



Los Angeles

HOUSING ELEMENT

2021-2029

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Executive Summary

Introduction to the Plan to House LA

The City of Los Angeles has experienced the most severe housing crisis of any major city in the United States for some time now. With a wave of evictions threatening to further increase Los Angeles' homeless count and potentially move more families deeper into poverty, the devastating ways in which our housing crisis exacerbates existing disparities has become all too clear. The critical need for greater housing stability, affordability, equity and opportunity have never been more important.

The 2021-2029 Housing Element of the General Plan (The *Plan to House LA*) presents a vision where housing in Los Angeles is ample and affordable, where tenants and affordable housing are protected and preserved and where proactive efforts are made to reverse the legacies of discriminatory and racist policies.

In that regard, the *Plan to House LA* offers an important opportunity to center racial and social equity and to directly address the severe housing disparities and patterns of exclusion that continue to shape who can live where. It reflects a commitment to providing housing initiatives that expand and preserve our affordable housing stock, encourage greater access to housing, minimize the displacement of vulnerable residents, and reform policies and practices that have negatively impacted Angelenos, particularly Communities of Color, including Indigenous, Black, Latinx, and Asian communities.

This Housing Element updates the previous (2013-2021) Housing Element, keeping its general structure in place, while making changes to reflect evolving needs, priorities, resources, and conditions in the City.

Loving Los Angeles means facing the bitter truth about our past that maps of our city were drawn to protect the wealth of white people and destroy the wealth of Black people and other people of color. Redlining and exclusionary zoning resulted in a city where today black and Mexican origin families hold 1/90th of the wealth of white families on average, it's a city where Black people are overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness by a factor of four, and where Latino homelessness accounts for the greatest jump of newly homeless Angelenos.

- Mayor Garcetti, State of the City 2021

Background - The Housing Crisis in Los Angeles

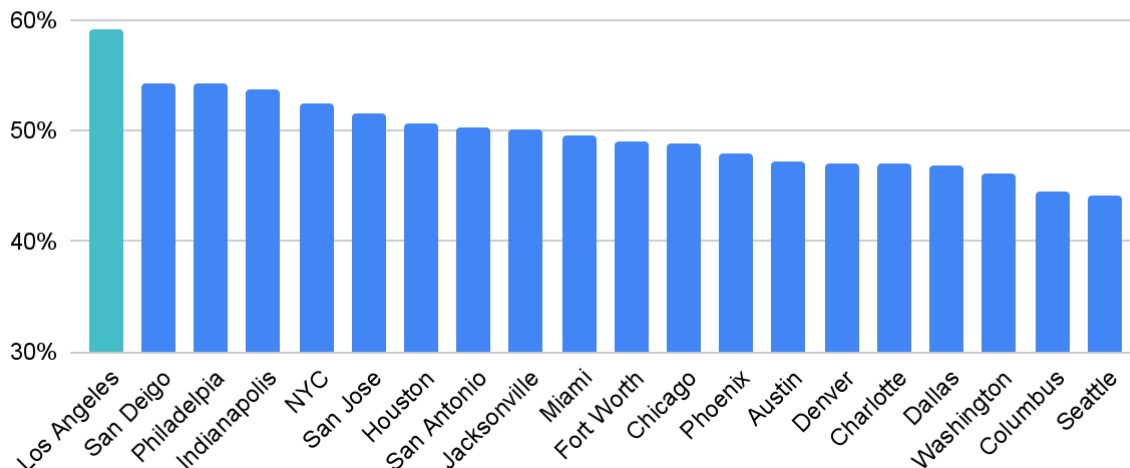
Los Angeles is one of the most dynamic cities in the world. However, with its continued growth and economic success has come increasing challenges relating to the need for more affordable housing and support to help homeless Angelenos off the street and into homes. Simply put, over the past 40 years, Los Angeles has welcomed more people without adding enough places for them to live. While the City has made significant progress in the last eight years, much more needs to be done to achieve the kind of City Angelenos have made clear they desire. Housing is key to this vision.

It is a cliché to say that the City of Los Angeles is in a housing crisis. However, the negative impacts resulting from the severe misalignment of housing costs and incomes in this City are hard to overstate. Angelenos pay more of their income on housing, live in more overcrowded conditions, and have the highest rates of unsheltered homelessness of any city in the country. Almost half of all households struggle to pay their rent and mortgage, with more than a third of renters spending half their paycheck on rent¹. Many workers in the City are forced to live far from their jobs, which worsens commute times, our air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

¹ 2019 American Community Survey

Chart ES.1

Los Angeles has a Higher Percentage of Rent Burdened Households than other Major US Cities



American Community Survey; 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates

While rising housing costs impact all segments of the housing market, it is particularly dire for those with low incomes, the unhoused, and those with special housing needs. These populations frequently face discrimination, health conditions, lack of transportation, and unemployment that exacerbate difficulties in accessing permanent housing. Despite significant advances in housing individuals that may have lost their home, and providing for special needs, homelessness continues to increase as people are losing their housing faster than new housing can be provided and obtained.

