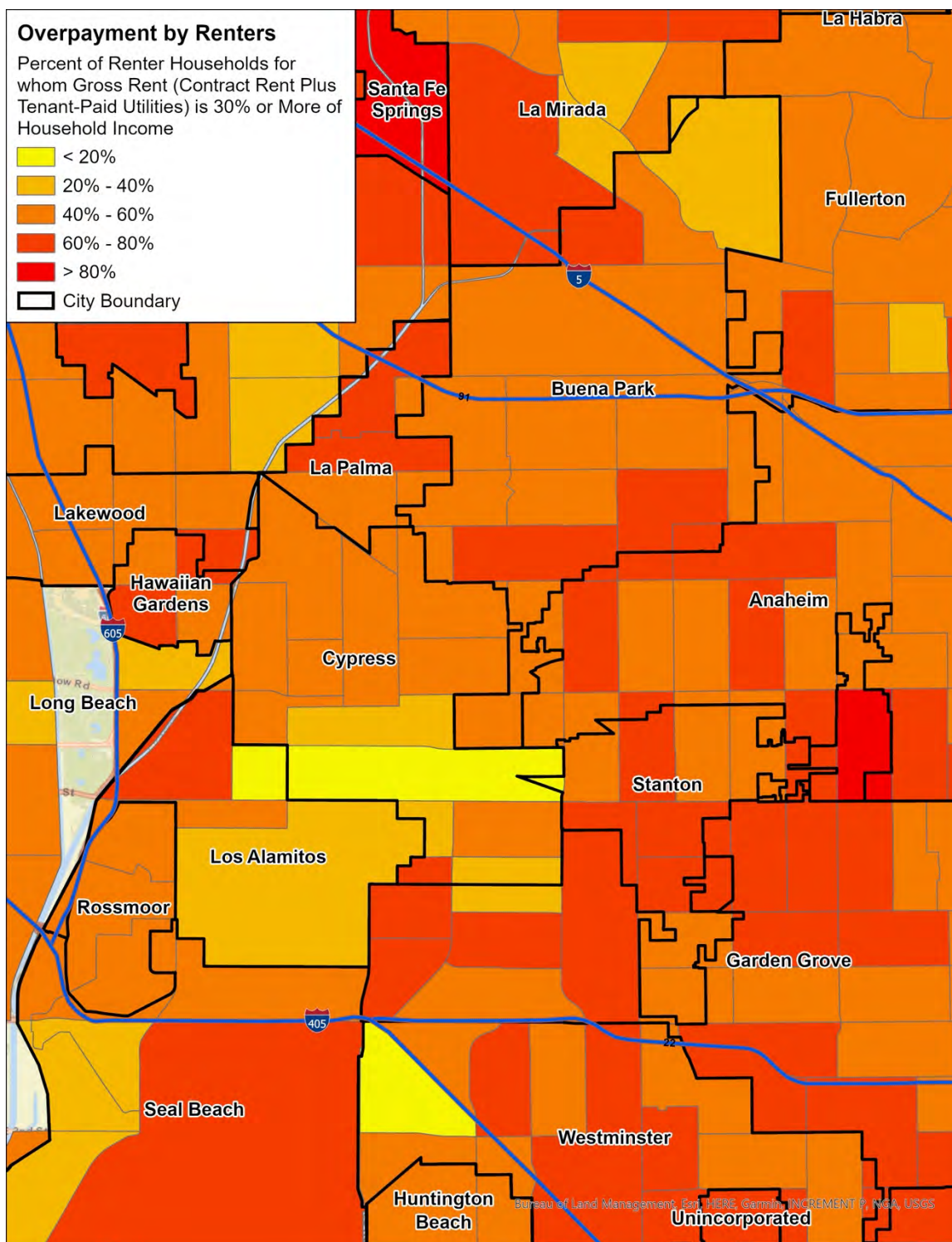
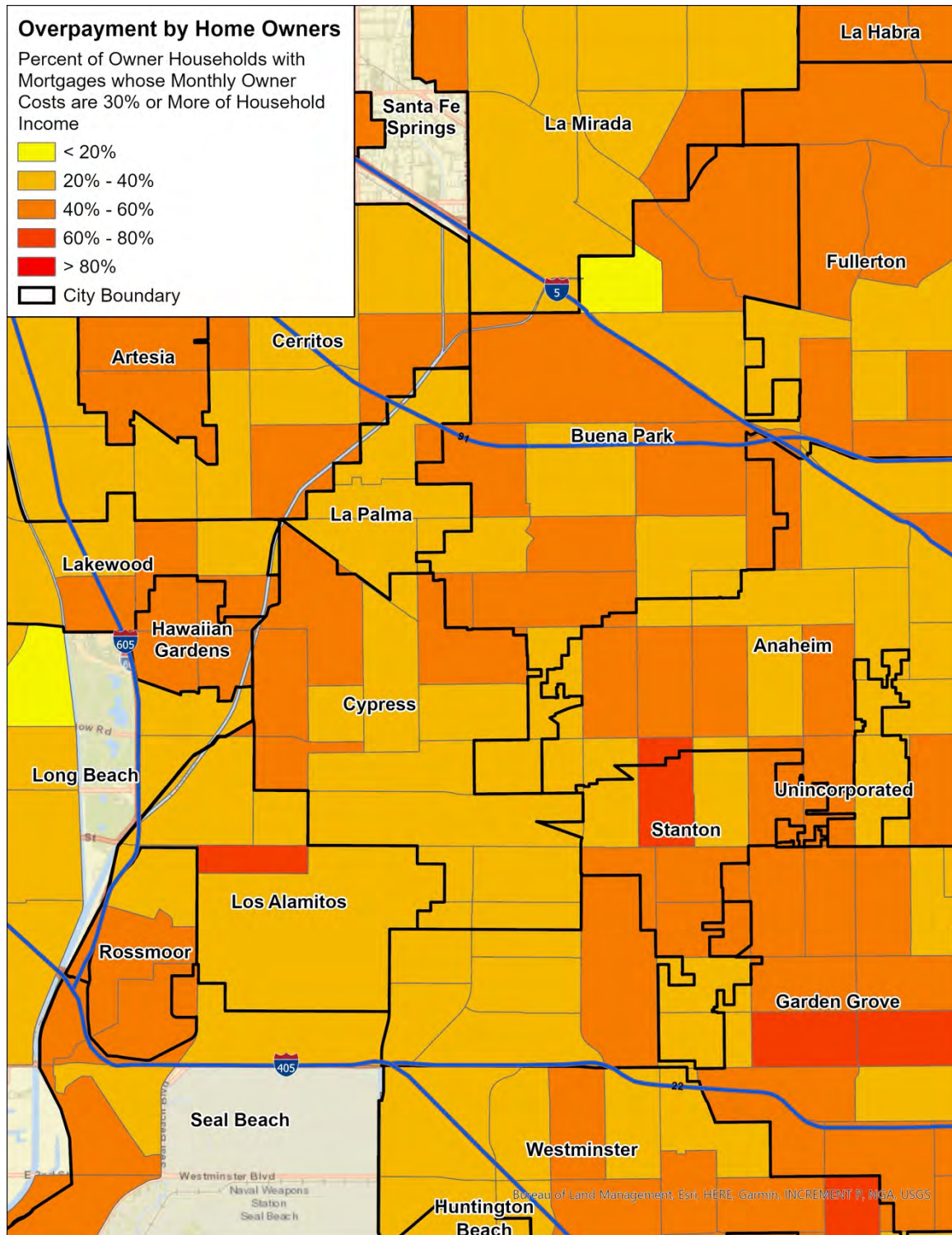




Figure D-7. Overpayment by Home Owners





4. Enforcement and Outreach Capacity

The City conducts periodical reviews of its policies and Municipal Code to comply with state law on fair housing, and provides support for fair housing complaints as they arise to enforce fair housing.

While the City of Los Alamitos regularly updates its policies and codes to reflect changes in state law, it has not completed a City-wide Fair Housing Assessment or comprehensive review of zoning laws and policies to ensure compliance with fair housing law. The City is set to meet housing element deadlines and will prioritize programs with action items on update of the zoning ordinance to facilitate housing. The City has included actions under Housing Strategy Area 4 to create a new residential zone (R4) and apply it to two sites in the Vacant Land Inventory and modify the Town Center Mixed Use zone to allow higher densities (up to 60 units/acre). Other policy actions include encouragement of accessory dwelling units (4.7) and update of homeless shelter provisions to comply with AB 101 (Low-Barrier Navigation Centers, 4.6). Policy Action 4.8 calls for an assessment of needed changes in the Zoning Code and completion within a year of adoption of the Housing Element. During this review, the City will ensure that the Zoning Code and land use policies comply with state laws and policies to encourage patterns of integration, allow a variety of housing types to meet all needs, and provide accommodations for protected classes.

Apart from zoning and development standards, fair housing issues may occur during rental, lending and purchase of housing, including discriminatory behaviors by landlords, lenders, and real estate agents. Typical cases range from refusal to allow service animals or grant reasonable accommodation requests to selective showing of property listings based on familial status, sex, religion, or other protected class. The City complies with fair housing law on investigating such complaints by referring discrimination cases to the Fair Housing Council of Orange County (FHCOC). The FHCOC is a non-profit organization approved by HUD that works to eliminate housing discrimination and guarantee the rights of all people to freely choose the housing for which they qualify in the area they desire. FHCOC's services include comprehensive community education, individual counseling, mediation, and low-cost advocacy. In Los Alamitos during the 2014-2021 planning period, a total of three complaints were filed, two based on disability and the other one based on familial status. The race/ethnicity distribution data shows that two of the records were filed by persons identified as "White" and the other was filed by persons identified as "Asian". Additional details including case status/outcome were not provided on these records, and given the limited number they are inconclusive to identify any patterns.



HUD's Region IX Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) provided case records for Los Alamitos in July 2021. Four fair housing cases were filed with their office during the previous planning period, two based on disability, one based on familial status, and the other based on sex and retaliation. Two of these cases were closed due to no cause determination, one was closed with conciliation/successful settlement and the other was closed because complainant withdrew without resolution. All four cases were handled through the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP), in which HUD funds state and local agencies that administer fair housing laws that HUD has determined to be substantially equivalent to the Fair Housing Act. California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) is the only certified agency for FHAP in California. Because state law has additional protected classes than federal law, DFEH may have additional case records. A request was made in July to DFEH, and records on closed cases were provided on September 10, 2021. Of the eight closed cases in Los Alamitos during 2014-2021, half were filed on a basis of familial status (children). Three of these familial cases were settled by enforcement, and one was closed due to no cause determination. The other four cases were filed on a variety of bases, including source of income, engagement in protected activity, marital status, national origin, race and sex-gender. Three of the four cases were closed after investigation and dismissed for insufficient evidence and/or no jurisdiction; the one case filed on source of income was settled by Dispute Resolution Division (DFEH staff) through voluntary mediation.

The number of case records and their outcome indicate sufficient enforcement capacity by multiple agencies and a low potential for any patterns or concentrations of fair housing issues in the City of Los Alamitos. However, the City continues to work with agencies and local organizations to affirmatively further fair housing through outreach, referrals and support services (Policy Actions 3.2 and 3.3).

C. Site Inventory

The City reviewed the opportunity area map prepared by HCD and TCAC (Figure D-1) when selecting sites for affordable housing. The opportunity area map delineates areas across the state where research has shown there is support for positive economic, educational, and health outcomes for low-income families—particularly long-term outcomes for children. As discussed above, the City also incorporated local knowledge to reconsider the designations and descriptions of areas in the City. Using the statewide opportunity area map with local knowledge input, indicators of segregation, displacement risk, and access to opportunity as overlays to the City's vacant land inventory, the City was able to identify sufficient sites for Los Alamitos' sixth cycle inventory in areas identified by TCAC/HUD as either "High Resource" or "Moderate Resource" areas, with the same proximity to jobs as other areas in the City (see



Appendix B Land Resources and Table B-2). While some sites currently have medium scores (40-60) on the Job Proximity Index, as noted above, they will benefit from future development in those areas under the Town Center Strategic Plan and Katella + Los Alamitos Commercial Corridors Plan. Of the sites identified as appropriate for the lower-income category, only one is in a “Moderate Resource” area. There are no identified segregation areas in the City.

