

IRWINDALE COUNCIL CHAMBER
5050 N. IRWINDALE AVENUE
IRWINDALE, CALIFORNIA 91706

April 30, 2025
Wednesday
6:34 P.M.

The Irwindale **PLANNING COMMISSION** met in a special session at the above time and place.

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA

I'm going to call to order the meeting of the Special Meeting of the Planning Commission for April 30, 2025, at 6:34 pm. I'll start with Roll Call orders. Now we'll do the Pledge of Allegiance. If you can stand. Ready begin.

PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Invocation.

INVOCATION
COMMISSIONER
MIRANDA

Yes, bow your heads please if you like. Holy Father, we praise you father, for your glory and your mercy and your son. Ask you father for some mercy for always on with my mother because she's got a new growth today and all people who love her in the City of Irwindale give her some prayers as she keeps fighting cancer again. I give you, give us wisdom, Father, today in this room that we make the right decisions, hear things clearly and share ideas, Father. And bless all the City of Irwindale, father, a blanket of love and coverage, father and your son 's name Jesus. Amen.

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA

All right. We'll move on to Roll Call.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Albert Acosta; Casey Miranda; Richard Chico; Commissioner Rodriguez

Absent: Chair Maricela Frymark

Also present: Julian Miranda, City Manager; Theresa Olivares, Assistant City Manager; Jamie Traxler, Assistant City Attorney; Brandi Jones, Senior Planner; Luis Pimentel, Associate Engineer; Mario Arrellano, Associate Planner; Jarrod Palmer, Assistant Planner; Jesus Hernandez, Administrative Secretary

**AB 2449
DISCLOSURES**

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA

Moving onto E, do we have any AB 2449 Disclosures?

ADMINISTRATIVE
SECRETARY
HERNANDEZ

We do not have any AB 2449 Disclosures.

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA

Moving on to F, Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VICE CHAIR ACOSTA I don't see anything under there. We will go on to 1, Consent Calendar.

CONSENT CALENDAR

VICE CHAIR ACOSTA The Consent Calendar contains matters of routine business and is to be approved with one motion unless a member of the Commission requests separate action on the specific item. At this time, members of the audience may ask to be heard regarding any item on the Consent Calendar. Do we have anybody? Nope. Okay, we ask for a motion.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ Yes. So, we do have minutes for approval, which were the Special Meeting held November 14, 2024.

COMMISSIONER CHICO Motion to approve as presented?

COMMISSIONER MIRANDA Second.

VICE CHAIR ACOSTA Roll Call.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ Commissioner Chico.

COMMISSIONER CHICO Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ Commissioner Miranda.

COMMISSIONER MIRANDA Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ Commissioner Rodriguez.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY HERNANDEZ Vice Chair Acosta.

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA Yes.

ADMINISTRATIVE
SECRETARY
HERNANDEZ And Chair Frymark is absent. Thank you.

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA And we'll move on to Spontaneous Communication. Jesus.

**SPONTANEOUS
COMMUNICATIONS**

ADMINISTRATIVE
SECRETARY
HERNANDEZ This is the time set aside for members of the audience to speak on any item not on this agenda that is within the Planning Commission's subject matter jurisdiction. The Planning Commission is an advisory body appointed by the City Council to review and provide recommendations on matters related to land use, planning, and development within the City. Except for very limited circumstances, State law prohibits any Commission discussion or action on items that are not on the agenda. All members of the public are asked to observe the City's Rules of Procedure and Public Meeting Decorum. The City's Rules of Procedure and Public Meeting Decorum can be found on the City's website, and Chapter 2.40 of the Irwindale Municipal Code. You may also contact the City Clerk's Office for copies. Each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes unless such time limits are extended. If a member of the public wishes to donate their time to another speaker, both persons must be physically present and in attendance of the meeting. The Presiding Officer may, in his or her discretion, extend the 3-minute time limitation for the particular subject for all speakers. In no event shall the total amount of speaking time exceed 6 minutes per person for the subject under discussion. Organized groups of persons wishing to address the Board on the same subject should select a spokesperson to represent the group, so as to avoid unnecessary repetition. The Commission may regulate a speaker who is speaking too long or out of order, being unduly repetitious, discussing irrelevancies, or extending to items not within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Please be reminded that discrimination, abusive use of profanity, unruly disruption, and violent or physically threatening conduct is discouraged. Members of the public shall not disrupt the orderly conduct of the meeting. The Presiding Officer will request that a person cease any disruptive conduct, and if not immediately stopped, will direct the person to be removed from the meeting. We are in a hybrid format so we do have both in person and hybrid audience members and they will participate in the following order: Tier one, in person attendees; Tier 2, teleconference attendees; and Tier 3, in person and teleconference attendees who have not previously provided comments on the matters being discussed by the legislative body.