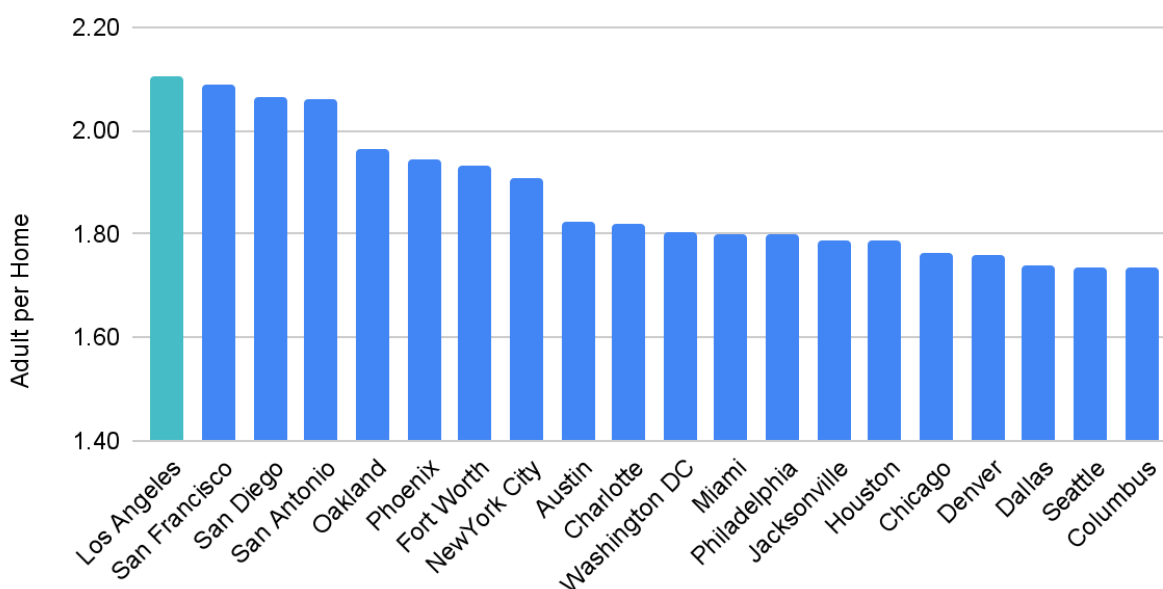
Displacement pressures are intensifying and Angelenos (particularly families with children) are increasingly leaving the City because, in part, they no longer find it possible to afford the cost of housing. Young people in particular, are not able to form households. With housing options so limited, many households are only able to find affordable housing in traditionally lower income neighborhoods, which intensifies gentrification pressures. Unequal access to neighborhoods with high resources and opportunities such as good jobs, transit, parks, and amenities exacerbates segregation, economic disparities, unhealthy living conditions, and commute times.

Most experts point to a lack of adequate, affordable housing for the population as the root of the local housing crisis. Los Angeles has the fewest number of homes per adult of major US cities (see Chart ES.2 below). If the City of Los Angeles had the same

number of homes per adult as the national average, the City would have an additional 129,000 homes (2019, American Community Survey). This shortage has developed primarily since the 1980s, as the population in Los Angeles grew much faster than the creation of new housing. Downzonings during this period limited the land area and intensities at which housing could be built.

Chart ES.2

Adults (18+) per Housing Unit, Major US Cities



Source: 2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates

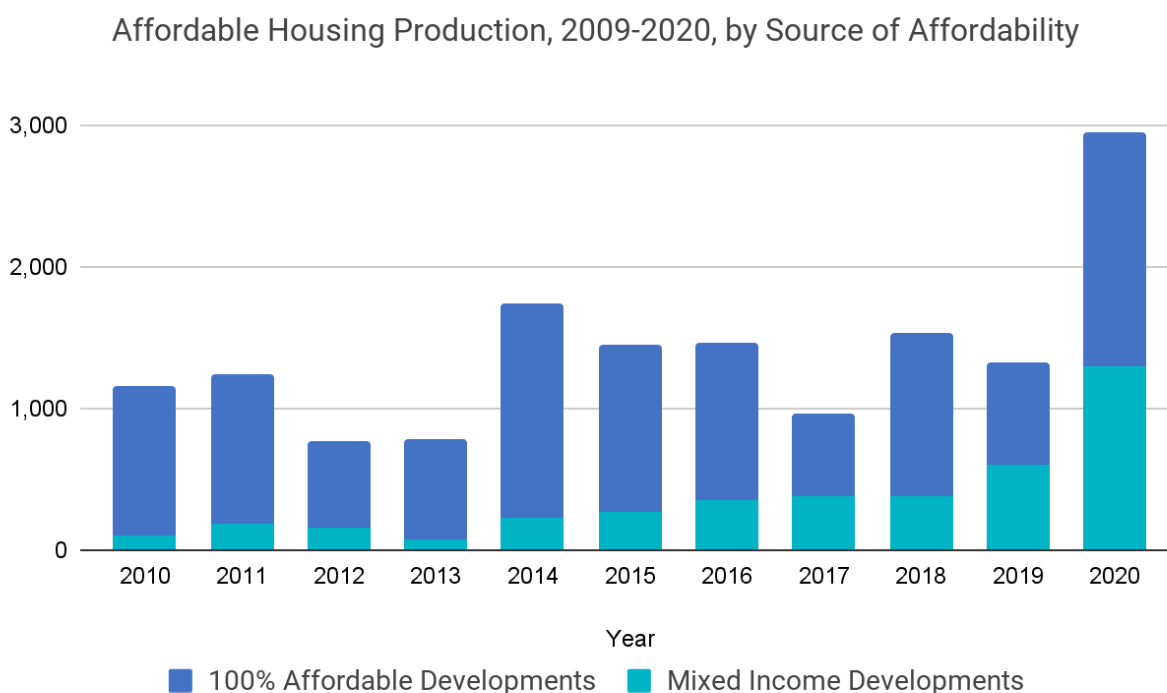
To address worsening statewide housing needs California's Housing Element Law has undergone numerous revisions in recent years. These changes include new requirements to account for existing unmet housing needs when planning for housing. As such, the City's new Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation is significantly higher this cycle, reflecting the severe shortage of available and affordable housing in Los Angeles.

Identifying and addressing the causes of the housing shortage is a central part of the Housing Element process (see Constraints Chapter 2). Some factors are out of the City's control (increasing material costs; a shortage of construction labor, etc) but other areas present opportunities to alleviate constraints imposed by the City including regulatory burdens (lengthy approvals, fees), a deficiency of public subsidy, local processes that create risk and uncertainty; and an undersupply of land where affordable

housing is allowed to be built. All of these factors overlap and impact where housing can be built, types of housing and local housing market conditions.

The City of Los Angeles has been taking bold strides to address the housing issues of residents, and has begun to see some positive results. Since the adoption of the prior Housing Element, the City has created several important funding and incentive tools that have significantly increased the production of affordable housing over prior levels (as shown in Chart ES. 3), while also adopting many additional tenant protection and affordable housing preservation policies (see Chapters 2 and 5).

Chart ES.3



Source: HCID and LACP; Annual Progress Reports of the Housing Element, 2010-2020

The *Plan's* detailed information on the City's housing needs (presented in Chapter 1) shows the considerable challenges but also notes some important progress in reversing some of the worst trends of prior decades (e.g. cost burden, overcrowding, and rent levels). Much more work is needed to make meaningful improvements in the lives of Angelenos.

This Housing Element presents a critical opportunity for the City to reverse housing disparities across geographies, incomes, and racial groups and guarantee the right of safe, secure and affordable housing for all Angelenos. This is not an easy task, as the challenges we face are deep rooted and transformative change is needed; however, the imperative is clear. We must work to build a more affordable, resilient, and just city for all.

