

CITY OF WHITTIER EIR SCOPING MEETING



WHITTIER GENERAL PLAN AND HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT NOTICE OF PREPARATION – SCOPING MEETING

May 17, 2021

Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Purpose of Meeting

III. CEQA and EIR Overview

IV. Project Background and Description

V. Schedule

VI. Public Comments



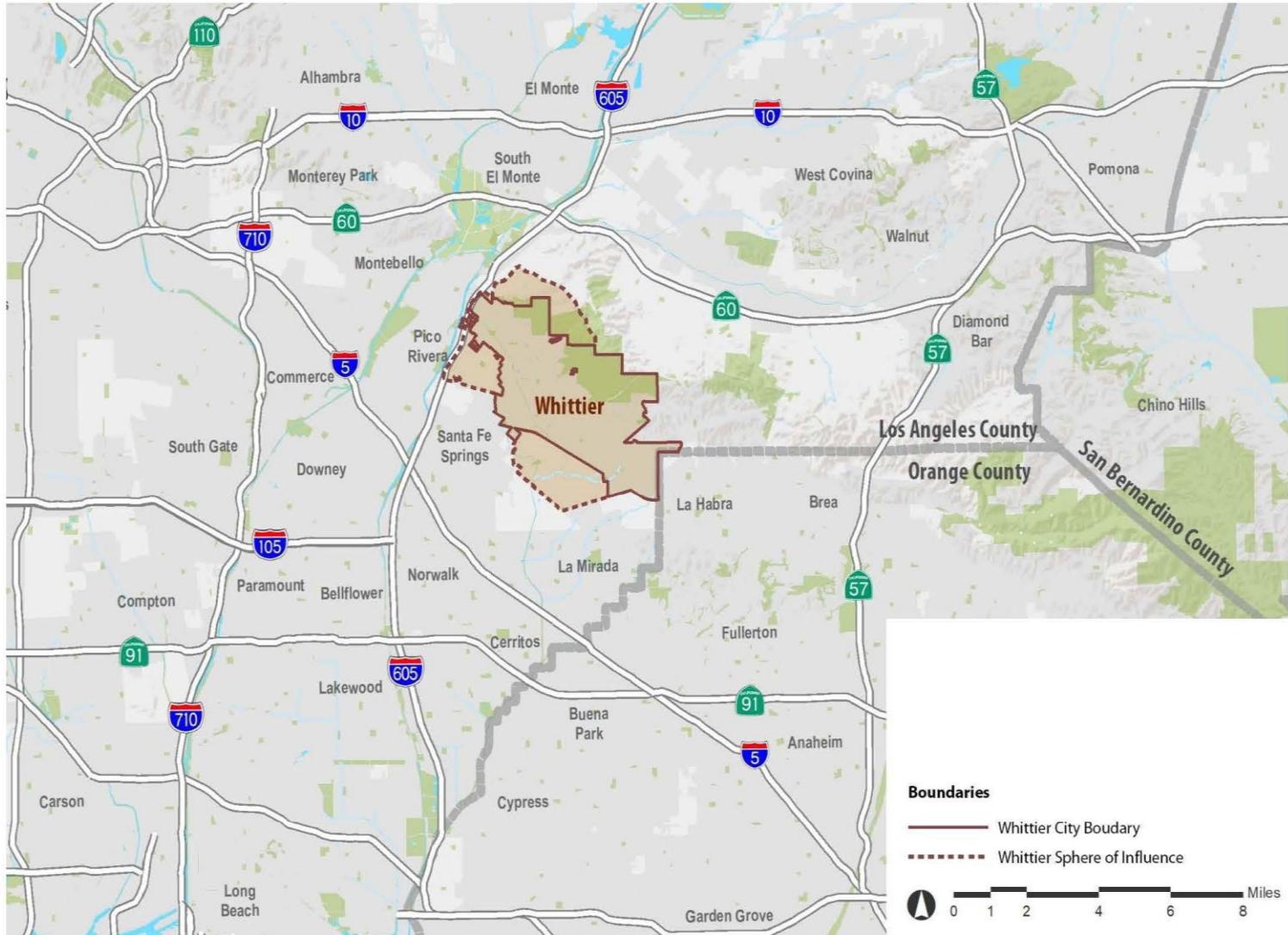
Purpose of CEQA and EIR

- California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (**CEQA**)
- **EIR** is the most extensive CEQA document
- Public **disclosure** of environmental consequences and considerations (issues and impacts)
- Identification of **mitigation measures and examination of alternatives** to reduce or avoid potentially significant impacts
- Planning tool to **assist decision-makers** in evaluating benefits/disadvantages of the proposed project

