



PALMDALE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Introduction

SPRING 2020 | FINAL REPORT



Envision
PALMDALE 2045
a complete community

Chapter 1: Introduction

This section of the provides an overview of the Palmdale General Plan 2045 Existing Conditions Report and how it can be used.

Overview

The City of Palmdale is undertaking a multi-year effort to update their General Plan and conduct the environmental review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Existing Conditions Report provides high-level analysis for important topics such as land use, mobility, housing, open space and public facilities, community character and quality of life. The Existing Conditions Report provides background context, analysis of existing conditions, and summarizes key issues and opportunities for the future. These chapters will serve as a baseline of Palmdale today, while also providing contextual comparisons with the greater Antelope Valley and County of Los Angeles. Data and information in the documents were collected from a variety of sources including statistical information collected from the U.S. Census, conversations with community and industry leaders, city staff and elected officials.

The Existing Conditions Report serves as a technical document, but can be used by a range of stakeholders, including City staff, decision-makers, property owners, residents, and community members of Palmdale.

What is a General Plan?

A General Plan is a city policy document required by state law (Government Code Section 65300-65303.4) that provides a “long term, comprehensive, integrated, internally consistent and compatible statement” of goals and policies that reflect local conditions and community vision. The law requires that a General Plan address the following eight mandatory subject areas, or “elements:”

- **Land use.** The land use element identifies the location and intensity of land uses throughout the City.
- **Circulation.** This element plans for the transportation system including roadways, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities; it can also address sewer, gas, water, and other infrastructure conveyance systems.
- **Conservation.** This element guides the use and conservation of natural resources such as soils, wildlife, water, energy, and historic resources.

- **Open Space.** The open space element identifies parks and open space throughout the City.
- **Housing.** The housing element seeks to accommodate housing needs for all incomes, groups with disabilities, and the homeless.
- **Noise.** This element seeks to limit the community’s exposure to excessive noise.
- **Air Quality.** This element addresses topics related to regional and local air quality.
- **Safety.** The safety element seeks to reduce the risk of death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social dislocation from natural and human-made hazards.
- **Environmental Justice.** This element identifies disadvantaged communities within the City and seeks to promote resident engagement in the process, mitigate unique or compounded health risks, and identify priority improvements and needs.

State law also allows for optional “elements” and for elements to be organized or combined at the City’s discretion. The State requires cities to maintain a regularly updated General Plan to keep pace with changing conditions and community priorities.

Purpose of the General Plan

The purpose of the Palmdale General Plan is to serve as the blueprint for the City’s future vision. The General Plan is the primary legal document that identifies and guides long-term growth, development and decision-making in the City. The process is strongly anchored in community input and articulates specific steps to guide future land use and planning.

General Plan Area

Location and Planning Boundaries

Palmdale is in northern Los Angeles County situated in the Antelope Valley region of Southern California, approximately 60-miles driving distance from downtown Los Angeles. The Planning Area for the 2045 General Plan includes land within Palmdale City Limits, Sphere of Influence (SOI), and several unincorporated Los Angeles County areas. Together, these areas measure a total of 129,032 acres (or 201.6 square miles) as shown in Figure 1.1 Planning Area.

Palmdale City Limits covers 68,006 acres (or 106.3 square miles), making it one of the largest spanning cities (in terms of land) in the United States. The Sphere of Influence (SOI), or area outside the City's limits but within its legal planning area, adds another 44,224 acres (or 69.1 square miles). The City of Palmdale has four distinct unincorporated County Islands¹ within the Planning area which total 16,772 acres (or 26.2 square miles).