Reader's Guide

While the Plan's narrative frames the key concepts and proposals of the Housing Element, the essence of the Plan lies in its goals, objectives, policies, and programs. These declarative statements set forth the City's approach to various issues. Goals, objectives, policies, and action programs are described below.

Goals: A goal is a statement that describes the future condition or "end" state. Goals are outcome-oriented and achievable over time, though not driven by funding.

Objectives: An objective is an aspirational measure of goal attainment. In the Housing Element, the objectives follow the goal and precede the policies. Meeting given objectives will depend on available funding to implement the proposed programs.

Policies: A policy is a clear statement that guides a specific course of action for decision-makers to achieve a desired goal. Each policy in the Plan is labeled with the goal and objective they refer to, and a unique number (e.g., 1.2.3).

Programs: An implementation program is an action, procedure, program or technique that carries out goals and policies. Implementation programs are comprehensive in nature, encompassing amendments of existing and preparation of new ones. Completion of a recommended implementation program will depend on a number of factors such as citizen priorities, finances, and staff availability. These recommendations are suggestions to future decision makers as ways to implement the goals and policies contained in this Housing Element. The listing of recommended implementation programs in the Housing Element does not obligate the City to accomplish them. Chapter 6 contains a list of all the Housing Element implementation programs.

Housing Element Organization

The Housing Element of the General Plan is organized into six chapters. Each chapter is further organized into sections that address specific topics described below:

Introduction and Orientation. This initial chapter describes the role and requirements for the Housing Element. The chapter also outlines the Plan's six goals, highlights the Plan's organizational format, describes the Plan's relationship to the City's General Plan as well as plans developed by other City agencies and regional jurisdictions and includes a glossary of terms. This chapter also includes a summary of the outreach completed while developing the draft.

Chapter 1. Housing Needs Assessment - Provides a comprehensive overview of the City's population, household, and housing stock characteristics, and an analysis of these factors in order to identify housing needs of the variety of household types and special needs across the City. The analysis highlights low rates of housing affordability and the creation and loss of existing low-cost housing. In addition, demographic changes such as the increase in the senior population and decrease in young families and children are assessed.

Chapter 2. Constraints on Housing Maintenance, Improvement, and Development - Addresses regulations and conditions that constitute constraints to housing production and preservation, including governmental regulations, infrastructure requirements and non-governmental market conditions such as land, construction and labor costs, opposition to housing, and restricted financing availability.

Chapter 3. Opportunities for Conservation in Residential Development - State Housing Element law requires cities to identify opportunities for energy conservation in residential development. The City has broadened this analysis to include energy conservation, water conservation, alternative energy sources and sustainable development which supports conservation and reduces demand. These efforts reduce development costs and improve the long-term affordability of housing units. The enactment of the LA Green Building Code and other regulations like the Low-Impact Development Ordinance have greatly strengthened City efforts towards sustainability. Specific City programs include providing rebates for energy efficient appliances, shifting the time of energy use, using alternative sources of energy (i.e., solar power), installing green roofs, requiring more sustainable landscaping and site design, and adopting General Plan land use designations and zoning that facilitate higher-density, compact, infill development near transit.

Chapter 4. Adequate Sites for Housing - State Housing Element law requires the City to show that it has adequate land zoned to accommodate expected population growth. For the 8-year plan period (2014-2021), the number of housing units estimated to be needed in Los Angeles is 456,643. The figure is called the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA).

This Chapter identifies the City's inventory of land suitable for residential development without the need for any legislative action by the City, identifies additional alternative methods of satisfying the RHNA, provides an analysis of the inventory's compliance with Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) requirements, and identifies the need for rezoning programs to accommodate the RHNA allocation. The analysis demonstrates that, during the 6th cycle, the City has an anticipated unit potential of 266,647 units, of which 81,312 units are Lower Income. As a result, the Plan identifies a need for a Rezoning Program to accommodate 219,732 units.

Chapter 5. Review of the 2006-2014 Housing Element - Preparation of the Housing Element Update included the essential step of evaluating the previous 2006-2014 Housing Element in order to identify progress and evaluate the effectiveness of previous policies and programs. The review shows that building permits were issued for 117,088 new housing units. The City has therefore already met its overall RHNA target of 82,002 units; however, it is not expected to have produced enough housing in the affordable lower and moderate income categories. The review noted progress in increasing affordable housing production, particularly through mixed-income developments and showed that the goals, objectives and policies of the previous Housing Element remain largely relevant and important. This Housing Element Update builds upon them, reconfiguring and refining some of them to better focus the City's strategy. The updates focused on advancing citywide housing priorities that specifically address the housing shortage, advancing racial equity and access to opportunity, protecting Angelenos from displacement, and promoting sustainability and resilience. Similarly, the evaluation of programs provided insight into which efforts were more effective than others. As a result, many programs have been reconfigured so that going forward, more will be accomplished and a more accurate accounting can occur through the Housing Element's Annual Progress Report.

Chapter 6. Housing Goals, Policies, Objectives and Programs - The objectives, policies and implementation programs under each goal speak to the diverse housing needs across the City. The City's approach to alleviating housing needs and

of creating sustainable mixed-use, mixed-income neighborhoods across the City aim to provide opportunities for housing, jobs, transit and basic amenities for all segments of the population. Each program was crafted to meet particular housing needs of the City, whether they are renters or homeowners, or populations with special needs. The goals, objectives and policies are organized around five issues: housing production; housing preservation; livable and sustainable communities; housing opportunities for all; and ending homelessness.

Housing Element: Purpose and Process

Housing Element and the General Plan

In the State of California, all cities are required to develop a General Plan and the Housing Element is a required component of every city's General Plan. The General Plan can be thought of as a city's "constitution for development," or the foundation upon which all land use decisions are to be based. It establishes policies and programs that assist decision makers as they review planning approvals for a new project or consider a proposed ordinance or policy. As such, the General Plan provides the foundational guide for planning, outlining how land is used and how the City allocates its resources. The General Plan is, however, more than just the legal basis for all local land use decisions; it is the vision for how the City will evolve, reflecting the values and priorities of its communities.

The City of Los Angeles' General Plan consists of 12 Citywide Elements and 35 Community Plans, which collectively serve as the Land Use Element. The Framework Element establishes the overarching vision for the City's future growth, and the long-range strategies, goals, objectives, and policies to implement that vision. The General Plan also includes topic-specific elements, including the Housing Element, which provide detailed goals, policies and programs specific to each area of focus, in consistency with other elements. The Framework Element continues to provide policy direction for future amendments to the Housing Element and the Community Plans, which determine the zoning and land use for each parcel of land in the City.