All but two sites are located in the Town Center, which shows concentration of low to moderate income populations in certain areas and a relatively high percentage of overpayment for housing by renters. However, the Town Center is well served by the OC Transit Bus Routes (42, 50 and 701 along Katella Avenue and Los Alamitos Boulevard) and residents will enjoy close proximity and easy access to schools, public services, healthcare facilities and shopping and other amenities. The Town Center sites are located in the Town Center Strategic Plan planning area, and the Strategic Plan provides design guidelines on multi-modal transportation to enhance local connectivity for all segments of the population. These sites are also near multiple parks, such as Laurel Park, Little Cottonwood Park and Rossmoor Park. Therefore, the location of housing sites in the Town Center affirmatively furthers fair housing through close proximity to job opportunities, transit access and other neighborhood serving amenities, which can reduce the overall cost of living for lower-income households. The Los Alamitos Elementary School, McAuliffe Middle School, Oak Middle School, and Los Alamitos High School are also located nearby within a half-mile radius, which provide excellent educational opportunities in the area.

The site currently occupied by Arrowhead Products is located approximately one mile east of the Town Center on Katella Avenue (Site 5, Figure B-1). This site is also within a half-mile radius to multiple schools and parks, and served by OC Bus Route 50 along Katella Avenue. On the southern side of the City, the site on Lampson Avenue is designated for future housing development in the sites inventory (Site 7, Figure B-1). While Site 7 is located farther from schools than the other sites in the inventory, it is close to several parks and approximately one mile east of neighborhood serving retail and restaurants in Rossmoor.

As seen in the inventory map (Figure B-1, Appendix B), the sites identified for the inventory are distributed across the City to the extent possible and within different zoning districts, encouraging a mix of housing types across the City. Most of the sites identified for this Housing Element will result in small scaled planned development for lower and moderate income levels. The larger sites (Sites 5 & 6) will contain a variety of products for all income categories including above moderate income, which combats



patterns of segregation and concentrations of poverty by encouraging mixed income neighborhoods with a variety of housing types to meet the needs of all residents.

The City also assessed environmental constraints for the sites identified for housing. None of the sites fall within or near fire hazard zones. All housing sites in the City are located outside the 100-year special flood hazard areas. There are no other known environmental hazards or utility service gaps on the sites identified for future housing.

D. Contributing Factors

Based on discussions with affordable housing developers, community organizations, and the assessment of fair housing issues, the City identified several factors that contribute to fair housing issues in Los Alamitos, including:

- Low vacancy rates in rental and owner housing units and lack of affordable housing options for non-senior residents;
- Displacement due to various conditions, for example, COVID-19 resulted in an economic depression and income reduction/loss for many households. Other causes of displacement include increases in rental costs and lack of varied housing stock; and
- Age of housing and the cost of repairs where needed.

This assessment identified the primary barrier to fair housing and equal access to opportunity is the supply of a variety of housing types at affordable prices. These contributing factors generally stem from limited housing supply and options due to cost. In response, the City has prioritized facilitating development of affordable housing and preventing discriminatory practices through outreach to further fair housing. The Housing Strategy Area 3 and associated policy actions are dedicated to affirmatively furthering fair housing and taking meaningful actions that address various housing needs and access to opportunity for all groups protected by state and federal law. Additionally, the City has incorporated policy actions to address factors that contribute to fair housing issues, as stated in this assessment. (See Policy Actions 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 4.1 through 4.7, 5.1 through 5.3)



APPENDIX AE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Above-Moderate-Income Household. A household with an annual income usually greater than 120% of the area median family income adjusted by household size, as determined by a survey of incomes conducted by a city or a county, or in the absence of such a survey, based on the latest available legibility limits established by the U.S. Department of housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Section 8 housing program.

Apartment. An apartment is one (1) or more rooms in an apartment house or dwelling occupied or intended or designated for occupancy by one (1) family for sleeping or living purposes and containing one (1) kitchen.

Assisted Housing. Generally multi-family rental housing, but sometimes single-family ownership units, whose construction, financing, sales prices, or rents have been subsidized by federal, state, or local housing programs including, but not limited to Federal state, or local housing programs including, but not limited to Federal §8 (new construction, substantial rehabilitation, and loan management set-asides), Federal §s 213, 236, and 202, Federal §221 (d) (3) (below-market interest rate program), Federal §101 (rent supplement assistance), CDBG, FmHA §515, multi-family mortgage revenue bond programs, local redevelopment and in lieu fee programs, and units developed pursuant to local inclusionary housing and density bonus programs.

Assessment of Fair Housing. AB 686 requires that all housing elements due on or after January 1, 2021, contain an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) consistent with the core elements of the analysis required by the federal Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Final Rule of July 16, 2015. Under state law, AFFH means “taking meaningful actions, in addition to combatting discrimination, that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics.”

Below-market-rate (BMR). Any housing unit specifically priced to be sold or rented to low- or moderate-income households for an amount less than the fair-market value of the unit. Both the State of California and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development set standards for determining which households qualify as “low income” or “moderate income.” (2) The financing of housing at less than prevailing interest rates.



Build-out. That level of urban development characterized by full occupancy of all developable sites in accordance with the General Plan; the maximum level of development envisioned by the General Plan. Build-out does not assume that each parcel is developed to include all floor area or housing units possible under zoning regulations.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). A grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on a formula basis for entitlement communities and by the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for non-entitled jurisdictions. This grant allots money to cities and counties for housing rehabilitation and community development, including public facilities and economic development

Condominium. A structure of two or more units, the interior spaces of which are individually owned; the balance of the property (both land and building) is owned in common by the owners of the individual units. (See "Townhouse.")

Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs). A term used to describe restrictive limitations that may be placed on property and its use, and which usually are made a condition of holding title or lease.

Deed. A legal document which affects the transfer of ownership of real estate from the seller to the buyer.

Density Bonus. The allocation of development rights that allow a parcel to accommodate additional square footage or additional residential units beyond the maximum for which the parcel is zoned, usually in exchange for the provision or preservation of an amenity at the same site or at another location.

Density, Residential. The number of permanent residential dwelling units per acre of land. Densities specified in the General Plan may be expressed in unites per gross acre or per net developable acre.

Developable Land. Land that is suitable as a location for structures and that can be developed free of hazards to, and without disruption of, or significant impact on, natural resource areas.



Down Payment. Money paid by a buyer from his own funds, as opposed to that portion of the purchase price which is financed.

Duplex. A detached building under single ownership that is designed for occupation as the residence of two families living independently of each other.

Dwelling Unit (du). A building or portion of a building containing one or more rooms, designed for or used by one family for living or sleeping purposes, and having a separate bathroom and only one kitchen or kitchenette. See Housing Unit.

Elderly Housing. Typically one- and two-bedroom apartments or condominiums designed to meet the needs of persons 62 years of age and older or, if more than 150 units, persons 55 years of age and older, and restricted to occupancy by them.

Emergency Shelter. A facility that provides immediate and short-term housing and supplemental services for the homeless. Shelters come in many sizes, but an optimum size is considered to be 20 to 40 beds. Supplemental services may include food, counseling, and access to other social programs. (See “Transitional Housing.”)

Extremely Low-Income Household. A household with an annual income equal to or less than 30% of the area median family income adjusted by household size, as determined by a survey of incomes conducted by a city or a county, or in the absence of such a survey, based on the latest available eligibility limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Section 8 housing program.

Fair Market Rent. The rent, including utility allowances, determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for purposed of administering the Section 8 Existing Housing Program.

Family. (1) Two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption [U.S. Bureau of the Census]. (2) An Individual or a group of persons living together who constitute a bona fide single-family housekeeping unit in a dwelling unit, not including a fraternity, sorority, club, or other group of persons occupying a hotel, lodging house or institution of any kind [California].

General Plan. A comprehensive, long-term plan mandated by State Planning Law for the physical development of a city or county and any land outside its boundaries which, in its judgment, bears relation to its planning. The plan shall consist of seven required elements: land use, circulation, open space, conservation, housing, safety, and noise. The plan must include a statement of development policies and a diagram or diagrams illustrating the policies.



Goal. A general, overall, and ultimate purpose, aim, or end toward which the City will direct effort.

Green Building. Green or sustainable building is the practice of creating healthier and more resource-efficient models of construction, renovation, operation, maintenance, and demolition. (US Environmental Protection Agency)

Historic Preservation. The preservation of historically significant structures and neighborhoods until such time as, and in order to facilitate, restoration and rehabilitation of the building(s) to a former condition.

Historic Property. A historic property is a structure or site that has significant historic, architectural, or cultural value.

Household. All those persons—related or unrelated—who occupy a single housing unit. (See “Family.”)

Housing and Community Development Department (HCD). The State agency that has principal responsibility for assessing, planning for, and assisting communities to meet the needs of low-and moderate-income house holds.

Housing Element. One of the seven State-mandated elements of a local general plan, it assesses the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community, identifies potential sites adequate to provide the amount and kind of housing needed, and contains adopted goals, policies, and implementation programs for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing. Under State law, Housing Elements must be updated every eight years.

Housing Payment. For ownership housing, this is defined as the mortgage payment, property taxes, insurance and utilities. For rental housing this is defined as rent and utilities.

Housing Ratio. The ratio of the monthly housing payment to total gross monthly income. Also Called Payment-to-Income Ratio or Front-End Ratio.

Housing Unit. The place of permanent or customary abode of a person or family. A housing unit may be a single-family dwelling, a multi-family dwelling, a condominium, a modular home, a mobile home, a cooperative, or any other residential unit considered real property under State law.



Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of (HUD). A cabinet-level department of the federal government that administers housing and community development programs.

Implementing Policies. The City's statements of its commitments to consistent actions.

Implementation. Actions, procedures, programs, or techniques that carry out policies.

Infill Development. The development of new housing or other buildings on scattered vacant lots in a built-up area or on new building parcels created by permitted lot splits.

Jobs-Housing Balance. A ration used to describe the adequacy of the housing supply within a defined area to meet the needs of persons working within the same area. The General Plan uses SCAG's definition which is a job total equal to 1.2 times the number of housing units within the area under consideration.

Land Use Classification. A system for classifying and designating the appropriate use of properties.

Live-Work Units. Buildings or spaces within buildings that are used jointly for commercial and residential purposes where the residential use of the space is secondary or accessory to the primary use as a place of work.

Low-Income Household. A household with an annual income usually no greater than 51%-80% of the area median family income adjusted by household size, as determined by a survey of incomes conducted by a city or a county, or in the absence of such a survey, based on the latest available eligibility limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the §8 housing program.

Low-income Housing Tax Credits. Tax reductions provided by the federal and State governments for investors in housing for low-income households.

Manufactured Housing. Residential structures that are constructed entirely in the factory, and which since June 15, 1976, have been regulated by the federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 under the administration of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Mixed-use. Properties on which various uses, such as office, commercial, institutional, and residential, are combined in a single building or on a single site in an integrated development project with significant functional interrelationships and a coherent physical design. A "single site" may include contiguous properties.



Moderate-income Household. A household with an annual income usually no greater than 81%-120% of the area median family income adjusted by household size, as determined by a survey of incomes conducted by a city or a county, or in the absence of such a survey, based on the latest available eligibility limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Section 8 housing program.

Monthly Housing Expense. Total principal, interest, taxes, and insurance paid by the borrower on a monthly basis. Used with gross income to determine affordability.

Multiple Family Building. A detached building designed and used exclusively as a dwelling by three or more families occupying separate suites.

Ordinance. A law or regulation set forth and adopted by a governmental authority, usually a city or county.

Overcrowding Housing Unit. A housing unit in which the members of the household, or group are prevented from the enjoyment of privacy because of small room size and housing size. The U.S. Bureau of Census defines an overcrowded housing unit as one which is occupied by more than one person per room.

Parcel. A lot or tract of land.

Planning Area. The area directly addressed by the general plan. A city's planning area typically encompasses the city limits and potentially annexable land within its sphere of influence.

Policy. A specific statement of principle or of guiding actions that implies clear commitment but is not mandatory. A general direction that a governmental agency sets to follow, in order to meet its objectives before undertaking an action program. (See "Program.")