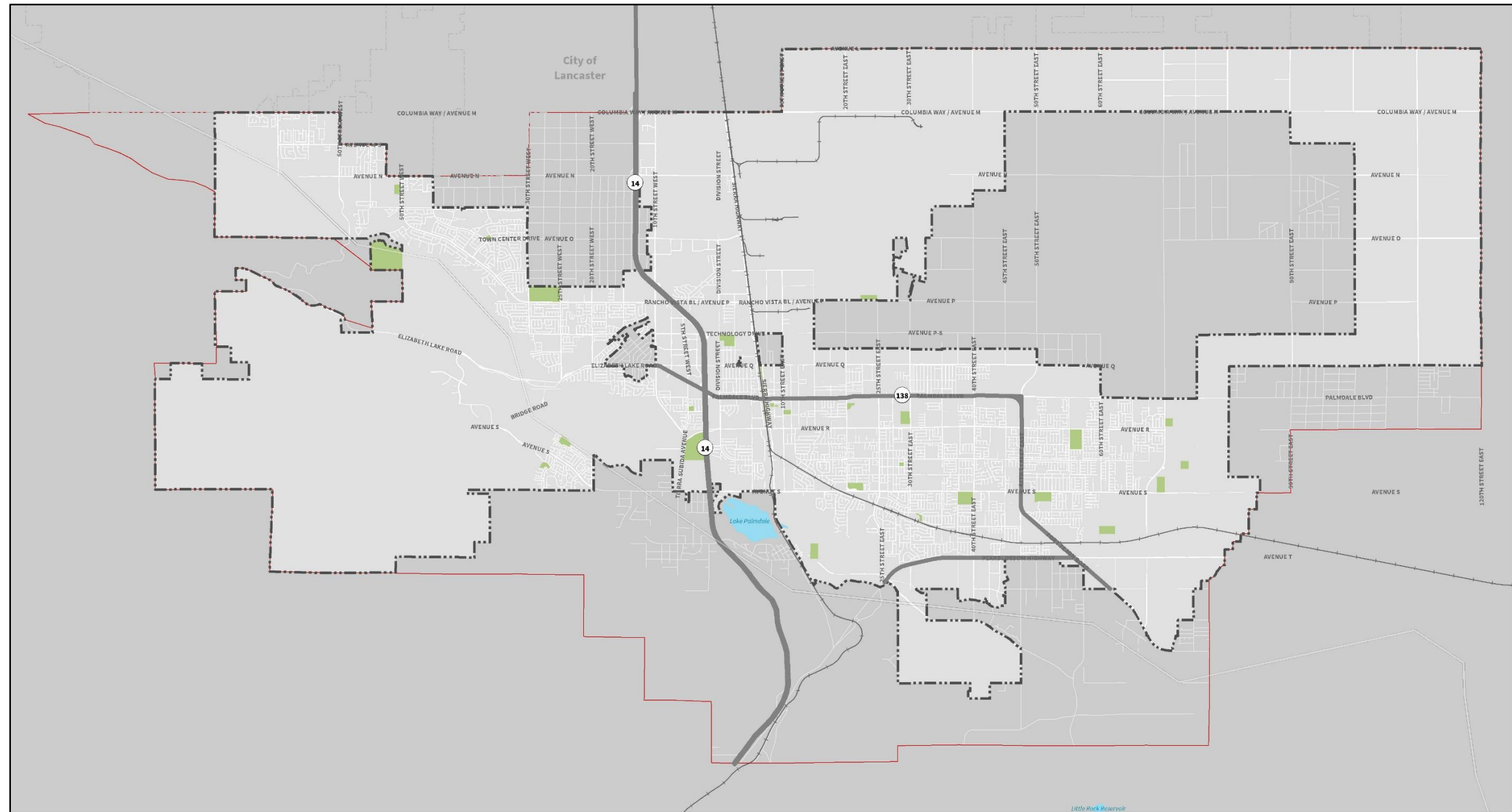
Unincorporated County Land

The incorporated County Islands areas include the future airport area located east of Plant 42, currently owned by Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) measuring 16,381 acres (or 25.6 square miles); Desert View Highlands which is recognized as a census-designated place, entirely developed with residential homes and two elementary schools, spanning 273 acres; a small area north of Avenue Q and east of 3rd Street East that encompasses a mobile home park and vacant land; and a small area bounded by East Avenue Q, Sierra Highway, 10th Street East, and East Avenue P-8 which includes 118 acres of duplexes, light industrial, and vacant parcels.