The *Plan to House LA* update embodies the existing goals and policies of other General Plan elements and identifies the more detailed strategies the City will implement to achieve them with regards to housing. The update also ensures that housing goals, objectives and policies are integrated and consistent with all of the other elements of the General Plan. Recent changes to state law require the city to review, and update as

necessary, the Safety Element alongside the Housing Element. The Safety Element is another topic specific element that details the city's approach to preventing, responding to and recovering from disaster events. Targeted amendments to the Safety Element are being adopted alongside the Plan to House LA to reflect the city's expanded focus on planning for hazards including wildfires, flooding and the impacts of climate change. Additionally, some minor amendments will be adopted into the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles to clarify that the plan satisfies the state environmental justice requirements of SB 1000.

While fulfilling the statutory requirements of State Housing Element law, the policies and programs herein also foster on-going partnerships among City departments, with other governmental agencies, and with the private sector to respond to ever-changing housing demands and market conditions. The update provides policy guidance relating to housing issues to decision makers at all levels of City government.

State Law Framework

Statutory requirements for the Housing Element are delineated in California State Government Code Section 65580 – 65589.9. The Housing Element is required to be updated every eight years in accordance with a specific schedule of dates established by the State. This Housing Element therefore covers the period of October 1, 2021 through October 1, 2029.

Pursuant to State law, the Housing Element must include the following key components:

- An analysis of existing and projected housing needs
- An analysis of potential constraints on housing
- An analysis of assisted housing developments that are “at-risk” and eligible to change from low-income housing uses
- An inventory of land suitable for housing
- An affirmatively furthering fair housing (AFFH) analysis
- An analysis of any special housing needs
- An analysis of opportunities for residential energy conservation
- An evaluation of the previous Housing Element
- Goals, policies, and implementation programs

Because housing needs are recognized as a matter of statewide concern, the State, through the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), must certify the compliance of every jurisdiction's Housing Element upon adoption. Pursuant to AB

72 (2016), HCD also has new statutory authority to revoke Housing Element compliance if the local government's actions do not comply with state law. In addition, HCD may notify the California Office of the Attorney General that the local jurisdiction is in violation of state law for non-compliance with housing element law (or other state housing laws).

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 686 (2018), the Housing Element must include an analysis and determination of consistency with Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) requirements. AFFH is defined as “taking meaningful actions, in addition to combating discrimination, that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics. These actions must, taken together, address significant disparities in housing needs and in access to opportunity, replace segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns, transform racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and foster and maintain compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws.”

To comply with these requirements, the implementation programs of the Housing Element must affirmatively further fair housing, and must include an Assessment of Fair Housing. The City currently has an adopted Assessment of Fair Housing plan (2018-2023) and anticipates an update to the AFH to commence in 2022. Additionally, the adequate sites suitable for housing development must be identified throughout the City in a manner that affirmatively furthers fair housing (see Chapter 4).

For purposes of the Housing Element sites inventory, this means that sites identified to accommodate the lower-income portion of the RHNA are not concentrated in low-resourced areas (lack of access to high performing schools, proximity to jobs, location disproportionately exposed to pollution or other health impacts) or areas of segregation and concentrations of poverty. A helpful resource is to conduct AFFH analysis is the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC)/California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Opportunity Maps, which can be seen on Map 3.4 (Chapter 2) or accessed at: <https://www.treasurer.ca.gov/ctcac/opportunity.asp>.

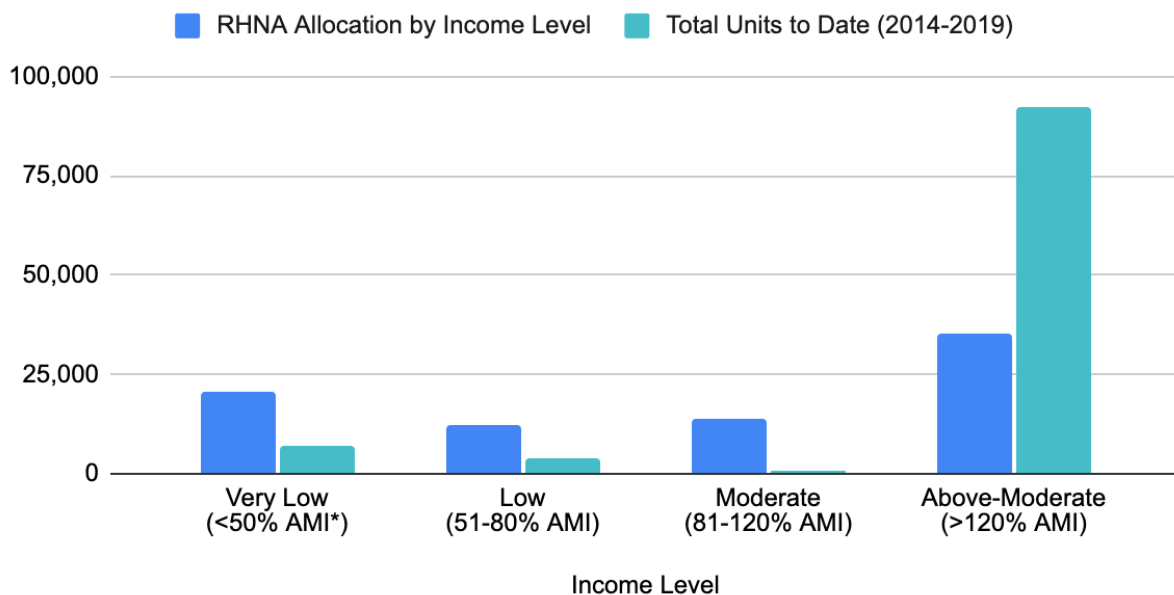
Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Summary

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) is the State required process that seeks to ensure cities and counties are planning for enough housing to accommodate all economic segments of the community. The State assigns each region in California a housing target (RHNA Allocation) that is distributed to jurisdictions through a methodology prepared by the regional councils of government. The RHNA allocation is further segmented into four income categories based on area median income (AMI). Each local jurisdiction must then identify adequate sites with realistic development potential to demonstrate it can meet its share of the regional housing needs.