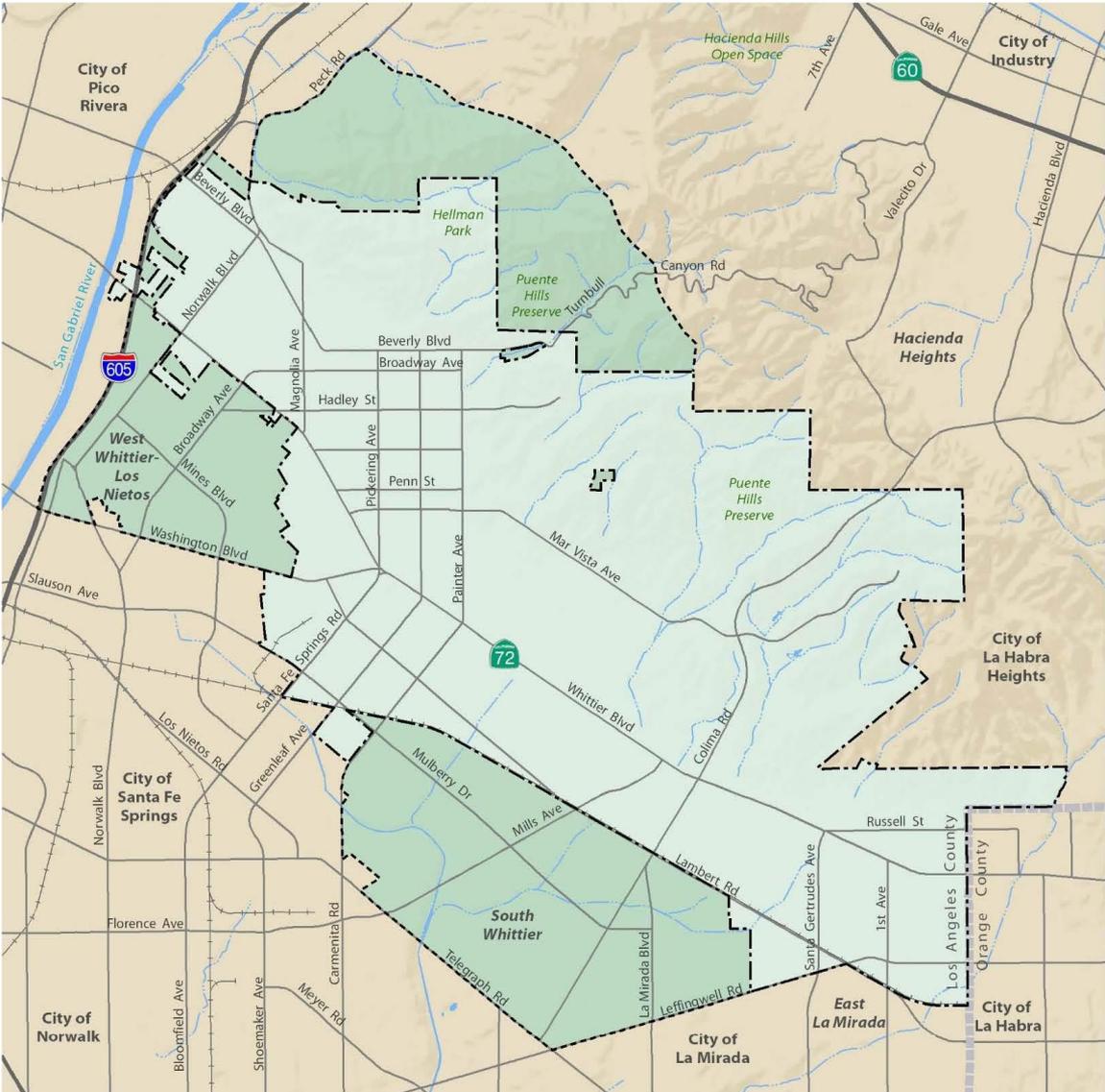
Purpose of this Scoping Meeting

- Assist the City in determining the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Draft EIR.
- Provide Responsible and Trustee Agencies and the public an opportunity to learn more about the GPU and provide input regarding the content and analysis of the Draft EIR