Poverty Level. As used by the U.S. Census, families and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below the poverty level based on a poverty index that provides a range of income cutoffs or "poverty thresholds" varying by size of family, number of children, and age of householder. The income cutoffs are updated each year to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index.



Program. An action, activity, or strategy carried out in response to adopted policy to achieve a specific goal or objective. Policies and programs establish the “who,” “how” and “when” for carrying out the “what” and “where” of goals and objectives.

Redevelop. To demolish existing buildings; or to increase the overall floor area existing on a property; or both; irrespective of whether a change occurs in land use.

Regional. Pertaining to activities or economies at a scale greater than that of a single jurisdiction, and affecting a broad geographic area.

Regional Housing Needs Assessment. A quantification by SCAG of existing and projected housing need, by household income group, for all localities within a region.

Rehabilitation. The repair, preservation, and/or improvement of substandard housing.

Residential. Land designated in the General Plan and zoning ordinance for building consisting of dwelling units. May be improved, vacant, or unimproved. (See “Dwelling Unit.”)

Residential Care Facility. A facility that provides 24-hour care and supervision to its residents.

Residential, Multiple Family. Usually three or more dwelling units on a single site, which may be in the same or separate buildings.

Residential, Single-Family. A single dwelling unit on a building site.

Retrofit. To add materials and/or devices to an existing building or system to improve its operation, safety, or efficiency. Buildings have been retrofitted to use solar energy and to strengthen their ability to withstand earthquakes, for example.

Rezoning. An amendment to the map to effect a change in the nature, density, or intensity of uses allowed in a zoning district and/or on a designated parcel or land area.

Second Unit. A self-contained living unit, either attached to or detached form, and in addition to, the primary residential unit on a single lot. “Granny Flat” is one type of second unit.

Section 8 Rental Assistance Program. A federal (HUD) rent-subsidy program that is one of the main sources of federal housing assistance for low-income households. The



program operates by providing “housing assistance payments” to owners, developers, and public housing agencies to make up the difference between the “Fair Market Rent” of a unit (set by HUD) and the household’s contribution toward the rent, which is calculated at 30% of the household’s adjusted gross monthly income (GMI). “Section 8” includes programs for new construction, existing housing, and substantial or moderate housing rehabilitation.

Shared Living. The occupancy of a dwelling unit by persons of more than one family in order to reduce housing expenses and provide social contact, mutual support, and assistance. Shared living facilities serving six or fewer persons are permitted in all residential districts by §1566.3 of the California Health and Safety Code.

Single-family Dwelling, Attached. A dwelling unit occupied or intended for occupancy by only one household that is structurally connected with at least one other such dwelling unit. (See “Townhouse.”)

Single-family Dwelling, Detached. A dwelling unit occupied or intended for occupancy by only one household that is structurally independent from any other such dwelling unit or structure intended for residential or other use. (See “Family.”)

Single Room Occupancy (SRO). A single room, typically 80-250 square feet, with a sink and closet, but which requires the occupant to share a communal bathroom, shower, and kitchen.

Subsidize. To assist by payment of a sum of money or by the granting to terms or favors that reduces the need for monetary expenditures. Housing subsidies may take the forms or mortgage interest deductions or tax credits from federal and/or state income taxes, sale or lease at less than market value of land to be used for the construction of housing, payments to supplement a minimum affordable rent, and the like.

Substandard Housing. Residential dwellings that, because of their physical condition, do not provide safe and sanitary housing.

Supportive Housing. Housing with no limit on length of stay, that is occupied by the target population as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 53260(d), and that is linked to onsite or offsite services that assist the supportive housing resident in retaining the housing, improving his or her health status, and maximizing his or her ability to live and, when possible, work in the community. “Target population” means adults with low incomes having one or more disabilities, including mental illness, HIV or AIDS, substance abuse, or other chronic health conditions, or individuals eligible for



services provided under the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act and may, among other populations, include families with children, elderly persons, young adults aging out of the foster care system, individuals exiting from institutional settings, veterans, or homeless people. [California Health and Safety Code Sections 50675.14(b) and 53260(d)]

Target Areas. Specifically designated sections of the community where loans and grants are made to bring about a specific outcome, such as the rehabilitation of housing affordable by Very-Low and Low-income households.

Tax Increment. Additional tax revenues that result from increases in property values within a redevelopment area. State law permits the tax increment to be earmarked for redevelopment purposes but requires at least 20% to be used to increase and improve the community's supply of very low and low income housing.

Tenure. A housing unit is "owned" if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit, even if it is "owned" only if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. A cooperative or condominium unit is "owned" only if the owner or co-owner lives in it. All other occupied units are classified as "rented," including units rented for cash rent and those occupied without payment of cash rent.

Townhouse. A townhouse is a dwelling unit located in a group of three (3) or more attached dwelling units with no dwelling unit located above or below another and with each dwelling unit having its own exterior entrance.

Transitional Housing. Shelter provide to the homeless for an extend period, often as long as 18 months, and generally integrated with other social services and counseling programs to assist in the transition to self-sufficiency through the acquisition of a stable income and permanent housing. (See "homeless" and "Emergency Shelter.")

Undevelopable. Specific areas where topographic, geologic, and/or superficial soil conditions indicate a significant danger to future occupants and a liability to the City are designated as "undevelopable" by the City.



Acronyms Used

ACS:	American Community Survey
AFFH:	Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
BMPs:	Best Management Practices
CALTRANS:	California Department of Transportation
CEQA:	California Environmental Quality Act
CIP:	Capital Improvement Program
DIF:	Development Impact Fee
DU/ac:	Dwelling units per acre
EDD:	California Employment Development Department
FAR:	Floor Area Ratio
FEMA:	Federal Emergency Management Agency
HCD:	Department of Housing and Community Development
HOA:	Homeowners Association
HUD:	Department of Housing and Urban Development
LAFCO:	Local Agency Formation Commission
MFI:	Median Family Income
NPDES:	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
RTP:	Regional Transportation Plan
SCAG:	Southern California Association of Governments
SPA:	Sectional Planning Area
STF:	Summary Tape File (U.S. Census)
TOD:	Transit-Oriented Development
TDM:	Transportation Demand Management
TSM:	Transportation Systems Management
WCP:	Water Conservation Plan

September 2021 | Initial Study

LOS ALAMITOS HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

City of Los Alamitos

Prepared for:

City of Los Alamitos

Contact: Tom Oliver, Associate Planner
Development Services Department
Planning Division 3191 Katella Avenue
Los Alamitos, California 90720 562.431.3538 ext. 303



Prepared by:

Terra Nova Planning & Research, Inc.®

Contact: Nicole Sauviat Criste, Principal
42635 Melanie Place, Suite #101
Palm Desert, California 92211
760.341.4800
admin@terranovalplanning.com
www.terranovalplanning.com

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations (CCR) Sections 15000 et seq.), the City of Los Alamitos has completed this Negative Declaration (ND) for the project described below based on the assessment presented in the attached Initial Study.

LEAD AGENCY: City of Los Alamitos

PROJECT TITLE: Los Alamitos Housing Element Update

PROJECT LOCATION: The project area encompasses 2,619 acres, the current City of Los Alamitos corporate boundary, which is in the northwestern corner of Orange County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Housing Element is one of the mandatory elements of the City's General Plan. The Housing Element analyzes the demographics of the City population and existing housing stock, and considers the future needs for housing in the City, with a particular focus on affordable housing, and housing for special needs households, including seniors, disabled persons, large families, single parent households and the homeless. The Element also provides the City's decision makers with Strategies and Policy Actions intended to facilitate the development and preservation of adequate housing supply to meet such needs. The State has established a mandatory update schedule for Housing Elements, which the City is complying with. This Update addresses the planning period from 2021 to 2029. During this timeframe, the City has been allocated the following housing units under the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) developed by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG):

Table 1 Regional Housing Needs Allocation, 2022 to 2029

Income Category	Number of Units
Very low income ¹	194
Low income	119
Moderate income	145
Above moderate income	311
Total	769

Source: SCAG.

Note:

¹ Although not provided in the RHNA, state law requires cities to plan for units to accommodate extremely low income, which can be estimated at 50% of very low income, or 97 units.

This Update consists primarily of statistical updates (particularly relating to updating the Census and American Community Survey information in the Element to 2010 Census and 2019 American Community Survey information), and reassessing housing needs based on these demographic changes. This Update added sites identified for future housing, including parcels within the Town Center Mixed Use Strategic Plan area, the property on Lampson Avenue currently occupied by general offices ('Lampson site') and the property currently occupied by Arrowhead Products ('Arrowhead site'). Two policy changes are proposed in this Housing Element Update which will affect densities at future housing sites:

- Under Policy Action 4.5, the City will modify the Town Center Mixed Use (TCMU) zone to allow a base density of up to 60 dwelling units per acre (du/ac), not including density bonus provisions. The town center sites identified for future housing will be required to

incorporate assigned affordable housing units in the Update (Appendix B Land Resources).

- This Update added a new policy action (Policy Action 4.4) for the City to create a new R-4 zone in the Zoning Ordinance, which will allow a base density of 30 to 36 dwelling units per acre (du/ac), not including density bonus provisions. Under Policy Action 4.4, the R-4 zone will be applied to both Lampson and Arrowhead sites, and the City will consider up to 36 du/ac when future projects are proposed.

Other changes in policy actions address changes in the requirements of law since the City last updated its Housing Element in 2013. These changes in law address various housing-related issues. This Update includes an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) that analyzes patterns of segregation and equal access to opportunity within the City, consistent with AFFH Final Rule.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The current Housing Element of the City's 2035 General Plan applies to the 2014-2021 planning period. The current Element facilitates housing development and preservation throughout the City consistent with residential land use designations in the Land Use Element and Zoning Code, to meet the RHNA assigned to the City at the time.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The ND and supporting Initial Study for the proposed project are available for public review at the following locations:

- City of Los Alamitos, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, CA 90720
- Los Alamitos/Rossmoor Library, 12700 Montecito Road, Seal Beach, CA 90740
- Los Alamitos Community Center, 10911 Oak Street, Los Alamitos, CA 90720
- Online at: <http://cityoflosalamitos.org/your-government/planning/planning-division/>

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS: The attached Initial Study was prepared to identify the potential effects on the environment from adoption and implementation of the proposed project and to evaluate the significance of those effects. Based on the environmental analysis, the proposed project would have no impacts or less than significant impacts related to the following environmental issues:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Aesthetics | • Agriculture / Forestry Resources | • Air Quality |
| • Biological Resources | • Energy | • Geology / Soils |
| • Cultural Resources | • Greenhouse Gas Emissions | • Land Use / Planning |
| • Hydrology / Water Quality | • Hazards & Hazardous Materials | • Noise |
| • Mineral Resources | • Population / Housing | • Public Services |
| • Recreation | • Transportation and Traffic | • Tribal Cultural Resources |
| • Wildfire | • Utilities / Service Systems | • Mandatory Findings of Significance |

FINDINGS. It is hereby determined that, based on the information contained in the attached Initial Study, the proposed project would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. No mitigation measures are necessary. The City of Los Alamitos has hereby prepared a NEGATIVE DECLARATION.