The City's RHNA allocation for the previous Housing Element planning period of January 1, 2014 to September 30th, 2021 was 82,002 new housing units. From 2014 to the end of 2020 (7 years), building permits were issued for 117,088 new housing units. The City has therefore already met its overall RHNA target of 82,002 units; however, it is not expected to have produced enough housing in the affordable lower and moderate income categories. Progress on meeting the 5th cycle RHNA is detailed more fully in Chapter 5 and summarized in the Chart ES.3 below.

Chart ES.3

RHNA Allocation by Income Level and Total Units to Date (2014-2020)



For this current 2021-2029 Housing Element 6th cycle, the regional Southern California

Association of Governments (SCAG) issued a target of 456,643 housing units for the entire City of Los Angeles, of which 184,721 units (40%) are designated for very low- and low-income households. These figures are more than five times higher than the prior 5th cycle allocation, as seen on Table ES.1 below. This significant increase is primarily the result of changes in state law that included new markers of *existing* housing needs such as overcrowding and cost burden in the RHNA.

Table ES.1

Comparison of 6th vs. 5th Cycle RHNA Targets, by Income Level		
Income Level	2013-2021 Target Units	2021-2029 Target Units
Very Low-Income (0-50% AMI)	20,426	115,978*
Low-Income (51-80% AMI)	12,435	68,743
Moderate-Income (81-120% AMI)	13,728	75,091
Above Moderate-Income (Over 120% AMI)	35,412	196,831
Total Units:	82,002	456,643
*Note: 57,989 (50%) of the Very Low-Income units are considered to be Extremely Low-Income (ELI)		

Through the implementation of the policies and programs set forth in the *Plan to House LA*, the City will pursue the production and preservation of housing for all residents and will strive to meet its RHNA goal of 456,643 new units by October, 2029. However, the lack of adequate resources for Affordable Housing will likely lead to production levels of low and moderate income units that fall short of the RHNA goals.

As described more fully in the RHNA Section of Chapter 1, the City estimates that under current assumptions it will likely be unable to meet its total RHNA targets for new construction. The City is therefore projected to fall short at the affordable (below 120% AMI) income ranges, but may meet the above moderate (market-rate) production levels. While the RHNA allocation suggests that almost 260,000 units affordable to households earning less than 120% AMI will be needed, it is anticipated that approximately 51,000 affordable units may be constructed within the eight year RHNA period at this range

(about 20% of the target). This is a reflection that total housing needs for lower and moderate income households greatly exceeds the ability to meet those needs with existing financial resources and incentive programs. However, it is important to highlight that this Housing Element is projecting a significant increase in housing production at all income ranges compared to prior cycles.

Summary of the Plan to House LA

As described in more detail above (See *State Law Framework* above) Housing Element law requires that each City and County identify and analyze existing and projected housing needs within their jurisdiction and prepare goals, policies, programs and quantified objectives to further the development, improvement, and preservation of housing.

The *Plan to House LA* translates state law requirements into a document that is organized in a logical and readable manner that aligns with the City's General Plan format. The *Plan to House LA* is organized into six chapters and a series of appendices. Each chapter is further organized into sections that address specific topics.

The content of the *Plan to House LA* was influenced by the development of six key "Concepts." These Concepts integrated feedback from the public alongside citywide policy priorities to describe how the City intends to meet increasingly ambitious housing production goals. They center around access to opportunity, housing stability, anti-displacement, equity, affordability, well-being and sustainability. The Plan's six Concepts are listed below in the Public Participation section.

Housing Goals, Objectives, Policies and Programs

Los Angeles' housing goals, objectives, policies, and programs are guided by the City's overall housing vision:

It is the overall housing vision of the City of Los Angeles to create housing opportunities that enhance affordability, equity, livability and sustainability by remedying discriminatory housing practices and creating a city with a range of housing types, sizes, and costs in close proximity to jobs, transit, amenities, and services. In keeping with a fundamental belief that housing is a human right, the City will work towards ensuring that housing stability and affordability is provided to all residents.

In line with this vision, all goals, policies and objectives are intended to further certain Citywide Housing Priorities, defined below to include:

Addressing the Housing Shortage: Increase the production of new housing, particularly affordable housing.

Advancing Racial Equity & Access to Opportunity: Proactively address racial and economic segregation in the city by creating housing opportunities that address historic patterns of discrimination and exclusion.

Preventing Displacement: Protect Angelenos—especially persons of color—from indirect and direct displacement, and ensure stability of existing vulnerable communities.

Promoting Sustainability & Resilience and Environmental Justice through Housing: Design and regulate housing to promote health and well-being, increase access to amenities, contribute to a sense of place, foster community and belonging, and protect residents from existing and future environmental impacts.

The five goals that will guide the 2021-2029 Housing Element are as follows:

GOAL 1: A City where housing production results in an ample supply of housing to create more equitable and affordable options that meet existing and projected needs.

GOAL 2: A City that preserves and enhances the quality of housing and provides greater housing stability for households of all income levels.

GOAL 3: A City in which housing creates healthy, livable, sustainable, and resilient communities that improve the lives of all Angelenos.

GOAL 4: A City that fosters racially and socially inclusive neighborhoods and corrects the harms of historic racial, ethnic, and social discrimination of the past and present.

GOAL 5: A City that is committed to preventing and ending homelessness.

Each goal, along with major associated objectives, policies and programs will be summarized below. Please see Chapter 6 for the complete descriptions.

Goal 1 - Housing Production

Goal 1 emphasizes the importance of overall housing production in order to result in an ample supply of housing to better meet both existing and projected housing needs. This goal recognizes that rates of housing production have been insufficient historically and that in order to combat overcrowding and cost-burden, more housing options are needed, particularly those that are more affordable. A lack of adequate funding for deed-restricted Affordable Housing and other subsidies has limited the ability of the City to provide a critical social safety net for those at greatest risk of housing insecurity and homelessness. However, an increasing number of Affordable units are being created in mixed-income housing projects, often serving those at the lowest income categories (extremely low and very low).

Per the 2021-2029 RHNA, the City needs to produce about 57,000 units per year in the the 6th Housing Element Cycle; however, the City has only been producing an average of 16,700 units per year since 2014, indicating substantial changes are needed to achieve these housing goals. Of the City's 2021-2029 RHNA, about 23,000 units/year should be affordable to lower income households (80% AMI and below), however the City has only been producing an average of 1,650 affordable units per year since 2014. While significantly more housing at all income ranges is needed to address the current shortage, it will likely not be sufficient to serve those with the lowest incomes. Therefore, the particular importance of housing production that is affordable to lower income households is emphasized throughout Goal 1, while Goal 2 emphasizes that production must be balanced with strong preservation, replacement and tenant rights policies.