¹ City land surrounding a pocket of County land is commonly referred to as a County Island.

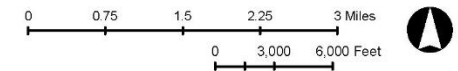
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Figure 1.1: Planning Area



City of Palmdale General Plan Update

- Park
- Lake
- Neighboring Jurisdictions
- Sphere of Influence
- Major Highway/Arterial
- Railroad
- California Aquaduct



Data Sources: City of Palmdale GIS data; World Terrain Base, 2015 ESRI, USGS, NOAA.

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Existing Conditions Report Structure

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of the Planning Area for the General Plan Update and the organization of this document.

Chapter 2: Socio-Economic Profile and Market Analysis

This chapter provides an overview of the existing demographic, socio-economic and market characteristics of Palmdale.

Chapter 3: Land Use and Urban Form

This chapter provides an overview of existing land use, development patterns, and urban form in Palmdale. It also addresses current General Plan land use and zoning designations and design elements of the built environment.

Chapter 4: Housing Conditions and Needs

This chapter provides an analysis of existing housing conditions and future housing needs in Palmdale. This report provides background that will contribute to the Housing Element Technical Appendix.

Chapter 5: Transportation and Mobility

This chapter summarizes existing transportation in Palmdale, considering local roadway system, transit system, bicycle facilities, goods and movement infrastructure, and parking, and air transit facilities.

Chapter 6: Public Health and Equity

This chapter provides an overview of health challenges and opportunities in Palmdale including equity analysis, access to healthy goods, disease prevention, safe and healthy housing, and physical activity opportunities.

Chapter 7: Open Space and Public Facilities

This chapter provides an overview of Palmdale's emergency services, schools, higher education facilities, open space, public parks, and public facilities and services.

Chapter 8: Military Readiness and Aviation

This chapter provides an overview of Palmdale's military and aviation facilities.

Chapter 9: Infrastructure and Public Utilities

This chapter identifies existing public utilities including water, wastewater, stormwater, electrical, telecommunication, and natural gas conveyance facilities.

Chapter 10: Natural and Cultural Resources

This chapter provides an overview of natural and cultural resources in Palmdale including protected plant and animal species, significant ecological resources and ecosystems, and water resources, among others.

Chapter 11: Climate Hazards Assessment

This chapter provides an overview of historical and projected trends for climate hazards in Palmdale including extreme heat, flood hazards, wildfire risk and air quality, among others.

Chapter 12: Air Quality

This chapter addresses topics related to regional and local air quality.

Chapter 13: Noise

This chapter addresses topics related to noise in Palmdale.

Chapter 14: Natural and Manmade Hazards

This chapter addresses topics related to hazards and safety including flooding, wildfire, geologic hazards and hazardous materials, among others.

Chapter 15: Greenhouse Gas Inventory

This chapter provides an overview of community-wide sector greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions emitted in 2005 (baseline emissions) and 2017 within the City of Palmdale.

How to Use This Existing Conditions Report

The Existing Conditions Reports contain the following sections:

- **Key Findings.** Key findings serve as a brief summary of critical issues in the community and are derived from the analysis in the Existing Conditions Report. These are written to provide a high-level summary prior to diving into the body of the analysis.
- **Analysis.** Each chapter is divided into sub-sections covering topics pertinent to the General Plan Update. This includes a summary of existing conditions and an analysis of impacts to the City of Palmdale.
- **Issues and Opportunities.** Pillar chapters of the Existing Conditions reports include more detailed issues and opportunity analyses. These include the Land Use and Urban Form, Housing Conditions and Needs, Transportation and Mobility, and Military Readiness and Aviation chapters.
- **Policy Guidance.** When applicable, relevant existing policy documents and associated policies are summarized and analyzed for impacts to General Plan Update topics.