REGIONAL CONTEXT



PLANNING AREA



- Planning Area**
- Whittier City Boundary
 - Whittier Sphere of Influence

- Base Map Features**
- County Boundary
 - Major Streets
 - Freeways
 - Railroads
 - River and Creeks
 - Waterbodies

Source: City of Whittier and American Community Survey, 2015.
 Prepared by MIG, July 2017.



General Plan Brief History

Initiation/Baseline Analysis

- Existing Conditions Atlas
- Engagement: Stakeholder Interviews, General Plan Launch Workshops, Envision Whittier Questionnaire #1, Commission/Committee Workshop

2017

Policy Development; Housing Element

- Draft General Plan Elements, Housing Analyses
- Engagement: City Council Study Session, Housing Stakeholder Interviews, Council Districts Housing Workshops, Citywide Housing Workshop (Spanish)

2020–2021

2018–2019

Vision & Guiding Principles/Alternatives

- Guiding Principles/Land Use & Mobility Alternatives/Market Analyses
- Engagement: Envision Whittier Questionnaire #2, Guiding Principles/Opportunities for the Future Workshop, Commission Workshop, City Council

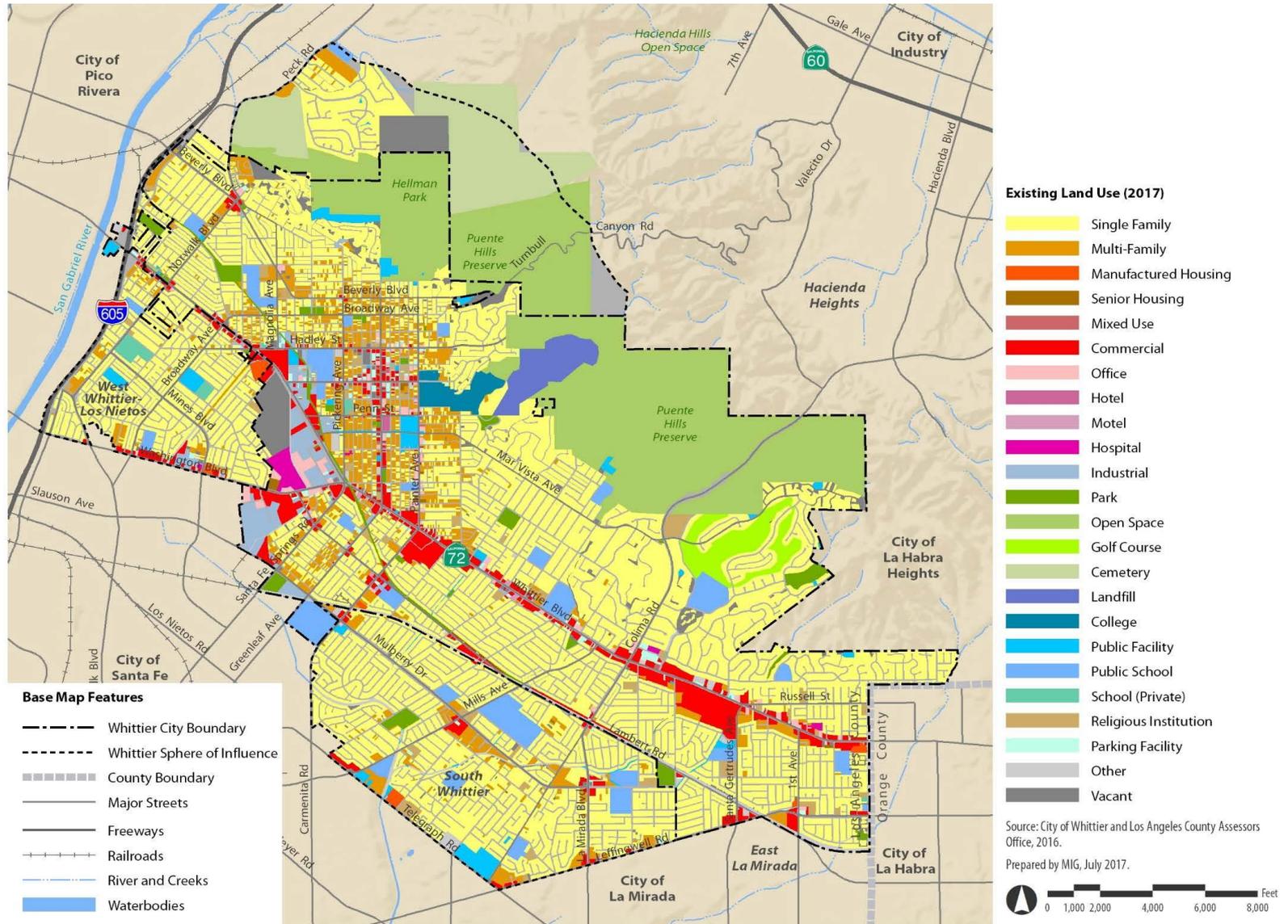
BACKGROUND – Baseline Land Uses

Existing Land Use

Land Uses	City of Whittier		Sphere of Influence		Planning Area Total	
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%
Residential	4,258.2	53.8%	2,720.9	59.3%	6,979.1	55.8%
Commercial	482.2	6.1%	59.8	1.3%	542.1	4.3%
Industrial	138.4	1.7%	9.9	0.2%	148.3	1.2%
Parks & Open Space	1,995.9	25.2%	1,280.3	27.9%	3,276.2	26.2%
Public Facilities	664.7	8.3%	295.8	6.4%	960.4	7.70%
Other	150.3	1.9%	111.7	2.4%	262.0	2.1%
Vacant	225.4	2.8%	112.5	2.5%	337.9	2.7%
Total	7,915	100%	4,591	100.0%	12,506	100%

Source: MIG existing land use survey, Los Angeles County Assessor data, and the City of Whittier, 2017.

