



LAND USE PLANNING

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: December 21, 2022

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Persons

Lead Agency: City of Berkeley

Project Title: Gilman Gateway Rezone Project

Project Location: The project site is comprised of 18 parcels totaling approximately 10.64 acres located in West Berkeley. The Project site is bisected by Second Street and bordered by Gilman Street to the north, Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and Amtrak heavy rail corridor to the east, Page Street to the south, and Eastshore Highway (Interstate 80 [I-80]) to the west.

Project Applicant: City of Berkeley and SPUR Capital

Purpose of Notice

The City of Berkeley (City), as the lead agency, is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Gilman Gateway Rezone project, located at the properties listed in Table 1 below. The project will rezone the site to a new zoning district and General Plan to allow a range of light industrial, research and development, and similar/related uses, and amend the development standards related to building height and other matters. In accordance with the provisions of the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15082(a), this Notice of Preparation (NOP) provides response and trustee agencies, nearby property owners, and other interested parties with a description of the proposed project and information on its potential environmental effects. The City also invites input and/or comments from public agencies and the general public as to the scope and content of the environmental information that will be studied in connection with the project.

Project Description and Location

As shown on Figure 1 below, the project site is located in West Berkeley. As shown in Table 1 and on Figure 2 below, the project site is comprised of 18 parcels totaling approximately 10.64 acres, bisected by Second Street and bordered by Gilman Street to the north, Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and Amtrak heavy rail corridor to the east, Page Street to the south, and Eastshore Highway (Interstate 80 [I-80]) to the west. Of these 18 parcels, 13 are associated with the former Pacific Steel Casting site and total approximately 8.16 acres. This site is developed with a number of buildings that have exceeded their economic life and are expected to be demolished and the site redeveloped by private parties. The remaining parcels include two which are associated with the former Berkeley Forge and Tool, which total approximately 1.18 acres, and three unassociated parcels totaling approximately 1.3 acres, currently occupied by a vehicle rental business, live/work building, and recycled materials processing business.

Table 1: Project Site				
Existing Uses	Address	APN	Lot Size (sf)	Building Size (sf)
Pacific Steel Casting	1305 Eastshore Highway	59-2344-1-2	8,666	n/a
	1401 Eastshore Highway	59-2341-4	41,286	26,217
	1421 Second Street	59-2340-8-2	102,366	73,640
	1420 Second Street	59-2341-5	25,452	19,942
	1320 Second Street	59-2344-4-1	55,003	44,343
	1314 Second Street	59-2344-3-1	14,000	12,504
	1333 Second Street	59-2345-9	36,575	14,840
	1337 Second Street	59-2345-8-1	14,630	2,432
	1332 Third Street			
	1310 Third Street	59-2345-2-2	17,985	26,550
	631 Camelia Street	59-2345-7	8,100	5,200
	625 Camelia Street			
	635 Camelia Street	59-2345-6-1	13,000	9,024
	643 Camelia Street	59-2345-4	5,500	n/a
	1311 Second Street	59-2345-1	13,000	13,000
630 Gilman Street				
640 Gilman Street				
Berkeley Forge and Tool	1331 Eastshore Highway	59-2344-7	39,192	31,092
	1330 Second Street	59-2344-5-1	12,115	10,000
Live/Work	1306 Third Street	58-2345-2-1	6,204	6,204
Vehicle Rental	600 Gilman Street	59-2344-2-1	11,625	1,008
Recycled Materials Processing	1433 Eastshore Highway	59-2341-3-2	38,850	1,944
Total Area (sf)			463,549	297,940

Existing Land Uses

The project site is currently designated Manufacturing by the City of Berkeley General Plan adopted in 2002 and zoned Manufacturing (M) per the Zoning Ordinance and West Berkeley Plan. The project site is currently developed with approximately 16 buildings totaling 297,940 square feet that have been in

use for industrial, commercial and live/work uses. There are paved roadways that extend throughout the site and the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way is adjacent to and runs north-south along the eastern boundary of site.