Objectives within the housing production goals are divided into three areas: forecasting and planning for changing housing needs (1.1), facilitating housing production, especially for affordable housing and housing meeting citywide housing priorities (1.2), and promoting a more equitable geographical distribution of affordable housing (1.3).

The policies and programs for production include locating new sources of local financing for affordable housing, targeted loan programs for homeowners and land use changes to increase sites where affordable housing can be built. Changes to production related policies from the prior Housing Element include a greater emphasis on producing a supply of housing that will alleviate *existing* housing needs, implementing strategies to better align citywide and community level housing planning efforts and reducing racial and economic segregation through a much stronger focus on locating Affordable Housing in all communities, particularly High Opportunity Areas. For

example, Program 65 calls for allocating housing targets within Community Plan areas in a way that affirmatively furthers fair housing. Anti-displacement is added as a core component to future planning and land use strategies and the importance of more state and regional coordination is also strengthened.

Goal 2 - Housing Preservation and Housing Stability

The *Plan to House LA* establishes a new Goal 2 focusing on housing preservation and tenant protections in order to elevate critical City priorities around housing stability. This is a recognition of the importance of maintaining existing affordable housing and keeping people housed. Given the substantial cost benefits to preserving existing units as opposed to constructing a new unit, Los Angeles has long been committed to activities that support the preservation of affordable housing.

Objectives within the housing preservation and stability goal are divided into three topic areas: strengthening renter protections and preventing displacement (2.1), promoting more affordable ownership opportunities and ownership retention strategies (2.2), and conserving and improving the quality of housing (2.3). The overall policies within these objectives emphasizes the importance of prioritizing underserved communities and the most vulnerable.

Preservation related policies and programs include a combination of affordable housing preservation, habitability code enforcement, tenant protections, and ownership strategies; funding incentives to rehabilitate and maintain the housing stock; outreach, and education; as well as mechanisms to extend the affordability terms of units facing expiring covenants. There is also an overall increased emphasis on preventing displacement and protecting communities of color, which was not explicitly discussed in the previous Housing Element. New strategies include expanding “no net loss” requirements, affordable housing replacement policies, and a tenant’s right to return to any replaced housing unit. Concepts such as extending affordability covenant terms, establishing community preference policies as well as promoting emerging ideas such as community land trusts and tenant/community opportunity to purchase programs were also added. One significant new preservation strategy involves the purchase of naturally affordable housing in order to remove units from the speculative market, help insulate tenants from price increases, and create housing for low-income families. Finally, there is an increased emphasis on education and empowerment for both tenants and homeowners. Specifically, language has been added to help promote homeownership as a wealth building strategy in communities of color through the

prevention of predatory real estate practices and the promotion of education around enhancing home equity.

Goal 3 - Healthy, Livable, Sustainable, and Resilient communities

Goal 3 emphasizes the important role of housing in creating a city that offers healthy, livable, sustainable, and resilient communities that improve the lives of all Angelenos. The goal encompasses an array of policies and actions that both enhance the quality of life and well-being of communities throughout Los Angeles as well as promote overall sustainability and resilience.

The objectives under this goal relate to the use of quality design (3.1), environmental sustainability (3.2) and promoting disaster and climate resilience in citywide housing efforts (3.3). The design objective recognizes that housing can promote healthy communities and well-being, increase access to amenities, contribute to a sense of place, and foster community and belonging. Advancing environmentally sustainable residential buildings and land use patterns creates the path towards a low-carbon City, green energy future, and implements the City's Green New Deal (Sustainability pLAn) and Citywide Resilience Strategy.

The policies and programs falling under this goal will promote sustainable neighborhoods that lessen impacts on natural resource consumption by directing housing toward jobs and transit and by employing green-building techniques. These efforts will facilitate high quality, healthy housing in neighborhoods that mix incomes and improve accessibility to jobs and services in line with the Framework Element. The focus on health has increased, with new policies guiding development to better orient building siting and features toward beneficial uses and away from polluting or hazardous features. The prior Housing Element's focus on safety has more explicitly been linked to disaster resilience with several new policies on identifying risks to our housing stock and minimizing these risks for communities most at risk.

Goal 4 - Advancing Equity, Inclusion, and Access to Opportunity

Goal 4 strives towards a City that fosters racially and socially inclusive neighborhoods and corrects the harms of historic racial, ethnic, and social discrimination of the past and present. This goal recognizes that impacts of the affordable housing crisis are not equitably experienced by all Angelenos due to historic and ongoing structural inequities such as redlining, racially restrictive covenants, and exclusionary zoning. The effects of past systematic segregation and exclusion in housing are still apparent in many areas

of Los Angeles today. Communities of color remain largely segregated and excluded from areas with more access to opportunities such as high performing schools and jobs. Lower income households, particularly Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, also have much higher rates of housing insecurity and a greater need for affordable housing.

The objectives under this goal relate to ensuring that housing opportunities are accessible to all residents without discrimination (4.1), promoting outreach and education on fair housing practices and accessibility (4.2) and a new affirmatively furthering fair housing objective committing to taking of proactive measures to promote diverse, inclusive communities that grant all Angelenos access to housing in Higher Opportunity Areas (4.3).

The policies and programs under this goal promote and facilitate equal opportunity practices in the construction, provision, sale and rental of housing; including ensuring accessibility to persons with disabilities in City funded affordable housing developments. Policies also aim to expand outreach and education for homebuyers and renters regarding fair housing and other protections in the purchase, rental, and/or modification of housing. Finally, under the third objective, policies and programs call for increasing access and transparency in the lease-up process for affordable housing, ensuring that all neighborhoods have a range of housing typologies to provide housing options for all and examining land use practices that perpetuate racial exclusion and inequities. Related changes to production related policies and programs include a greater emphasis on locating Affordable Housing in all communities, particularly Higher Opportunity Areas and introducing context-specific land use reforms in a way that affirmatively furthers fair housing.