BACKGROUND – Existing Land Uses

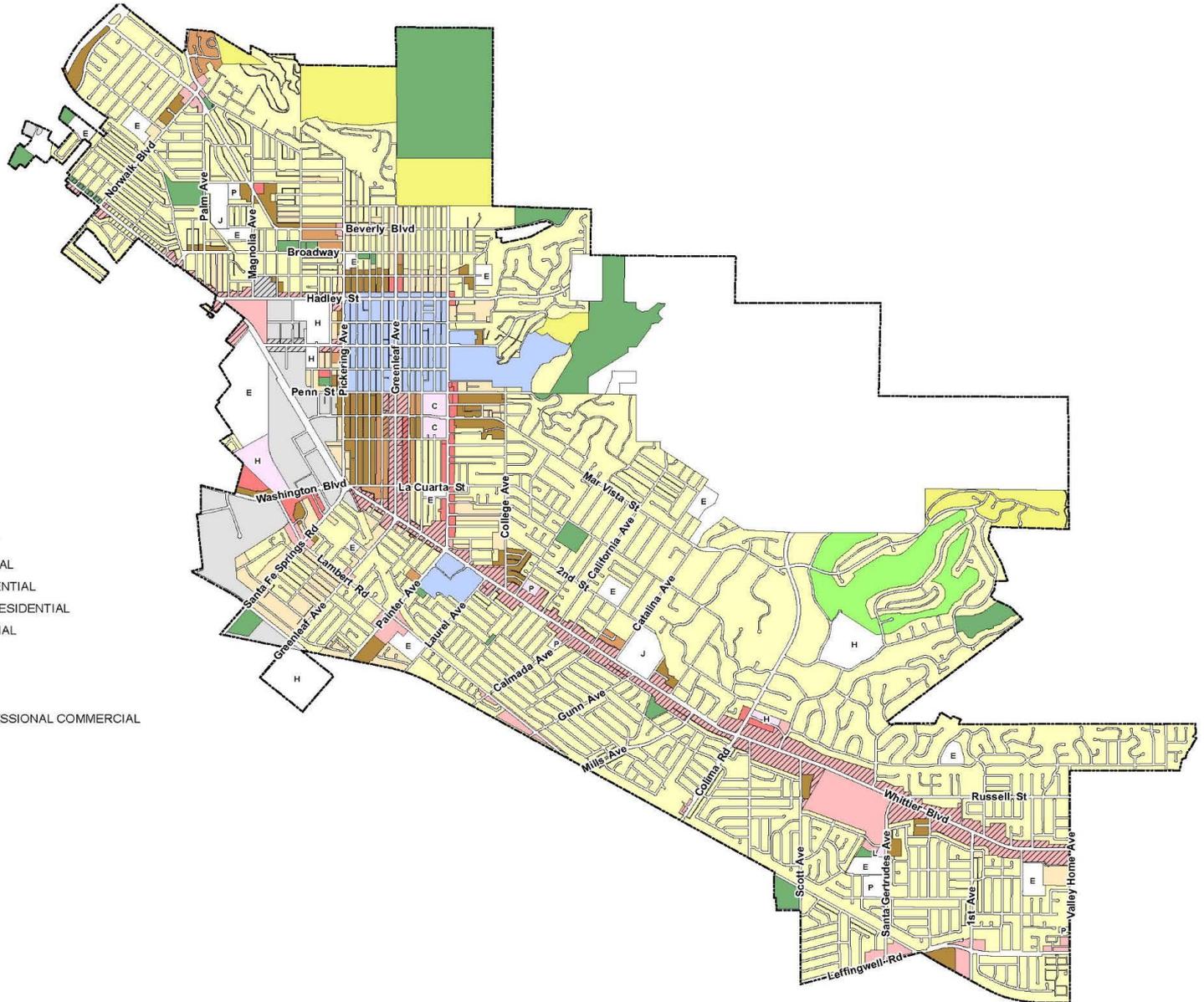


BACKGROUND – Existing Land Use Plan

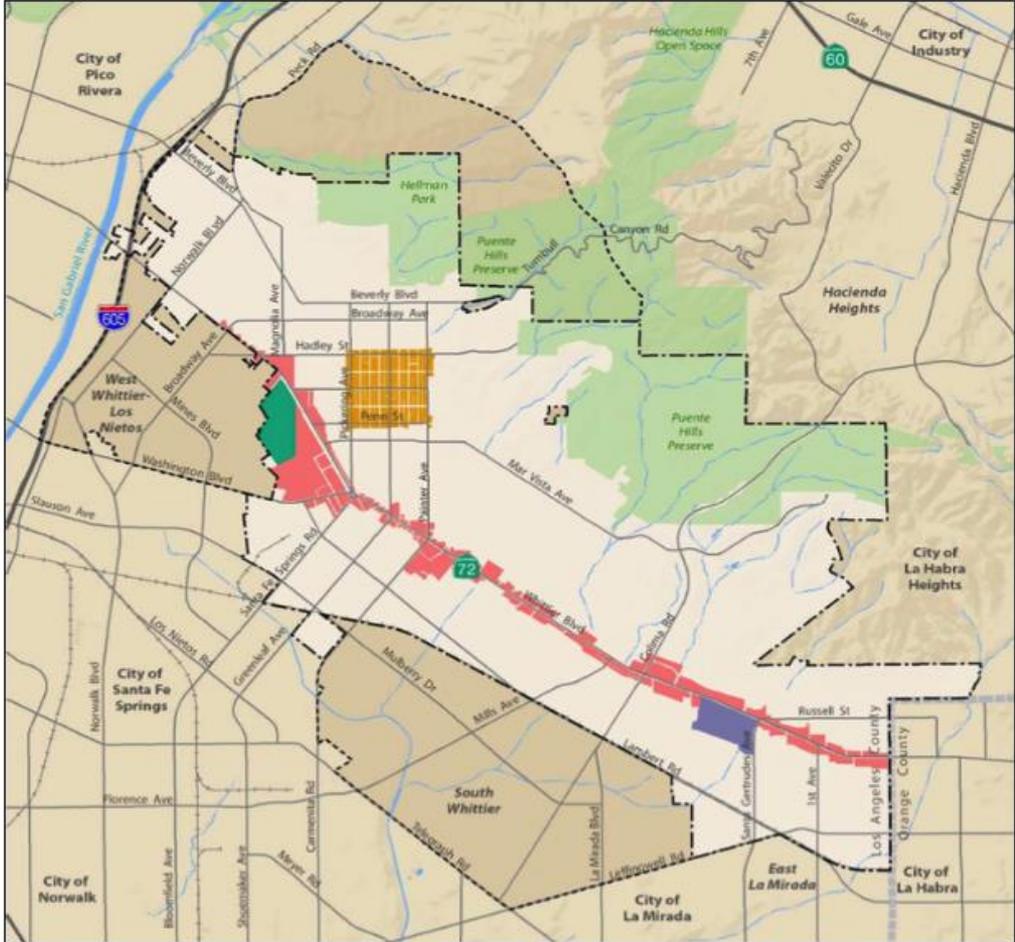
GENERAL PLAN

Land Use Element

-  URBAN DESIGN DISTRICT
-  LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
-  MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
-  MEDIUM HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
-  HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
-  HILLSIDE RESIDENTIAL
-  GENERAL INDUSTRIAL
-  GENERAL COMMERCIAL
-  ADMINISTRATIVE / PROFESSIONAL COMMERCIAL
-  SPECIFIC PLAN
-  C CIVIC CENTER
-  H HOSPITAL
-  L LIBRARY
-  P POST OFFICE
-  E ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
-  H HIGH SCHOOL
-  J JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
-  P PRIVATE SCHOOL
-  GOLF COURSE
-  PARK
-  OPEN SPACE



BACKGROUND - Specific Plans



- Specific Plans**
- Lincoln
 - Whittier Boulevard
 - Whittier Uptown
 - Whittwood Town Center

- Base Map Features**
- Whittier City Boundary
 - Whittier Sphere of Influence
 - County Boundary
 - Major Streets
 - Freeways
 - Railroads
 - River and Creeks
 - Waterbodies
 - Open Space/Natural Areas



General Plan Update Elements

- ❖ Land Use & Community Character Element
- ❖ Mobility & Infrastructure Element
- ❖ Historic Resources
- ❖ Resources Element
- ❖ Public Safety, Noise & Health Element
- ❖ Environmental Justice Goals & Policies¹
... and ...
- ❖ Housing Element (2021-2029)