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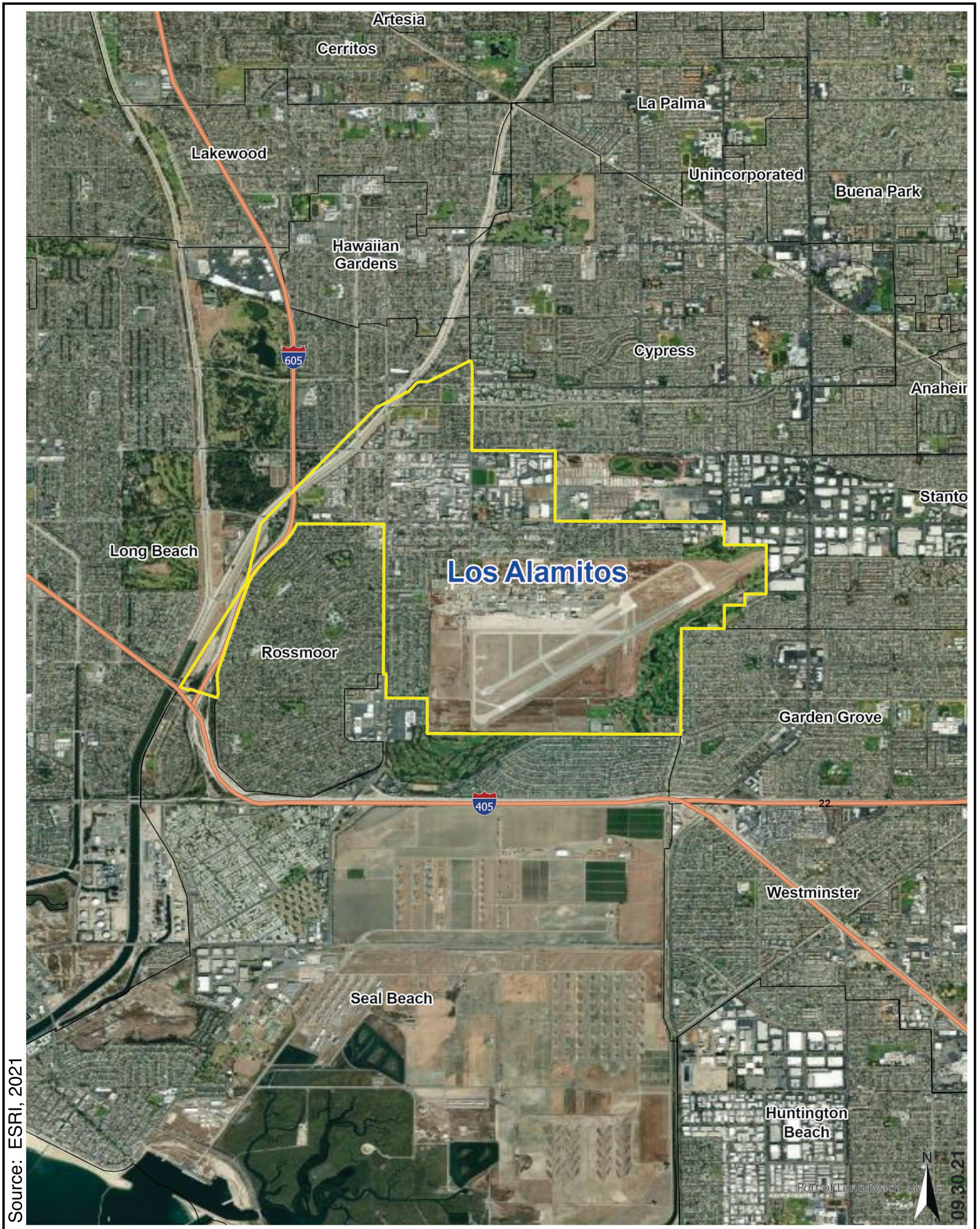
1. Introduction

The City of Los Alamitos, as Lead Agency, is responsible for preparing environmental documentation in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to determine if approval of the discretionary actions requested and subsequent development would have a significant impact on the environment. As defined by Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines, an Initial Study is prepared primarily to provide the lead agency with information to use as the basis for determining whether an environmental impact report (EIR), Negative Declaration, or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) would be appropriate for providing the necessary environmental documentation and clearance for the proposed project. This Initial Study has been prepared to support the adoption of a ND.

1.1 Incorporation By Reference

The information in this Initial Study is based, in part, on the following documents that include the project site or provide information addressing the general project area or use:

- **City of Los Alamitos General Plan.** The City of Los Alamitos General Plan is a policy document designed to give long-range guidance for decisions affecting the future character of Los Alamitos. It represents the official statement of the community's physical development as well as its economic, social, and environmental goals. The Los Alamitos General Plan was used throughout this Initial Study as the fundamental planning document governing development on the sites identified for housing.
- **City of Los Alamitos Municipal Code.** The Los Alamitos Municipal Code, which includes the City's Zoning Code (Title 17), establishes the basic regulations under which land in the City is developed and utilized. This includes but is not limited to regulations and controls for the design and improvement of development sites; allowable uses, building setback and height requirements, and other development standards. The basic intent of the code is to promote and protect the public health, safety, convenience, and welfare of present and future citizens of Los Alamitos.
- **Environmental Impact Report for the City of Los Alamitos General Plan Update (2015).** An environmental impact report (SCH No. 2013121055) was prepared for the City of Los Alamitos General Plan Update, which was certified by the Los Alamitos City Council in March 2015 (2015 Certified EIR). The 2015 Certified EIR evaluated the potential individual and cumulative environmental effects associated with buildout of the General Plan Update, including direct (primary) and indirect (secondary) impacts that might occur as a result of buildout. Subsequent development projects under the General Plan Update are to be evaluated in light of the analysis provided in the 2015 Certified EIR to determine if additional environmental documentation is required (State CEQA Guidelines §§ 15168[b] and [c]). In cases where further environmental review is required, the environmental analysis for the individual development project can tier from the 2015 Certified EIR consistent with Public Resources Code Section 21093(a) and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c). Where applicable, this Initial Study tiers off of the 2015 Certified EIR. The tiered analysis incorporates by reference analysis, background information, and concentrates on issues specific to the Proposed Project (Public Resources Code § 21094; State CEQA Guidelines §§ 15168[c], 15385).



Source: ESRI, 2021

2. Environmental Checklist

2.1 BACKGROUND

1. **Project Title:** Los Alamitos Housing Element Update

2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:**

City of Los Alamitos
3191 Katella Avenue
Los Alamitos, California 90720

3. **Contact Person and Phone**

Number: Tom Oliver, Associate
Planner 562.431.3538 x303

4. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:**

City of Los Alamitos
3191 Katella Avenue
Los Alamitos, California 90720

5. **General Plan Designation:** All

6. **Zoning:** All

7. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:**

Not applicable. The Housing Element applies to all lands throughout the City.

8. **Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required:**

Not applicable.

2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” or “Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Aesthetics | ☐ Agriculture and Forestry Resources | ☐ Air Quality |
| ☐ Biological Resources | ☐ Cultural Resources | ☐ Energy |
| ☐ Geology / Soils | ☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions | ☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials |
| ☐ Hydrology / Water Quality | ☐ Land Use / Planning | ☐ Mineral Resources |
| ☐ Noise | ☐ Population / Housing | ☐ Public Services |
| ☐ Recreation | ☐ Transportation | ☐ Tribal Cultural Resources |
| ☐ Utilities / Service Systems | ☐ Wildfire | ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance |

2.3 DETERMINATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LEAD AGENCY)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact 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. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Date

2.4 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors, as well as general standards (e.g., the project would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. “Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures have reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) **Earlier Analyses Used.** Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) **Impacts Adequately Addressed.** Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) **Mitigation Measures.** For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated. A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?				X
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY 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 (1997) 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 regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
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?				X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
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))?				X
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
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?				X
III. AIR QUALITY.. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				X
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?				X
c) 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 (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?				X
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?				X
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
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?				X
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?				X
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
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?				X
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?				X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?				X
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?				X
V. ENERGY. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?				X
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				X
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
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.				X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
iv) Landslides?				X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				X
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				X
VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?				X
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				X
VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
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?				X
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
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 for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				X
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site				X
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				X
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				X
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				X
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				X
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				X
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				X
X. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community				X
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			X	
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
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?				X
XII. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				X
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				X
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				X
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				X
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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial 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)?				X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
XIV. 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:				
a) Fire protection?				X
b) Police protection?				X
c) Schools?				X
d) Parks?				X
e) Other public facilities?				X
XV. RECREATION.				
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?				X
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?				X
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				X
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				X
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?				X
XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. 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				X
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 (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.				X
XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Exceed waste water treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or waste water treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Result in a determination by the waste water 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?				X
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X
XIX. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
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?				X
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.)			X	

3. Environmental Analysis

Section 2.4 provided a checklist of environmental impacts. This section provides an evaluation of the impact categories and questions contained in the checklist and identifies mitigation measures, if applicable.

3.1 AESTHETICS

Background

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) defines a scenic vista as a viewpoint that provides expansive views of a highly-valued landscape for the benefit of the general public. Vistas provide visual access or panoramic views to a large geographic area and are generally located at a point where surrounding views are greater than one mile away. Panoramic views are usually associated with vantage points over a section of urban or natural areas such as an urban skyline, valley, mountain range, a large open space area, the ocean, or other water bodies.

The City sits in the Santa Ana River Basin region and has relatively flat topography. Therefore, only distant scenic views of the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains are available at certain vantage points throughout the City.

The City does not have any designated or eligible scenic highways in the California State Scenic Highway Program. The nearest classified highway is a segment of Route 5/Route 19 that runs through City of Long Beach to the southwest.

Would the project:

- a) **Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?**
- b) **Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?**
- 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 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?**
- d) **Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?**

No Impact. The Housing Element Update will have no impact on aesthetics, scenic vistas or light and glare. In the future, development of individual housing projects will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for their potential effect on scenic vistas and scenic resources. Future housing projects will be subject to building height limits in the Zoning Code and policies of the General Plan and Town Center Strategic Plan (in development at the time of Housing Element Update). The Update requires zoning changes such as increasing allowable residential densities (from 30 to 60 du/ac in the Town Center Mixed Use zone and creation of a new zone (R-4) to allow higher densities (30-36 du/ac) than the existing zoning designations (up to 25 du/ac).

Future housing sites identified in the Site Inventory include parcels in the Town Center, a property at 4655 Lampson Avenue (Lampson site) and a portion of the property at 4411 Katella Avenue

(Arrowhead site). The Town Center sites identified for future housing are located in the Town Center Mixed Use Strategic Plan area and have been assigned units in synergy with the Strategic Plan's implementation of an aggressive, place-making redevelopment program. The Town Center area currently has a mix of one- to two-story buildings with a height limit of 60 feet under the TCMU zone. According to development scenarios analyzed by the Strategic Plan, mixed-use buildings with two to four stories can accommodate residential densities of 60 du/ac. Therefore, the current TCMU height limit should be able to accommodate proposed densities in the Housing Element Update, and higher density housing would not conflict with zoning and other regulations on blocking any scenic vistas or appear incompatible with existing development in the area.

The Lampson and Arrowhead sites will be rezoned to R-4 (30-36 du/ac) to allow residential development. These sites are currently developed with one- and two-story buildings and/or in areas where two-story structures are common. The height limit for R-3, the next zone down from R-4, is currently 35 feet, which allows two- and three-story buildings that are expected to accommodate 30-36 du/ac. The height limit for R-4 may be set at or somewhat higher than 35 feet. Therefore, future housing development at the Lampson and Arrowhead sites are not expected to conflict with zoning and other regulations on blocking any scenic vistas or appear incompatible with existing development in the area.

The sites identified for future housing by this Update are located in highly urbanized areas, and given their topography and location, offer minimal scenic vistas, if any, such as the ridge of mountain ranges where visible. Future projects will be required to adhere to applicable zoning and other regulations on scenic quality, and this Update proposes no change to these regulations. In summary, no impact to scenic vistas would occur and no mitigation measures are necessary.

The Update will not directly impact light or glare. The Site Inventory identified redevelopment sites only for future housing, which would have similar light sources to the existing and surrounding light sources of residential, commercial or industrial uses and roadways. Future housing development will not result in a substantial increase in light and glare compared to existing conditions on the identified sites. Future projects will be subject to the City's Municipal Code provisions on lighting: Chapter 8.48 (Lighting Performance Standards) of Title 8 (Health and Safety) addresses the visual impacts of exterior lighting on adjacent property owners and neighborhoods and outlines guidelines to reduce light trespass and prevent glare; Section 17.24.040 (Light and Glare) of Title 17 (Zoning) also outlines standards for shielding of light sources. As outlined in Section 17.24.040, where the light source is visible from outside the project boundary, shielding is required to reduce glare so that neither the light source nor its image from a reflective surface shall be directly visible from a point of five feet or more beyond the property line. Compliance with these provisions is ensured through the City's development review and building plan check process.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Background

The City of Los Alamitos contains no agricultural or forest lands, and no lands are designated for agricultural or forestry purposes in the General Plan. While portions of the Joint Forces Training Base are designated as Prime Farmland in the Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program by the California Department of Conservation, agriculture has not occurred in the City for decades.