Goal 5 - Preventing and Ending Homelessness

Goal 5 commits the City to preventing and ending homelessness based on the longstanding vision in Los Angeles that housing is a human right. This goal requires that every individual and family is housed by promoting strategies to prevent residents from losing their housing and by rapidly rehousing those who do fall into homelessness. Unfortunately, the drastic shortfall in affordable housing available to people with the lowest incomes throughout the region has led to more unhoused people in recent years even as the homeless services system has scaled up significantly and become more effective and efficient in response.

The homelessness policies and programs focus on a tiered approach that recognizes the need to provide sufficient temporary and emergency shelters to meet short-term

needs while working toward a rapid return to more stable housing or permanent supportive housing over the longer-term. Programs emphasize the need and demand for supportive services and compassionate care as part of the commitment to prevent and end homelessness. Outreach and education efforts under this goal seek both to increase awareness for all City residents about the needs of the homeless and to inform the homeless about housing and service opportunities. More direct policy language was added to specify that supportive services, including housing and temporary facilities, need to be included in all neighborhoods of the City, and there is continued work to remove barriers to siting housing for homeless persons. Finally, policies were added to emphasize the need to compassionately care for individuals experiencing homelessness with facilities like restrooms, showers and drinking fountains.

The Plan's goals, objectives, policies, and programs collectively comprise the City's housing action plan for the 2021-2029 planning period. Together they will guide daily decision-making by City officials and staff, and provide benchmarks on the housing programs that the City carries out to meet its overall housing goals.

Summary of Public Participation

Updating the Housing Element requires vital public and stakeholder input that can only be collected through public participation. Government Code 65583(c)(7) mandates local governments to “make a diligent effort to achieve public participation of all economic segments of the community in the development of the housing element” and to describe their public participation efforts. The Department of City Planning and the Department of Housing and Community Investment (HCID) engaged the public through numerous digital and in-person events (prior to the Covid-19 pandemic), and through other innovative ways, to collect the public's input. This outreach, participation and input has been used to guide and inform the updating process of the Housing Element.

Tens of thousands of people participated in the Housing Element Update outreach process and represented the City's diverse racial and ethnic communities, as well as age groups, income levels, and different housing experiences (i.e. renter versus home-owner). Efforts were taken by staff to provide outreach in Spanish to reach the City's large mono-lingual community, including bilingual webinars, online tools and a statistically valid survey. An important engagement element was the participation of the Housing Element Task Force, a 63-member group of diverse housing-related professionals, experts and community leaders, to further reach all segments of the City. The different public participation phases of the Housing Element Update are illustrated

in Figure ES.1 and are described below. As part of the City’s commitment to affirmatively further fair housing, there is a language and culturally inclusive outreach program intended to engage historically underrepresented communities in long range housing and planning processes.

Figure ES.1.



Launch/Vision Phase

In October 2019, the City of Los Angeles launched the 2021-2029 update to the Housing Element, also referred to as the *Plan to House LA*. The Launch phase focused on the citywide introduction of the Housing Element Update and on informing the public on how it shapes housing outcomes in the City. A call for applications to join the Housing Element Task Force was issued and more than 280 persons and organizations applied. A diverse, balanced group of 63 members were selected and a kick-off Task Force meeting was hosted in January 2020 by the City’s Director of City Planning and General Manager of HCID.

In early 2020, the City launched the Visioning phase for the Plan. This phase focused on broadening public participation in the housing conversation and on collecting public feedback and input critical to the Housing Element Update. Community engagement focused on understanding housing needs, reviewing existing goals, and developing a collective vision for housing in Los Angeles.

Between January and July 2020, over 1,800 people clicked, commented, and participated in the Launch/Vision phase of outreach. Participants at all events were asked to share their frustrations with the current housing landscape and their vision for future improvements. Specific feedback and comments received from the public and Task Force during the Launch/Visioning revealed the following common topics:

- Protecting renters & preventing displacement
- Producing more housing, especially affordable housing
- Zoning for inclusive communities
- Serving the most vulnerable
- Addressing the homelessness crisis
- Promoting livable and resilient neighborhoods
- Promoting ownership

A more detailed description of the outreach methods summarized below and the general comments collected during the Launch/Visioning Phase are provided in [Appendix A](#).

Kick-Off Workshops

The City hosted three in-person open house Kick-Off Workshops in February and March 2020 for the public to learn about the current Housing Element and to provide a space where participants could ask questions and share their comments with staff.

Participants were engaged in both English and Spanish by bilingual staff in content that included information on the state of housing in Los Angeles, demographics and socio-economic characteristics, housing characteristics, the City's RHNA allocation and past progress in meeting goals, as well as the 2013-2021 Housing Element's vision, goals, and objectives. Over 150 people attended these Kick-Off Workshops.

People who were not able to attend the in-person Kick-Off Workshops, were able to access an online workshop that provided the same information, materials, and opportunities to submit feedback. This online workshop tool was launched in March 2020 in both English and Spanish, and was viewed over 3,100 times.

Bilingual Webinars with Live Q&A

The City hosted five webinars with live Q&A in May and June 2020. Over 300 people attended these digital meetings. Three webinars were held in English and two in Spanish. Participants at these events were provided information about the Housing

Element update and asked to share their thoughts about the current housing landscape and their vision for future improvements. The English and Spanish webinar recordings were published on the DCP website for anyone to watch at a convenient time. City staff was available to take phone calls for participants who were having technical issues, lacked internet access or who are visually impaired.

Concepts Phase

In late 2020, the City launched the Concepts phase for the 2021-2029 Housing Element. During this phase, an ambitious outreach campaign helped to engage an unprecedented number of people through several targeted outreach efforts, including three webinars, neighborhood council and stakeholder meetings, a statistically valid poll, and a public survey. This phase focused on six Concepts that were developed based on the feedback the City collected during the Vision phase of outreach and the framework of state law.

The Concepts focus on how the Housing Element will address housing-related issues in the City. All six Concepts respond to urgent housing needs including: addressing the housing shortage, advancing racial equity and access to opportunity, and promoting sustainability and resilience. The six Concepts include:

- **Housing Stability and Anti-Displacement:** To protect Angelenos—especially persons of color—from indirect and direct displacement, and ensure stability of existing vulnerable communities.
- **Housing Production:** To increase the production of new housing, particularly affordable housing.
- **Access to Opportunity:** To increase access to opportunities and proactively desegregate the City by planning for more affordable and mixed-income housing in higher-resource areas.
- **Homelessness:** To prevent and end homelessness in a manner that centers human dignity and respect by developing early interventions, significantly expanding permanent housing options, and providing appropriate services and support.
- **Built Environment:** To design and regulate housing to promote health and well-being, increase access to amenities, contribute to a sense of place, foster community and belonging, and plan for a sustainable future.
- **Meeting the Needs of all Angelenos:** To build, operate, and maintain welcoming and accessible housing for Angelenos with unique needs, including those with disabilities, large families, older adults, and other people facing housing barriers.