The following parcels within the project area are included on the lists of sites enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5:

- 600 Gilman Street (Budget Rent a Car)
- 1333 Second Street (Pacific Steel Plant #2)

Surrounding Land Uses

The project site is surrounded by a mix of manufacturing, warehouse, office, and commercial uses. Residential uses are located to the northeast and southeast.

Proposed Project

The project would create a new zoning district - Manufacturing, Research and Development (M-RD) – in order to facilitate future development. The M-RD zoning district would permit a variety of uses, including office, industrial and heavy commercial, laboratory, light manufacturing, and research and development (R&D), which would primarily be subject to the permit thresholds of the Mixed-Use Light Industrial (MU-LI) district. The EIR will evaluate the impact of the rezone and associated general plan amendments, as well as demolition of the existing buildings totaling approximately 298,000 square feet, except for the existing 10,000 square-foot building at 1330 Second Street, which would be adaptively reused, construction of up to 1,000,000 square feet of nonresidential space and 2,000 off-street automobile parking spaces, at a maximum building height of 105 feet.

While the proposed project does not involve any specific development project, it will evaluate the buildout of a potential future development on an approximately 8.16-acre portion of the project area to the extent that such development is foreseeable at the time of preparation of this EIR. The buildout of the potential future project is assumed to be consistent with the development standards of the proposed M-RD zoning district, and would consist of up to 900,000 square feet of R&D, office, laboratory, and light manufacturing uses and 1,900 automobile parking spaces.

Environmental Impact Report

The EIR will include a discussion of all topic areas required by the CEQA Guidelines, with a particular focus on the following specific environmental categories most relevant to the proposed project:

- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use Planning
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources

The EIR will also identify and compare a reasonable range of alternatives to the project. Alternatives will be chosen based on their ability to avoid or reduce identified significant environmental impacts of the project while achieving most of the project objectives (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6), and all other sections required by CEQA.

Public Review and Comment Period

The City requests written comments that focus on the scope and content of the environmental information

November 6, 2024

Notice of Preparation

December 21, 2022

of the EIR for the Gilman Gateway Rezone project. All comments on environmental issues received during the public comment period will be considered when preparing the EIR.

This NOP will be circulated for a 60-day review period, which will extend from December 21, 2022 to February 27, 2023. Responses to this NOP must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 27, 2023. Please send your written or electronic responses, with appropriate contact information, to the following:

Ashley James
City of Berkeley
Land Use and Planning Division
1947 Center Street, 2nd Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704
Email: ajames@cityofberkeley.info

For electronic responses, please include the project name in the subject line.

Public Scoping Meeting

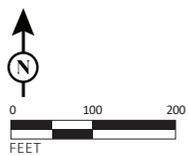
The City will hold two public meetings to inform interested parties about the project, and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide comments on the scope and content of the EIR. The meetings will be held via video and teleconference on the following dates:

- Planning Commission: Wednesday, February 1st at 7:00pm. The meeting agenda with corresponding meeting link will be posted by 5:00 p.m. on January 27 on the Commission website: [Planning Commission | City of Berkeley \(berkeleyca.gov\)](https://www.berkeleyca.gov/planning-commission)
- Landmarks Preservation Commission: Thursday, February 2nd at 7:00pm. The meeting agenda with corresponding meeting link will be posted by 5:00 p.m. on January 27 on the Commission website: [Landmarks Preservation Commission | City of Berkeley \(berkeleyca.gov\)](https://www.berkeleyca.gov/landmarks-preservation-commission)



FIGURE 2

LSA



- Project Site Boundary
- Berkeley Forge and Tool
- Pacific Steel Casting
- Other Parcels

SOURCES: Google Earth, 8/6/2020; LSA, 2022

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*Gilman Gateway Rezone Project NOP
 Aerial Photograph of the Project Site*