Would the project:

- 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?**
- b) **Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?**
- 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))?**
- d) **Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?**
- 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?**

No Impact. The City of Los Alamitos contains no agricultural or forest lands nor any lands covered by a Williamson Act contract, and no lands are designated for agricultural or forestry purposes in the General Plan and Zoning Code. The Housing Element Update is a policy document and does not involve construction of additional housing. All sites identified in the Site Inventory for future housing are mapped as Urban and Built-up Land on the California Important Farmland Finder maintained by the California Department of Conservation.

The identified sites do not contain farmland, forest land or other agricultural/forest uses and are not near any such uses. This Update will not result in any direct or indirect impact on any agricultural or forest land, nor would it result in the conversion of such land to non-agricultural or non-forest uses. Adoption of the Housing Element Update will have no impact to agricultural and forestry resources.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

Background

The City of Los Alamitos is located in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which is governed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). All development in the SCAB is subject to the 2016 SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) and applicable portions of the State Implementation Plan (SIP). The SCAB is currently a designated nonattainment area for O₃ and PM_{2.5} under the California and National AAQS, nonattainment for PM₁₀ and NO_x (CA 60 Near-road Portion of San Bernardino, Riverside and Los Angeles Counties only) under the California AAQS, and nonattainment for lead (Los Angeles County only) under the National AAQS.

The SCAQMD works directly with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), county transportation commissions, and local governments, and cooperates actively with all state and federal government agencies. At the time the 2016 AQMP was developed, its land use and transportation controls were based on the Growth Management chapter of the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2016 RTP/SCS) adopted by SCAG to comply with metropolitan planning organization (MPO) requirements under the Sustainable

Communities and Climate Protection Act. Projects that are consistent with the projections of population forecasts are considered consistent with the AQMP.

In 2020, SCAG adopted the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2020 RTP/SCS) that will form the basis for land use and transportation controls of the forthcoming 2022 AQMP. However, the 2016 RTP/SCS is consistent with the current 2016 AQMP and thus the appropriate document to reference for air quality analysis at this time.

Would the project:

- a) **Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?**
- 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?**
- c) **Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?**
- d) **Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?**

No Impact. The Housing Element Update will have no direct impact on air quality. The Update is a policy document and will not generate any construction or development. SCAG assigned a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) of 769 units to the City of Los Alamitos. To meet the RHNA for the next planning period by 2029, the Housing Element Update contains programs to rezone and/or increase allowable density for sites identified for future housing. In 2021, the City has an average 2.63 persons per household, and implementation of RHNA would increase the population by 2,023 persons. In 2021, Orange County's population was 3,153,764, and SCAG projects the County's population will grow to 3,461,000 by 2040. The addition of 769 units would increase the population by 2,023 to a total of 3,155,787, which is a minimal increase under the 2040 forecast. The increase would account for less than 0.7% of the County population increase between 2021 and 2040, and less than 0.06% of the population forecast for 2040. Therefore, the Housing Element is consistent with the 2016 RTP/SCS and thus consistent with the growth assumptions in the 2016 AQMP. The Update will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP.

When individual properties are proposed for housing development, the City will undertake CEQA review, and assess potential impacts for each project on air quality, including emissions of criteria pollutants, pollutant concentrations near sensitive receptors, and emissions of odors. All future housing projects will be subject to SCAQMD rules and regulations and City requirements for construction activities to ensure compliance with the 2016 AQMP. The City's General Plan Open Space, Recreation, and Conservation Element includes policies (4.2 and 4.3) that require proper siting of sensitive land uses and reduction of particulate matter in collaboration with agencies in the region.

The Housing Element Update will facilitate development and renovation of residential units, which typically do not emit odors that would adversely affect a substantial number of people. Mitigation measures will be implemented, where necessary, in accordance with SCAQMD rules and City requirements to reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Background

The City of Los Alamitos is located in the plan area of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) M2 Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP), which encompasses all of Orange County. The NCCP/HCP, finalized by the OCTA Board of Directors in November 2016, involves acquisition, conservation and/or enhancement of natural habitat as mitigation for impacts to biological resources from freeway construction and widening projects. The City of Los Alamitos is essentially built out with highly urbanized areas, though urban landscaping may harbor bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and/or other species not covered or addressed by the OCTA M2 NCCP/HCP. The Housing Element is a regulatory document that, in and of itself, will not impact biological resources.

Would the project:

- 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**
- 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**
- c) **Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?**
- 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?**
- e) **Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?**
- 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?**

No Impact. The adoption of the Housing Element Update will have no impact on biological resources. This Update does not expand development beyond areas currently allowed under the General Plan. The OCTA M2 NCCP/HCP identified portions of the City as Protected Lands or Unprotected Natural Habitat, which fall in the Joint Forces Training Base and public parks, and will not be affected by this Update. The City's Site Inventory identifies redevelopment sites for future housing developments; none of the sites are in Protected Lands or Unprotected Natural Habitat identified by the NCCP/HCP (Figure 2-4). The City is essentially built out and natural habitat has been replaced by urban uses for decades. The identified housing sites would have the least potential to support any sensitive species or communities because of their current built conditions.

There are no wetlands or riparian habitats on lands in the City's Site Inventory, nor on lands designated for housing in general. The City will require, if a future project site contains vegetation

with the potential to host nesting birds, pre-construction nesting bird surveys for individual housing projects as they are proposed, and will implement necessary mitigation measures to protect bird species covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The City does not have a tree preservation or similar ordinance that protects trees in general or particular biological resources. The General Plan Open Space, Recreation, and Conservation Element has multiple policies (3.1 through 3.3) that call for the use of native plants in landscaping and urban forest. With implementation of the NCCP/HCP and standard requirements, this Update will not result in any new impact on biological resources.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Background

The City of Los Alamitos was part of a larger rural area during the early 1900s primarily known for its agricultural production. Urban development gradually replaced the agricultural uses by the mid-20th century. According to the City's General Plan, no sites or structures are currently identified by the City as local landmarks (per Chapter 17.38 of the City's Municipal Code) and none are listed on the state or federal registers of historic places. Additionally, no archaeological sites have been discovered in the City. However, there are a number of sites and structures that may have local historical significance, including the Los Alamitos Sugar Company Sugar Beet Processing Plant, Los Alamitos Fire Station/Museum, St. Isidore Chapel and private residences.

Would the project:

- a) **Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?**
- b) **Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?**
- c) **Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?**

No Impact. The adoption of the Housing Element Update will have no impact on cultural resources. There are no historic structures on lands identified in the Site Inventory. As individual projects are proposed in the future, the City will conduct tribal consultation pursuant to AB 52 and/or SB 18 on potential cultural resources. The consultation process is detailed in Section 3.18, Tribal Cultural Resources. All sites identified in the Site Inventory for future housing would require redevelopment. As these sites have been developed and disturbed from previous grading and other construction activities, it is least likely to uncover any historic and/or archaeological resources during future redevelopment. The proposed Housing Element Update will not result in any impact on historic and archaeological resources.

There are no known burial sites or cemeteries on lands designated for housing. As discussed above, all sites in the Inventory would require redevelopment and would have the least potential for disturbance of any human remains given the past site disturbances. In the unlikely event that human remains are uncovered during construction activities of future housing projects, California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that disturbance of the site shall remain halted until the Orange County Coroner has conducted an investigation into the

circumstances, manner, and cause of any death, and the recommendations concerning the treatment and disposition of the human remains have been made to the person responsible for the excavation or to his or her authorized representative, in the manner provided in Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code. The coroner is required to make a determination within two working days of notification of the discovery of the human remains. If the coroner determines that the remains are not subject to his or her authority or has reason to believe the human remains to be those of a Native American, he or she shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) so that NAHC can contact the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD shall be provided access to the discovery and will provide recommendations or preferences for treatment of the remains within 48 hours of accessing the discovery site. Disposition of human remains and any associated grave goods, if encountered, shall be treated in accordance with procedures and requirements set forth in Sections 5097.94 and 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code; Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code; and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. These requirements of law ensure that no impact to buried remains will occur when housing projects are proposed. The proposed Housing Element Update will not result in any impact on human remains.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.6 ENERGY

Background

Primary energy sources include fossil fuels (e.g., oil, coal, and natural gas), nuclear, and renewable sources (e.g., wind, solar, geothermal, and hydropower). The City is within the service boundaries of Southern California Edison (SCE) for electricity and the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) for natural gas. Both SCE and SoCalGas offer various programs and incentives for all users to reduce energy consumption.

Would the project:

- a) **Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?**
- b) **Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?**

No Impact. The adoption of the Housing Element Update will have no impact on energy resources and energy efficiency. Construction and renovation of housing are required to conform to the California Building Code including the California Energy Code and California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen), which serves to ensure the economical and wise use of energy resources during construction and operational phases. The City's energy providers, SCE and SoCalGas, have both committed to increasing efficiency and renewable energy generation and enforce relevant state energy standards. The Housing Element identifies energy conservation opportunities for City residents and future housing development, including LEED certification with U.S. Green Building Council and utility rebate and savings programs.

Future housing developments would generate traffic and require the consumption of petroleum-based fuels related to vehicular travel. Although future housing projects have the potential to result in a direct increase in City VMTs, the Update will not interfere with evolving fuel efficiency

standards and will not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of transportation energy resources.

Implementation of the California Building Code and voluntary energy efficiency and renewable energy programs will prevent wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. The Update promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy programs for future housing development and rehabilitation, and will not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for energy efficiency or renewable energy.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Background

Located in the Peninsular Ranges and west of the Santa Ana Mountains, the City of Los Alamitos sits on quaternary deposits of alluvium and colluvium. Alluvium results from sediments deposited from running water, and colluvium forms as rock fragments and soil materials accumulate at the base of steep slopes. While located in a seismically active region, Los Alamitos' geologic structure does not include any active or potentially active faults. Five faults lie within close proximity to Los Alamitos: Norwalk, El Modena, Whittier, Elsinore, Elysian, and Newport-Inglewood. The closest fault is the Newport-Inglewood fault zone, which produced the catastrophic 1933 Long Beach earthquake, estimated at magnitude 6.3 on the Richter scale, that caused devastation in Los Alamitos. There are numerous other faults within 50 miles that could cause minor to moderate damage depending on the magnitude of the seismic event.

The U.S. Soil Conservation Service identifies a number of soils in Los Alamitos, including Drained Bolsa Silt Loam, Drained Bolsa Silty Loam, Drained Hueneme Fine Sandy Loam, Metz Loamy Sand, San Emigdio Fine Sandy Loam, and San Emigdio Moderately Fine Sandy Loam, which are all suitable for urban development.

Would the project:

- a) **Directly or indirectly cause 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.**
 - ii) **Strong seismic ground shaking?**
 - iii) **Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?**
 - iv) **Landslides?**
- b) **Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?**
- 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?**

- d) **Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?**
- 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?**
- f) **Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?**

No Impact. The adoption of the Housing Element Update will have no impact on geology and soils, because the Update is a policy document that does not result in construction of structures. There are no Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zones in the City. Surface rupture resulting directly from earthquakes is unlikely to occur in Los Alamitos because no faults have been identified within the City boundary. The City will, however, be subject to significant ground shaking in the event of an earthquake. The 2019 California Building Code (CBC; California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2), adopted by reference in the Los Alamitos Municipal Code (Chapter 15.04 Building Codes), contains provisions to safeguard against major structural failures or loss of life caused by earthquakes or other geologic hazards. Future housing projects would be required to adhere to the CBC provisions, which are enforced by the City's Development Services Department during the building plan check and development review process. The City also requires preparation of geotechnical reports for construction projects prior to issuing development permits and imposes the recommended design parameters of the report as conditions of approval. Implementation of these standard requirements will prevent any significant impacts from seismicity related hazards.

Liquefaction typically occurs when three simultaneous conditions are met: generally cohesionless soils, predominantly sand; high ground water (less than 30 feet from the surface); and ground shaking. Due to the proximity of active and potentially active faults around Los Alamitos, the characteristically high water table, and the cohesionless subsoils in some areas in the City with these conditions may experience liquefaction during extreme ground shaking. As discussed above, future housing projects will be required to prepare a geotechnical report to address design parameters according to site-specific geological and soil conditions, and project-specific conditions of approval will be imposed where necessary. Project site grading, design, and construction would conform with the recommended design parameters, which will mitigate for potential seismic-related ground failure impacts.