¹ not a stand-alone element

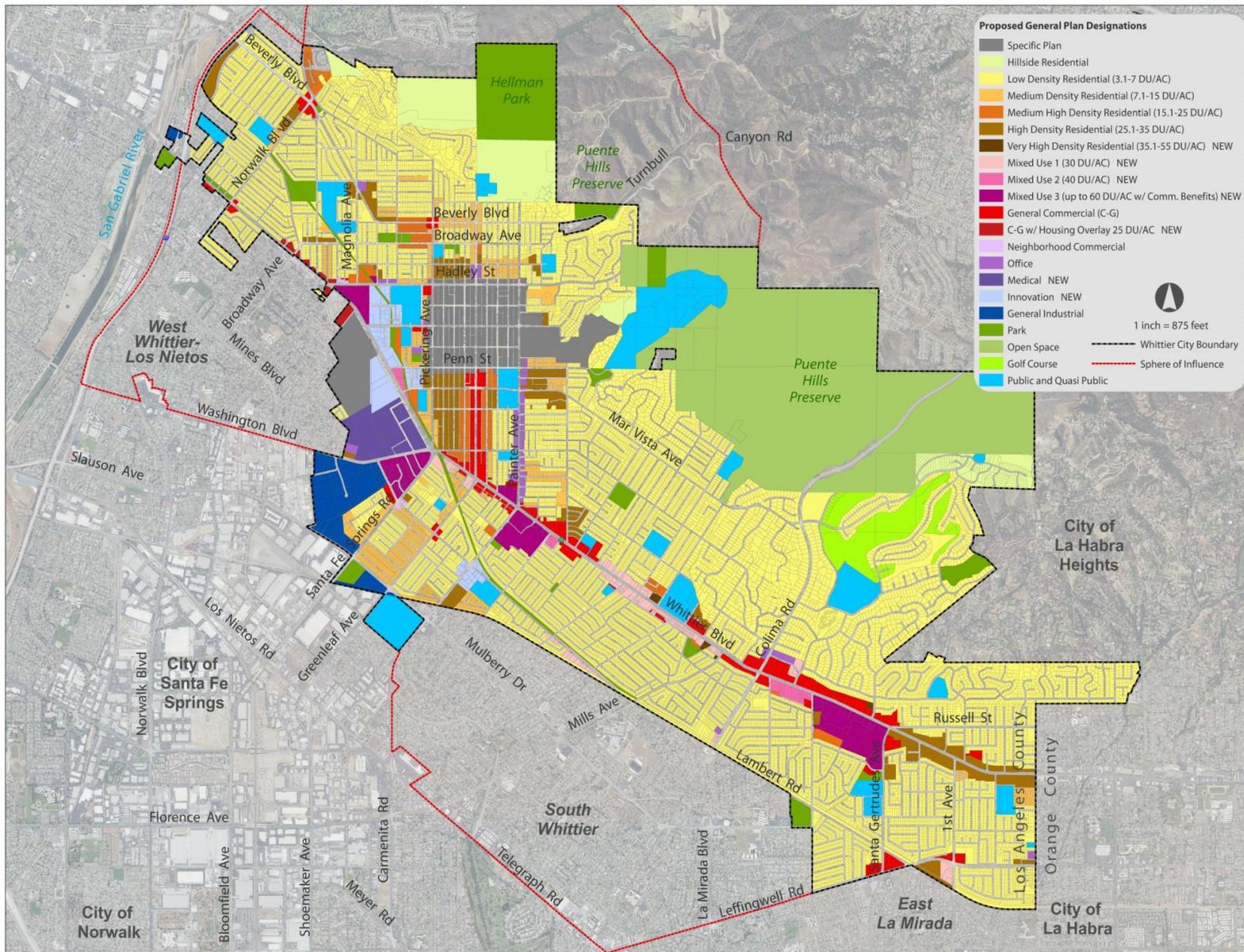
Subsequent Implementation Actions

- Rezoning to achieve General Plan consistency
- Specific Plans and other development plans and planning documents updates for consistency
- General Plan amendments, specific plans, and zone changes
- Tentative maps, variances, conditional use permits, and other land use permits and entitlements

Subsequent Implementation Actions (cont'd)

- Development agreements
- Facility and service master plans and financing plans
- Public improvement projects approval and funding
- Resource management plan updates
- Permits and other approvals necessary for General Plan implementation
- Public and private development permit issuance and other approvals

General Plan Update – Land Use Designations



Land Use and Community Character Element Update Goals

- 1) **Provides guidance to plan for orderly growth, promote economic development, and protect natural resources.**
- 2) **Establishes patterns of development activity and land uses** that achieve the General Plan's Vision and Guiding Principles
- 3) Serves as a **guide** for decision-makers, residents, stakeholders, business owners, and property owners
- 4) **Identifies and describes the type, intensity, and general distribution** of land for housing, businesses, industries, and public facilities.
- 5) **Identifies land use designations** in the general categories of activities permitted throughout the City

Mobility and Infrastructure Element Update Goals

1. Provide mobility and transportation planning to address complete streets, pedestrian and bicycle networks, transit access, vehicle-mile travel reduction strategies, and the roadway network
2. Identify strategies to improve safety, functionality, and capital support for street infrastructure, multi-modal roadway design, and management
3. Infrastructure component addresses utilities including water, wastewater, drainage and flood control, energy utilities, and solid waste and recycling

Historic Resources Primary Goal

Protect and maintain historic and cultural resources

Resources Element Goals

1. Address **open space** and **habitat conservation**, and provide **recreation** and **park** services and facilities
2. Protect **aesthetic** and **scenic resources**, **water resources**, manage **energy resources**, reduce **greenhouse gas emissions**, and **promote sustainable building practices**

Public Safety, Noise, and Health Element Goals

1. Address **natural and manmade hazards and safety concerns** that could adversely affect property and threaten lives in the City.
2. Divided into six topic areas:
 - **Emergency Preparedness and Safety Services** – preparing the community for emergencies, police and fire services;
 - **Natural Hazards** - seismic hazards, wildfire hazards, and flooding and dam inundation hazards.
 - **Pollution Exposure** - hazardous materials, oil production, and contamination.