Between January and July 2021, tens of thousands of people clicked, viewed, interacted, and participated in the Concepts phase of outreach. A more detailed description of the outreach methods summarized below and the findings collected during this outreach phase are provided in [Appendix A](#).

Bilingual Webinars with Live Q&A

The City held three webinars during the fall of 2020, two in English and one in Spanish, to introduce the Concepts and implementation strategies (potential programs) to the public. An audience of over 260 people was reached across all three events. Interactive polls and Q&A sessions were held during the webinars to encourage interactive participation. These webinars were accessible through GoToWebinar and live-streamed on the City's Facebook Page. The English and Spanish webinar recordings were published on the DCP website for anyone to watch at a convenient time. City staff was available to take phone calls for participants who were having technical issues, lacked internet access or are visually impaired. Prior to posting webinars were amended to include closed captioning to better accommodate diverse abilities.

Online Survey

In December 2020, the City released an interactive online digital survey that introduced the six Concepts along with the proposed housing strategies and asked respondents to weigh in with their reactions and suggestions. The survey was made available in English and Spanish. Over 1,800 people responded to the survey. Respondents were well represented from central, west and southwest LA, with less representation from harbor and valley communities. Responses were received from a variety of age groups and ethnicities, though respondents were slightly older and whiter than the City as a whole. Some survey results were de-aggregated to evaluate differences in responses based on criteria such as race or status as a renter or homeowner (tenancy).

Within the survey, each of the six Concepts received overall support from at least 70% of respondents. There was wide agreement among respondents that the availability of housing, and especially affordable housing, is poor within the City of Los Angeles. When asked how to address this shortage respondents demonstrated strong support for tools like adaptive reuse of existing buildings and setting neighborhood level housing production targets, with more divided opinions on tools like targeted rezoning of low density parcels. The results of the survey were published on the Housing Element website in March 2021.

Statistically Valid Poll

The Department of City Planning partnered with FM3 Research to conduct a poll of over 800 randomly selected City residents from November 5th to 18th, 2020, to assess their opinions on housing related issues and proposed responses to the strategies. These polls were conducted in both English and Spanish via email and text message as well as through the use of cell phones and landlines. To capture a statistically representative cross-section of residents, the poll respondents were consistent with the citywide racial, income, household size, renter, owner, and age demographics of the City.

The vast majority of respondents expressed support for the strategy of increasing and accommodating more housing near jobs, transit, and services, and for prioritizing tenant rights and the sheltering of people experiencing homelessness. This balanced group showed a stronger desire than the online Concepts Survey to see more housing near public transit, near job opportunities, high-performing schools, parks, and other amenities, even in areas of the City that comprise mostly of single-family homes.

Educational Video

On February 18, 2018, an animated, minute and a half long educational video was launched on the YouTube channel and social media platforms of the Department of City Planning and Housing + Community Investment Department. The video explained the City's housing crisis, the on-going update, and participation opportunities in an effort to bring new audiences into the housing conversation. The video highlighted housing-related issues and laid a foundation for the intent and capacity of the goals, policies and programs comprising the Housing Element Update.

This video was viewed over 45,000 times, across all platforms, and generated hundreds of comments and reactions.

Community Stakeholder Meetings

Throughout the Concepts Phase, the Department of City Planning and Housing + Community Investment Department appeared at 8 local stakeholder meetings, including alliances of Neighborhood Councils, community organizations and other local groups. Staff shared the draft Concepts and spent as much time as was needed to answer questions and gather information on proposed housing strategies. These groups include the Alliance of River Communities (ARC): South Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (SLAANC), Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

(LANCC), Plancheck Neighborhood Council Alliance, Harbor Gateway Planning and Land Use Committee, West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness, Health Innovation Community Partnership and the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC).

Draft and Adoption Phase (Current and Future)

The Departments of City Planning and Housing + Community Investment Department will continue the effort to maintain and broaden public engagement and participation during the current draft phase. The Housing Element was discussed at meetings of the City Council Housing Committee and Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee in June 2021.

The City will hold virtual Citywide workshops in July 2021 to accompany release of the Public Draft Housing Element. Workshop materials will be translated and interpretation services provided in Spanish. In addition to traditional notification methods, City staff will attend additional stakeholder and community-based meetings to share information about the Housing Element and how to provide input on the plan. Community-based organizations will be assisting with additional opportunities to engage residents from historically underrepresented communities through a public outreach and education program leading up to the final adoption as part of the City's commitment to affirmatively further fair housing.

Additional opportunities for feedback will occur prior to the City Planning Commission meeting scheduled for September 2021.

Housing Element Task Force

A core contributor and guide throughout the update process of the Housing Element has been the Task Force. This 63-member Task Force is composed of a diverse group of housing professionals and community leaders, who were selected from over 280 applicants. This group assisted the City in evaluating the viability and impact of potential new and updated policies related to housing preservation and production, tenants' rights, homelessness prevention, zoning as it relates to housing matters, and other important housing-related issues.

The Task Force has four subcommittees representing different themes and needs within the Housing Element:

- Housing Stability and Tenure
- Housing Production and Construction Innovation
- Livability, Sustainability, and Resilience
- Homelessness and Special Needs

As previously mentioned, the Task Force has provided their input throughout the outreach phases of the update. The first Task Force meeting was held in January 2020, for members to share ideas for the 2021-2029 Housing Element update. In April, May, and July of 2020, staff hosted 12 subcommittee meetings to review and discuss:

- Feedback and key themes that emerged from community outreach events
- Visioning ideas for housing security, accessibility, production, and livability
- Existing housing constraints, such as land use and zoning, entitlement and permitting processes, financing, construction costs, and housing opposition
- The RHNA site selection methodology
- Current housing related policies and potential implementation programs
- Other topic areas and data for potential study

The full Task Force was convened again in October 2020 to begin reviewing draft themes and Concepts for the Housing Element Update. To help inform the Site Selection process, staff held a working group meeting for the Task Force members in November 2020. In July 2020 a full Task Force meeting will be held to discuss the draft Housing Element.