Given the City's flat topography, there is generally a low risk for earthquake-induced landslides. The sites identified for future housing are not located near drainage channels or similar settings with steep banks or slopes. No impact from landslides is expected on these sites.

Future housing development is subject to local and state codes and requirements for erosion control and grading during construction, including South Coast Air Quality Management District Rules 402 (dust suppression techniques) and 403 (fugitive dust control). Project development will also be subject to the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting regulations, including the development and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and associated best management practices (BMPs). These standard requirements will mitigate for potential soil erosion from water, wind and vehicles.

The greater Los Angeles metropolitan area, including the City of Los Alamitos, experiences land subsidence due to groundwater pumping and various other human-induced and natural causes. This regional issue is being addressed through collaborative efforts including replenishing groundwater basins and water conservation to reduce extraction.

Depending on site-specific soil conditions, future housing projects may be subject to collapsible or expansive soil hazards. The City will require preparation of site-specific geotechnical reports and implementation of conditions of approval as recommended in those studies. Typical engineering practices such as proper excavation, compaction, and foundation design will prevent impacts from soil related hazards.

The City is well served by existing sanitary sewer infrastructure and future housing projects will be connected to existing sewers main lines and service lines in the surrounding roadways. The sites identified for future housing will require redevelopment and will not involve the use of septic tanks or other alternative wastewater disposal systems. No impact will occur.

According to the City's General Plan, no paleontological sites have been discovered in the City. The Site Inventory contains redevelopment sites only, which do not contain any unique geologic features. Given the existing development and past disturbances on those sites, it is least likely for future developments to uncover any paleontological resources or disturb them. No impact will occur.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Background

Greenhouse gases (GHG), such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and fluorinated gases (hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride), are able to trap heat and play a key role in the earth's surface temperature. GHGs in the atmosphere come from natural processes and human activities. The excess GHGs released into the atmosphere due to human activities are believed to be responsible for the global average increase in surface temperatures of 0.7-1.5°F observed during the 20th century. Carbon dioxide is the primary greenhouse gas that has raised the most concern of atmospheric scientists due to current and projected emission levels.

State law mandates that all cities decrease their GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. Executive Order B-30-15 set an interim target goal of reducing GHG emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 to keep California on its trajectory toward meeting or exceeding the long-term goal of reducing GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, as set forth in Executive Order S-3-05.

GHG Thresholds

On December 5, 2008, the SCAQMD formally adopted a greenhouse gas significance threshold of 10,000 MTCO₂e/yr that only applies to industrial uses' stationary sources where SCAQMD is the lead agency (SCAQMD Resolution No. 08-35). This threshold was adopted based upon an October 2008 staff report and draft interim guidance document that also recommended a threshold for all projects using a tiered approach. It was recommended by SCAQMD staff that a project's greenhouse gas emissions would be considered significant if it could not comply with at least one of the following "tiered" tests:

Tier 1: Is there an applicable exemption?

Tier 2: Is the project compliant with a greenhouse gas reduction plan that is, at a minimum, consistent with the goals of AB 32?

Tier 3: Is the project below an absolute threshold (10,000 MTCO₂e/year for industrial projects; 3,000 MTCO₂e/year for residential and commercial projects)?

Tier 4: Is the project below a (yet to be set) performance threshold?

Tier 5: Would the project achieve a screening level with off-site mitigation?

Would the project:

- a) **Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?**
- b) **Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?**

No Impact. The Housing Element Update will have no impact on greenhouse gas emissions. The Update is a policy document and will not generate any development or construction. When individual properties are proposed for housing development, the City will undertake CEQA review as required, and assess potential impacts for each project on greenhouse gas emissions with regards to GHG thresholds set by SCAQMD.

The Housing Element identifies sites for future housing development, which are near transit, businesses, schools, and amenities including the town center sites and Arrowhead site on Katella Avenue. While the Housing Element proposes zoning changes and/or density increases for these sites, the proximity to services, amenities and transit would help offset vehicle miles traveled (VMTs) and greenhouse gas emissions. The town center sites are in the Town Center Mixed Use Strategic Plan area, and the housing units are assigned in synergy with the Strategic Plan (in development as of 2021). The Strategic Plan aims to revitalize the town center through increasing mixed-use development that boosts economic potential and improves community infrastructure and amenities. Mixed-use developments are widely acknowledged to reduce VMTs and emissions, which will offset potential emissions from increasing development densities. The Housing Element also identifies local conservation efforts and opportunities such as utility programs that help reduce GHG emissions.

By identifying redevelopment sites in resource-rich areas to fulfill RHNA, the Housing Element Update is consistent with SCAG's regional goals of providing infill housing, integrating land uses near major transportation corridors, and adding residential land uses to an area surrounded by commercial development. The Housing Element Update would facilitate housing development in a jobs-rich area; the jobs-housing ratio in the City of Los Alamitos was projected at 3.25 in 2020 and 3.22 in 2035 (City of Los Alamitos General Plan EIR). Therefore, the Update would be consistent with and would not interfere with SCAG's ability to implement the regional goals and strategies outlined in the 2020 RTP/SCS. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Background

According to the California Health and Safety Code, hazardous material is any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical properties, pose a significant hazard to human health or the environment. Under Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR),

the term “hazardous substance” refers to both hazardous materials and hazardous wastes. Both are classified according to four properties: 1) ignitability, 2) corrosivity, 3) reactivity, and 4) toxicity.

People and/or environment can be exposed to hazardous materials through but not limited to the following means: improper handling or use of hazardous materials or waste, particularly by untrained personnel; transportation accident; environmentally unsound disposal methods; and/or fire, explosion, or other emergencies. The severity of potential effects varies with the activity conducted, the concentration and type of hazardous material or wastes present, and the proximity of sensitive receptors.

Would the project:

- a) **Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?**
- 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?**
- c) **Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?**
- 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?**
- 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?**
- f) **Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**
- g) **Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?**

No Impact. The Housing Element Update will have no impact on hazards or hazardous materials. Future housing development will be required to assess potential impacts as part of the CEQA process, but such impacts are likely to be negligible, as housing development does not involve significant use, storage or transport of hazardous materials. During construction, future housing projects will be subject to all emergency response plan requirements set forth by Orange County Health Care Agency Environmental Health Division and Orange County Fire Authority, which will minimize potential impacts regarding hazardous materials.

Several schools are located within ¼-mile of sites designated for housing. However, as previously stated, housing development generates minimal hazardous materials which are governed by existing regulations of several agencies, including the US Environmental Protection Agency, US Department of Transportation, California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, Orange County Health Care Agency Environmental Health Division, and Orange County Fire Authority.

According to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) “EnviroStor” database, the Arrowhead site included in the Site Inventory has a tiered permit and is identified to have potential soil contamination from aerospace manufacturing/

maintenance uses. The site's cleanup oversight agency is the DTSC Site Cleanup Program. Before any housing development occurs on the Arrowhead site, the developer will be required to perform site evaluation and remediation under DTSC oversight in accordance with existing regulations. According to the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker database, one of the sites identified for future housing has an open case regarding a former dry cleaner onsite (3624 Katella Avenue). The site's cleanup oversight agency is the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). A future housing developer will be required to perform remediation under RWQCB oversight in accordance with existing regulations prior to redevelopment. No other sites identified in the Housing Element Site Inventory are included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

In Los Alamitos, both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters operate from the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB). The nearest sites identified for housing in the Site Inventory are approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west and north of the JFTB. The Airport Environs Land Use Plan for JFTB designated two areas where land uses are regulated to minimize hazards from aircraft crashes to persons on the ground: Clear Zones within approximately 0.5 mile of each end of the main runway, which are both within the limits of JFTB. The Site Inventory does not contain any site within the JFTB or the Clear Zones. The approach and departure routes for fixed-wing aircraft to and from JFTB do not pass over any sites designated for future housing developments; approach routes are from the northeast, passing east of the site, while the departure route is to the southwest over the City of Seal Beach (OCALUC 2017). Therefore, future housing developments facilitated by the Housing Element Update would not result in an airport-related hazard for residents or workers on or off the sites.

There are no private airstrips in proximity of the sites identified for future housing. However, helicopters operate via multiple routes from JFTB, some of which cross over or near the future housing sites. Over congested areas, helicopters are required to maintain an altitude of at least 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within 2,000 feet of the aircraft, except as needed for takeoff and landing (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 14 § 91.119). Takeoffs and landings at JFTB are infrequent and are at a sufficient distance from the sites identified for future housing that they would not pose a safety hazard to residents or workers on or near the sites. Therefore, the Housing Element Update would not result in an impact associated with private air strips.

The City of Los Alamitos participates in ReadyOC, a public service campaign administered by police/sheriff's departments to provide emergency preparedness resource and education for the public on awareness and involvement in local readiness efforts. The City is covered by the Unified County of Orange and Orange County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan (February 2019). Future housing developments facilitated by the Housing Element Update would have no adverse impact on implementation of ReadyOC or regional emergency operations plan.

Additionally, construction and operation of future housing projects would not interfere with any of the daily operations of the Orange County Sheriff's Department Emergency Management Division, which facilitates and supports the Orange County Operational Area efforts and provides emergency management and preparedness services to unincorporated

areas of Orange County (Sheriff 2020). All construction activities will be subject to the City's and Orange County Fire Authority's standards and regulations. Future housing projects will be required to provide necessary on- and off-site access and circulation for emergency vehicles and services during construction and operation. This will be enforced through the City's development review and building plan check process, which requires projects to incorporate all applicable design and safety standards and regulations in the CBC and Los Alamitos Municipal Code (including Chapter 15.08 Fire Code) to ensure that project development will not interfere with the provision of local emergency services.

Wildland fires can pose a hazard in areas with limited access, rugged terrain, limited water supply, and combustible vegetation. The sites identified for future housing are in a highly urbanized area and surrounded by a mix of residential, commercial, office, light industrial and public uses. All sites have existing access to the street grid and are served by adequate water infrastructure. There is no combustible wildland vegetation on or near the future housing sites. The City does not have and is not near any fire hazard zones mapped by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CalFire 2021). Therefore, the Housing Element Update would not introduce people or structures to substantial hazards from wildland fires. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Background

Most of the City of Los Alamitos is in the Coyote Creek Watershed, which covers 165 square miles and drains via several tributaries, including Coyote Creek, Brea Creek, Fullerton Creek, Carbon Creek, and the Los Alamitos Channel. The City lies east of Coyote Creek's confluence with the San Gabriel River. Alamitos Bay is the only downstream surface water body receptor in the regional drainage pattern that encompasses the City of Los Alamitos. It is classified as coastal surface water; coastal waters may be defined as waters subject to tidal action and waters in coastal sloughs.

Water quality in Los Alamitos is regulated by Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (SARWQCB) and its Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan), which contains water quality standards and identifies beneficial uses (wildlife habitat, agricultural supply, fishing, etc.) for receiving waters along with water quality criteria and standards necessary to support these uses consistent with federal and state water quality laws.

Would the project:

- a) **Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?**
- b) **Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?**
- 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 which 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 offsite?
- 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?
- iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?
- d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?
- e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

No Impact. The Housing Element Update is a policy document and will have no impact on water resources as it does not involve construction or development. Golden State Water Company (GSWC) provides water service in the City of Los Alamitos, and Rossmoor/Los Alamitos Area Sewer District (RLAASD) provides sewer service. The City, GSWC and RLAASD implement all water quality standards and waste discharge requirements to prevent contamination of water sources during construction and operation. There are no gaps of water and sanitary sewer infrastructure or services in the City. Future housing developments will be required to meet all agency requirements through the development review and plan check process. The implementation of these standard requirements will assure that there are no impacts to water quality or waste discharge requirements.