Public Safety, Noise, and Health Element (cont'd)

- **Climate Adaptation** - climate impacts including heat and drought.
- **Environmental Justice** - addresses disadvantaged communities, pollution and population characteristics, community health and livability, and healthy homes.
- **Noise** - noise settings, effects on noise on people, baseline and future noise environments, and managing the noise environment.

Environmental Justice Goals & Policies

1. **Identifies disadvantage communities within the Planning Area.**
2. Policies and programs **incorporated throughout the GP Elements**; not a stand-alone element
3. Comprehensive policies specific to disadvantaged communities to:
 - **minimize health risks**
 - Associated with overconcentration and proximity of residential uses to industrial and other polluting land uses;
 - through promotion of physical activity, improve housing conditions, and food access; and
 - **increase residents' participation** in community and civic activities.

Housing Element 2021-2029 Update Goals

- 1) Provides **direction for future planning programs** to ensure that sufficient consideration is given to housing goals and policies
- 2) **Establish community goals and policies relative to housing** through the identification of existing, stated, and implicit goals, and the identification of housing needs and challenges
- 3) **Establish and identify programs to implement and attain the community's goals and policies**, taking into consideration the feasibility of those programs
- 4) Act as a **meaningful guide to decision-makers** when considering housing-related issues

Population, Housing and Employment Forecasts

General Plan Buildout Forecast

Baseline/Forecast	City	Sphere of Influence	Planning Area
<u>Population</u>			
Existing (2019)	87,583	53,518	141,102
Forecast (2040)	106,014	55,278	161,291
Difference (%)	+21	+3	+14
<u>Housing</u>			
Existing (2019)	29,668	16,487	46,155
Forecast (2040)	36,487	17,162	53,649
Difference (%)	+23	+4	+16
<u>Employment</u>			
Existing (2019)	26,133	7,631	33,764
Forecast (2040)	26,525	8,635	35,160
Difference (%)	+2	+13	+4

Zoning Map and Text Amendments

The subdivision regulations, zoning map, zoning regulations, standards, permits and procedures that are contained in Title 17 and Title 18 and other parts of the Whittier Municipal Code, as applicable, **will be revised to be consistent with the General Plan Update's goals, policies, exhibits and text**

CEQA PROCESS OVERVIEW (2021)

Issue Notice of Preparation (NOP)

April 30

Scoping Meeting

May 17

Close 30-day NOP Comment Period

June 1

Prepare Draft EIR

March-Mid July

Circulate Draft EIR for Public Review

Mid July

Close 45-day Public Review Period

End August

Prepare Response to Comments/Final EIR

September

Public Hearings

**September/
October**

Topics To Be Addressed in the Draft EIR

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality

Topics To Be Addressed in the Draft EIR (cont.)

- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Circulation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

Other Elements of the Draft EIR

- **Cumulative Impacts** (project plus anticipated growth), evaluate individual project contribution to broader impacts
- **Growth-inducing Impacts:** evaluate potential to cause substantial growth
- **Significant Adverse Unavoidable Impacts:** Impacts that cannot be mitigated to a level of non-significance
- **Alternatives to the GPU:** Evaluation of alternatives that can avoid and reduce significant impacts
- **Irreversible Long-term Environmental Changes:** evaluate long-term commitment of resources, such as energy and building materials

REVIEW and COMMENT on NOP

Notice of Preparation (NOP) is being circulated for
30-day review: April 30 – June 1, 2021

Written or email **comments can be
submitted through June 1, 2021** to:

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PUBLIC COMMENTS



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