The City is located in the GSWC West Orange Service Area. GSWC's West Orange primary water supplies are groundwater derived from the Central Plain of Orange County Groundwater Basin and purchased supplies from the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC). GSWC West Orange also purchases a small amount of water from the City of Seal Beach and maintains emergency connections with the GSWC Artesia System, City of Buena Park, and the City of Garden Grove to access additional water supply sources in emergency conditions. The GSWC West Orange's water supply is shared with other GSWC Service Areas in the region. According to the GSWC West Orange Service Area 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), GSWC West Orange has reliable supplies to meet its retail customer demands in normal, single dry years, and five consecutive dry year conditions through 2045. GSWC West Orange coordinates its groundwater supply management primarily with Orange County Water District (OCWD) and its imported supply management with MWDOC. This portfolio guarantees available water supplies regardless of the current year's hydrology and provides resiliency during dry conditions. With discretion over the amount of groundwater pumped, GSWC West Orange can match its total supplies to meet annual demands. The 2020 UWMP also includes a Water Shortage Contingency Plan, which confirmed the water supply reliability of GSWC West Orange as a result of the projected reliability of MWDOC for imported water supplies, OCWD management of the Orange County Groundwater Basin to ensure reliability, and conservation derived supply. Therefore, the proposed Housing Element Update is not expected to impact local groundwater management in terms of groundwater supplies and recharge.

Construction projects of one acre or more are regulated under the Statewide General Construction Permit (CGP), Order No. 2012-0006-DWQ, issued by the State Water Resources Control Board in 2012. As individual housing projects are proposed, projects over one acre in area will need to obtain coverage by developing and implementing a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and associated best management practices (BMPs) to minimize pollution of stormwater during construction.

The City complies with the MS4 permit issued by SARWQCB through requirement of a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and BMPs that minimize water pollution from a project site during operation (Los Alamitos Municipal Code Chapter 8.44). Implementation of the BMPs would be enforced through the City's development review and building plan check process.

The Housing Element's Site Inventory does not include any sites in the 100-year special flood hazard areas. Most sites are located in Zone X (area with reduced flood risk due to levee or 0.2% annual chance flood hazard), and the Lampson site is located in Zone D (area of undetermined flood hazard) Areas of potential flooding in and near the City are generally associated with the Coyote Creek and Carbon Creek, which are not near any future housing sites.

Los Alamitos is within the dam inundation area of the Prado Dam, a flood control and water conservation project constructed and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Prado Dam is approximately 25 miles northeast of Los Alamitos in the City of Corona on the Santa Ana River. According to the City's General Plan, potential damage to the City from a failure of the Prado Dam is not an issue due to recent dam upgrades. The ongoing flood protection improvements along the Santa Ana River and to the Prado Dam will help minimize or prevent flood hazards from failure of a dam or a levee. In addition, as part of their Dam Safety Program, the USACE conducts routine inspections and operation of the dam and has developed an emergency action plan in coordination with local emergency management officials. Therefore, the Housing Element Update would not expose people or structures to significant impacts involving flooding as a result of a failure of a dam.

The Lampson site is approximately 200 feet west of an artificial water body on the Navy Golf Course, and the Arrowhead site is approximately 0.2 miles southwest of an artificial water body on the Los Alamitos Race Course. Given the shallow depth and small area of these water bodies, they are least likely to pose hazard to surrounding properties when a seiche occurs. The City is at least 3.5 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, and none of the sites in the Site Inventory are in or near tsunami inundation hazard areas mapped through collective efforts by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the California Geological Survey, AECOM Technical Services, and the Tsunami Research Center at the University of Southern California. Therefore, the Housing Element Update would not place people or structures at risk of flooding due to a tsunami.

The sites identified for future housing are in an urbanized area and sit on relatively flat terrain. No major slopes or bluffs are on or near these sites. Therefore, impacts from a mudflow would not occur and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Background

Los Alamitos is a small but balanced community bordered by the cities of Cypress, Garden Grove, and Seal Beach in Orange County and the City of Long Beach in Los Angeles County. The Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) takes up roughly half of the land area within the City boundaries. The City is essentially built out. Housing stock in the City include small and large detached homes, townhomes, and medium- and high-density apartments in 16 neighborhoods. New residential and commercial uses would most likely require redevelopment. The City is developing a Town Center Mixed Use Strategic Plan, which is an aggressive, place-making redevelopment program for the town center area.

Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The lands identified in the Housing Element Update are developed with commercial, public/office and industrial uses, and are not part of any established community. Based on the location of each site in the inventory, their development will not physically divide an established community.

b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

Less Than Significant Impact. The adoption of the Housing Element Update will not have a significant impact on land use. This Update designated new sites in the Site Inventory identified for affordable housing, including lands in the Town Center area, the property on Lampson Avenue currently occupied by multiple office tenants (“Lampson site”) and the property currently occupied by Arrowhead Products (“Arrowhead site”). This Update assigns residential units in synergy and accordance with the Town Center Mixed Use Strategic Plan in development and would not conflict with it. This Housing Element Update proposes several new policies regarding residential land use planning, as discussed below.

Under Policy Action 4.5, the City will modify the Town Center Mixed Use (TCMU) zone to allow a base density of up to 60 dwelling units per acre (du/ac), not including density bonus provisions. This change will facilitate the adoption of and development of housing under the Town Center Mixed Use Strategic Plan. The change will also facilitate mixed-used developments at the Town Center sites as envisioned by General Plan Land Use Element Policy 1.4 (Vertical mixed-use). Impacts of future development on the sites identified in the Site Inventory will be addressed in project-level environmental review.

Under Policy Action 4.4, the City will create a new R-4 zone in the Zoning Ordinance, which will allow a base density of 30 to 36 dwelling units per acre (du/ac), not including density bonus provisions. The R-4 zone will be applied to both the Lampson and Arrowhead sites. The Lampson site is currently designated as C-F, Community Facilities in the Zoning Map. The Arrowhead site is currently designated as P-L-I, Planned Light Industrial and ROZ, Retail Overlay Zone in the Zoning Map. These sites have housed businesses in the City. The City has seen a significant interest in the redevelopment of these sites for housing. The City will coordinate the rezoning with sales of these sites to facilitate future housing development. The Arrowhead site designated for housing development in the Site Inventory is a portion of the property occupied by Arrowhead Products, and the City considers the site suitable for residential development as it faces Lexington Drive and less intense institutional land use in Cypress. The City intends the remainder of the Arrowhead property for commercial development under the existing Retail Overlay Zone, which can achieve horizontal mixed-use synergy with the residential portion.

The City’s Zoning Ordinance includes provisions for all densities of housing, and these development standards will be imposed as projects are proposed. Per state law, the City will provide for a density bonus of up to 50% for affordable housing in the Zoning Ordinance (Municipal Code Chapter 17.28.050). Sites in the Site Inventory that include affordable units may be eligible for this incentive.

The nearest sites identified for housing in the Site Inventory are approximately ¼ mile west and north of the JFTB. The Airport Environs Land Use Plan for JFTB designated two areas where land uses are regulated to minimize hazards from aircraft crashes to persons on the ground: Clear Zones within approximately 0.5 mile of each end of the main runway; both Clear Zones are within the boundaries of JFTB. The Site Inventory does not contain any site within the JFTB or the Clear Zones. Therefore, the Housing Element Update will not conflict with the Airport Environs Land Use Plan for JFTB.

Overall, no significant impacts are expected.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Background

The State of California has recognized the importance of mineral resources for construction materials and other economic purposes. The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) addresses the loss of regionally significant mineral deposits to urban development. The Act requires the Department of Conservation to create Production-Consumption Regions, which are areas where significant mineral resources of statewide importance and regional significance are produced and consumed, and a classification system that identifies lands where significant mineral resource deposits are located.

The City of Los Alamitos is located in the Orange County—Temescal Valley Production—Consumption Region, but it is not in or near any identified resource areas. The City is classified as Mineral Resource Zones 1 & 4 (MRZ-1, MRZ-4), indicating that significant mineral deposits are absent or are unlikely to be present, or available information is inadequate for assignment to any other MRZ zone (CGS 1994).

Would the project:

- a) **Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?**
- 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?**

No Impact. The adoption and implementation of the Housing Element Update will have no impact on mineral resources. No active mining or extraction sites occur in the City, nor are any proposed. None of the sites identified for housing in the Site Inventory occur on lands designated for mineral resource extraction.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.13 NOISE

Background

The noise environment in the City is typical of an urban community, with primary noise sources including traffic on Interstate-605, major arterials, mechanical equipment such as heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) units, commercial loading and unloading operations, and parking lot activity. In Los Alamitos, both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters operate from The Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB), which generate aircraft noise on areas immediately next to the base and flight paths.

Would the project result in:

- 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?**
- b) **Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?**
- 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?**

No Impact. The adoption of the Housing Element Update will have no impact on noise. The future development of housing will be required to analyze noise impacts as part of the CEQA and building permit processes. All sites identified for future housing in the inventory are located in urban areas and adjacent to existing development. Typical noise sources include roadways and railroad, and stationary sources such as typical commercial and residential activities and landscaping equipment. The City will require the preparation of site-specific noise studies to assess impacts from roadway noise, as appropriate. Should noise levels at future housing sites require mitigation, there are a variety of means such as noise attenuation walls, setback from roadways, and landscape buffers which the City imposes through the development review process.

Housing redevelopment projects in the future may create temporary noise sources. The City's Municipal Code imposes noise standards and limits construction hours to the less sensitive day time hours (Municipal Code Chapter 17.20). Individual projects will be reviewed under CEQA to determine whether their construction will have adverse noise impacts on neighboring land uses.

The nearest public-use airport to the City is Long Beach Airport, approximately 3.4 miles to the west. The City is outside of the noise contours of Long Beach Airport (LACALUC 2017). The nearest private-use airport is the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) on the southeast side of the City. Most sites in the Site Inventory are outside of the 60/65-CNEL noise contours established for JFTB (OCALUC 2017), except the Lampson site which is partially within the 60-CNEL noise contour but completely outside the 65-CNEL noise contour. The State of California provides noise standards through the California Building Code, which establishes standards for residential construction practices and building materials to ensure that interior noise levels do not exceed 45 dBA. Future housing projects will be subject to CBC requirements and thus meet the City noise standards of 45 dBA at night and 55 dBA during the day for residential uses (General Plan Public Facilities and Safety Element Table 3). Therefore, the Housing Element Update would not subject people onsite to excessive noise levels from aircraft approaching or departing Long Beach Airport or JFTB.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

Background

In 2021, the Orange County's population was 3,153,764, and SCAG projects the County's population will grow to 3,535,000 by 2045. The Los Alamitos population decreased slightly from 2000 (11,536) to 2010 (11,449). The latest (2021) population estimate is 11,538, which shows 1% increase over the last decade. SCAG projects the City's population will grow to 12,300 by 2045. In 2021, there were an estimated 4,437 housing units in Los Alamitos. Local housing stock is split roughly even between single- and multi-family units, with a smaller number of mobile homes.

Would the project:

- 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)?**
- b) **Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

No Impact. The adoption of the Housing Element Update will have no impact on population or housing. The Element focuses on the facilitation of housing development to meet existing and projected housing needs within the City, but creates no immediate need for housing. The provisions of the Element will be implemented as growth and demand for housing occur, but will not induce any such growth. The Housing Element will facilitate housing development of for all segments of the City's future population.

The Housing Element identified no infrastructure gaps on and near sites designated for future housing development. The Element does not propose extension of roads or other infrastructure in any area that may induce unplanned population growth.

The lands identified in the Site Inventory are currently developed with commercial or industrial uses, and redevelopment for housing units will not displace people or housing. No impact will occur.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Background

Fire protection, first response, emergency medical services, and natural disaster preparedness services in the City are provided by the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA). Of OCFA's 77 fire stations, Los Alamitos is served by OCFA Station 2, which is at 3642 Green Avenue. The Los Alamitos Police Department provides police protection in Los Alamitos, including neighborhood patrols, investigations, traffic enforcement, community support, drug education, parking control, and crime prevention. The department is staffed with 29 full-time employees including 25 sworn officers and is stationed at 3201 Katella. Los Alamitos Unified School District (LAUSD) serves the City with six elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school.

There are currently about 317.5 acres of parks and recreation facilities in the City, including approximately 18.0 acres of parks, 26.9 acres of spaces and facilities under City control, and 272.6 acres of spaces and fields open to the public but not under City control (City of Los Alamitos 2014).

- a) **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:**

Fire protection?

Police protection?

Schools?

Parks?

Other public facilities?

No Impact. The adoption of the Housing Element Update will have no impact on public services. Housing projects proposed in the future will be assessed under CEQA for their potential impacts on public services. Sites designated for future housing development are currently developed and located in an urban area; they receive adequate public services and are least likely to cause significant impacts on public services upon redevelopment.

Lands designated for housing are not in or near any State Responsible Areas or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) mapped by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire). OCFA conducts plan reviews for compliance with site development and fire department access and water requirements, codes and standards for building construction and mitigation of fire hazards, and design of fire extinguishing and fire alarm systems. OCFA also inspects projects to ensure conformance with approved plans and issue permits for those uses, operations, and equipment indicated in the California Fire Code.

The City involves the Los Alamitos Police Department in the development review process in order to ensure that the necessary police protection measures and strategies are incorporated into development projects.

Future housing projects will be subject to payment of the school impact fees to LAUSD, which would offset impacts from increased demand for school services associated with housing development.

Future housing development on Inventory Sites will be required to provide park and recreation space for residents, or pay in lieu fees for City park facilities. These requirements will be addressed individually for each project as it is brought forward, and will address impacts to parks from new housing development.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.16 RECREATION

Background

The City of Los Alamitos provides parks, school fields, and recreation facilities and programming that serve the residents of Los Alamitos, Rossmoor, Seal Beach, and Long Beach. Los Alamitos residents can access additional open-space resources of parks and school fields in Rossmoor. There are currently about 317.5 acres of parks and recreation facilities in the City, including approximately

18.0 acres of parks, 26.9 acres of spaces and facilities under City control, and 272.6 acres of spaces and fields open to the public but not under City control (City of Los Alamitos 2014).

- 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?**
- b) **Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?**

No Impact. The adoption of the Housing Element update will have no impact on recreation. Housing projects with new subdivisions in the future will be assessed park in-lieu fees or be required to dedicate land for park facilities in the building permit process (Municipal Code Chapter 16.18), which are designed to cover the additional costs associated with providing parks and recreational services. These issues will be reviewed under CEQA as individual projects are proposed.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.17 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Background

Primary regional access to Los Alamitos is provided by Interstates 405 and 605 (I-405 and I-605) and State Route 22 (SR-22). Access throughout the City is provided by a number of arterial roadways: Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos Boulevard, Cerritos Avenue, and Bloomfield Street. The City's roadways generally travel north uninterrupted into Los Angeles County jurisdictions. Southbound travel, however, is limited to Los Alamitos Boulevard and I-605/405 due to the location of the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB).

Under SB 743, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 was amended December 2018, stating that vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts. A lead agency may use models or other methods to analyze a project's VMT quantitatively or qualitatively. Projects in the City may refer to the 2020 Updated Transportation Implementation Manual adopted by Orange County pursuant to SB 743.

Would the project:

- a) **Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?**
- b) **Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?**
- c) **Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?**
- d) **Result in inadequate emergency access?**

No Impact. The adoption of the Housing Element Update will have no impact on transportation. Future housing projects in the City will be required to address project-specific traffic impacts in the CEQA review process. The City will require the preparation of traffic impact studies, and mitigation of any impacts identified in these studies. Further, the proposed projects will be required to comply

with City standards regarding parking, emergency access and roadway improvements, either through CEQA or through conditions of approval.

The Housing Element identifies sites for future housing development, which are near transit, employment, schools and amenities including the town center sites and Arrowhead site. While the Housing Element proposes zoning changes and/or density increases in these sites, the proximity to services and amenities would help offset vehicle miles traveled by future residents. Future development will be required to assess their VMT impacts according to the County's 2020 Transportation Implementation Manual and provide mitigation as necessary.

The sites identified for future housing are currently developed and occur on the City's established street system. Redevelopment on these sites for housing units is not expected to interfere with the street system. Most of the identified sites occur on or near transit routes, and therefore will not impact alternative transportation systems.

For future housing projects, the design of internal driveways and other circulation improvements would be subject to the City's standard engineering plans and OCFA's design standards, which are enforced during the development review and building plan check process. Compliance with these established design standards would ensure that hazards due to design features would not occur. All site improvements would be subject to review and approval by the City, OCFA, and LAPD to ensure that the necessary fire prevention and emergency response features are incorporated and that adequate circulation and access (e.g., adequate turning radii for fire trucks) are provided.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Background

According to a prehistory framework generally accepted by archaeologists, Native Americans have lived in Southern California since around 11,000 B.C. The Gabrielino people was one of the most populous, wealthy and powerful ethnic nationalities in aboriginal Southern California, and occupied a territory including the southern Channel Islands and the Los Angeles Basin, reaching east into the present-day San Bernardino-Riverside area and south to the San Joaquin Hills in central Orange County. The Gabrielino population dwindled in the 19th century; cultural revitalization took place in the late 20th century including returning to a traditional name for the tribe, Tongva. Many of the Tongva bands focus on maintaining and teaching traditional knowledge, with special focus on language, place names and natural resources.

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 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
- ii) 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 (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

No Impact. As discussed in Section 3.5, no sites or structures are listed on the state or local registers of historical resources, nor have any archaeological sites been discovered in the City. The City is conducting AB 52 and SB 18 consultation and sent out consultation request letters to 14 tribes/tribal councils on July 22, 2021, using the consultation list provided by the NAHC on July 21, 2021. As of October 23, 2021, only one response was received from the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation on August 6, 2021, which expressed that they are in agreement with the Housing Element but would like to request consultation for any future projects within the City.

As individual projects are proposed in the future, the City will conduct government-to-government consultations with local tribes pursuant to AB 52 and SB 18 regarding potential tribal cultural resources that could occur on the project sites. There are no historic resources on lands identified in the Sites Inventory. Should future housing development be proposed on sites with historic resources or potential tribal cultural resources, any potential impact will be addressed in the CEQA process and/or project-specific cultural resource study, where necessary. The adoption of the Housing Element Update will have no impact on tribal cultural resources.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Background

The City is served by the following utility providers:

Utility	Service Provider(s)
Electricity	South California Edison (SCE)
Natural gas	Southern California Gas
Water	Golden State Water Company (GSWC)
Wastewater	Rossmoor / Los Alamitos Area Sewer District (RLAASD)
Solid waste	Republic Services
Telecommunications	Spectrum, Frontier, HughesNet etc.

Would the project:

- a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?
- b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably

- foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?
- 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 projects projected demand in addition to the providers existing commitments?**
- 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?**
- e) **Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?**

No Impact. The adoption of the Housing Element Update will have no impact on utilities. The development of housing in the future will consider utilities as part of the CEQA and entitlement process. The sites identified for future housing are currently developed and receive adequate utility services. Future redevelopment of these sites for housing units is not expected to require new or expanded infrastructure for individual project connections.

The provision of domestic water service and sanitary sewer service has been analyzed by the GSWC and RLAASD, respectively, as part of their regional long-range planning, using the City's General Plan land uses as a basis for planning. The Housing Element Update has the potential to result in more dwelling units than under the General Plan, with increases in densities on the town center sites (7.8 acres) and rezoning of the Lampson and Arrowhead sites (23.4 acres). Similar to the discussion above in Section 3.3 Air Quality, the Orange County population was 3,153,764 in 2021, and SCAG projects the County's population will grow to 3,535,000 by 2045. In 2021, the City has an average 2.63 persons per household, and implementation of RHNA would increase the population by 2,023 persons. The addition of 769 RHNA units would increase the County population by 2,023 to a total of 3,155,787, which is under the 2045 forecast. Therefore, the City's RHNA units buildout is consistent with SCAG forecast and will not result in unplanned growth. The town center sites will be developed per the Town Center Mixed Use Strategic Plan, which considers existing and future utility infrastructure and demand, and therefore the density increase will not result in a substantial increase in demand for utility services compared to current General Plan designations.

The energy and telecommunication utility providers have plans in place which would be updated based on future demands in their service areas to ensure adequate system capacity to meet the growing needs of the City. As discussed in Section 3.10, Hydrology and Water Quality, future development will be required to meet City requirements for runoff and avoid adverse impacts on the public drainage system. Because GSWC and RLAASD have sufficient capacity, or can expand services to accommodate development and impacts will be assessed for individual projects on utility services, no significant impact is expected.

The City contracts with Republic Services for solid waste hauling services. Future residential customers will be assessed a per unit fee for solid waste service. The landfills in the region currently have sufficient capacity to accommodate future development. All future projects will be required to analyze demand and capacity for solid waste disposal as part of the CEQA process.

Finally, future housing projects will be required to comply with the provisions of California Building Code, which includes requirements for zero-net-energy, indoor water use reduction and site

irrigation conservation. Compliance with the CBC provisions will reduce consumption of water and energy and generation of wastewater and solid waste and reduce impacts on utility services.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required..

3.20 WILDFIRE

Background

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) ranks fire hazards of wildland areas in the state using four main criteria: fuels, weather, assets at risk, and level of service. There are no state responsibility areas or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in or near the City.

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

- a) **Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**
- b) **Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?**
- c) **Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?**
- 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?**

No Impact. The Housing Element Update will have no impact on wildfire. Sites identified for future housing development are not located in or near state responsibility areas or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones as classified by CalFire. The sites are situated on flat terrain in highly urbanized areas. The sites are not subject to wildfire or post-fire hazards and do not need additional infrastructure. The City's development review and building plan check process will ensure that future housing developments incorporate all applicable design and safety standards and regulations in the CBC and Los Alamitos Municipal Code (including Chapter 15.08 Fire Code). With implementation of standard requirements, future housing projects will not impact any emergency response plan or evacuation plan.

Mitigation Measures and Monitoring: None required.

3.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 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 themajor periods of California history or prehistory?**

No Impact. The Housing Element Update will not impact biological or cultural resources. As a policy document, the Update does not result in construction on any site. Further, the sites identified for future

housing are located in urbanized areas, and involve the redevelopment of land that has been developed for urban uses for many years. Although common biological species occur on these sites, none of them contain native habitat suitable for rare or endangered species. Further, future housing development will be required to comply with the MBTA, which protects nesting birds that may occur in existing ornamental shrubs and trees on these lands. Similarly, the lack of cultural resources, either historic or archaeological, in the City in general, and on the identified sites for housing specifically, will not result in damage of historic or prehistoric resources, since they are fully developed.

- 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.)**

Less Than Significant Impact. The Housing Element Update will not cumulatively impact any environmental resource. The City’s RHNA allocation will result in the potential for development of 769 housing units in the next 8 years. These housing units have the potential to increase population in the City by 2,033 persons. Although this increase is higher than that projected for the City by SCAG, the increase is well within the growth projections for the Orange County region. The increase in potential housing units is not substantial, and will not exceed the capacity of utilities and services that serve the City. Finally, individual housing projects will be reviewed as they are proposed to assure that their impacts are not cumulatively considerable when considered in the context of surrounding development. Cumulative impacts are expected to be less than significant.

- c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?**

No Impact. As described throughout this Initial Study, the Housing Element will have no direct or indirect effects on human beings, as it is a policy document that results in no immediate development. Individual housing projects will provide opportunities for existing and future residents of the City for safe and convenient housing throughout the City. No impact to human beings will occur as a result of the adoption of the Housing Element.

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PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM 7A

From: [Dave](#)
To: [PlanningCommission](#)
Cc: [Heather Carlisle](#); [BAKER Jim](#); [Tom Oliver](#); [Ron Noda](#); [Phillip SCHWARTZE](#)
Subject: Housing Element item on 10/27 PC agenda - 4141-4181 Green Avenue property
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 8:03:04 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Planning Commissioners,

My clients, Heather Carlisle and Jim Baker, own the property at 4141-4181 Green Avenue in the City of Los Alamitos. The property is currently occupied with a preschool. A portion of the property, specifically 4181 Green Avenue, is included in the "Underutilized Land – Apartment Row Neighborhood" list in the City's draft Housing Element (HE) document. Because the entire property is zoned R-3, Multiple Family Residential, which allows up to 25 du/ac, and because the property would be suitable for a future multiple family residential type of development, such as condominiums or apartments, we believe that the entire property should be included in the HE Underutilized Land list. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Planning Commission make the following revisions to the HE Underutilized Land list and associated Land Use maps:

Currently shown: 4181 Green Avenue, APN 222-111-26

Add: 4141 – 4171 Green Avenue, APN 222-111-50

Sincerely,

David See

President

See's Development Advisors



Cell: 562-514-5881

P.O. Box 8489

Long Beach, CA 90808

dave@seesdev.com

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/85512732/zsbgeRo1Ukif8KeUb-04PQ?u=http://www.seesdev.com/>

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