VICE CHAIR ACOSTA Do we have anybody in Tier 1, in person? Okay, move onto Tier 2.

ADMINISTRATIVE
SECRETARY
HERNANDEZ Looks like we have no one for Tier 2.

VICE CHAIR ACOSTA And then we'll move on to Tier 3, in person or teleconference.

ADMINISTRATIVE
SECRETARY
HERNANDEZ No one for Tier 3.

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA Then we will move on to Number 3, New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA I don't see anything under New Business. We'll move on to Number 4, Public Hearings.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

VICE CHAIR No Public Hearing. And let's move on to Number 5, Discussion Item/ Presentations.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ PRESENTATIONS

VICE CHAIR General Plan Presentation 1.

SENIOR PLANNER
JONES Good evening, Chair members of the Planning Commission. Jarrod Palmer, our Assistant Planner, will give Presentation 1 on our General Plan informational.

ASSISTANT
PLANNER PALMER All right, good evening, commissioners. So tonight, I'm going to give you a presentation on the General Plan. Tonight's agenda is going to be going over the General Plan and overview, the Housing, Safety and Infrastructure Elements. So, what is the General Plan? According to the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, or LCI Division, about how the community can grow, reflecting the community's benefit, priorities and values while shaping the future. It's for the physical development of the City, and it expresses the development goals that embody public policy relative to the distribution of future land uses. Mandatory elements of a General Plan include Land Use Circulation, Housing, and Conservation. As well as Open Space, Noise, Safety, and Environmental Justice. The General Plan is organized, kind of in any way you'd like, it's very flexible as long as it has all of the mandatory elements that are required by law. It can reflect the unique character of a community. Irwindale is unique in having its mining pits, so that's definitely something that is unique to our General Plan. The criteria needs to be comprehensive, have consistency and a long term

perspective, and can be organized by way of values, themes, policies or goals. Whichever order or whichever you'd like to do, the General Plan can have it, as long as all the required elements are addressed. So, I did mention the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation. This was previously known as OPR or the Office of Planning and Research. This office was created in 1970, and it is part of the Office of the Governor. It serves for long range planning and climate research, and is a comprehensive State planning agency. Recommendations from this body, there are four (4) themes that they like to have climate change, economics, healthy communities, and equitable opportunities. The State itself has its own priorities, which are reflected by LCI. These include the promotion of infill development and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure. As well as to protect the states natural and working lands, and to develop in a manner that limits urban sprawl and limits the cost to the taxpayers. Before I move on to our next section, the Housing Element, do we have any questions so far? So, the Housing Element is required per the State laws for General Plans, and the purpose of it is to ensure that local governments adequately plan to conserve, rehabilitate, and promote the development of housing that meets existing and projected needs. The Housing Element establishes programs, policies and land use strategies that help to meet RHNA or Regional Housing Needs Allocations. Comes from the regional housing needs assessment from the HCD, which is the Housing and Community Development Department for the State. It's a quantification of the existing and projected housing needs for all people, regardless of income. HCD assigns this goal to SCAG, which is the Southern California Association of Governments, and SCAG allocates that housing goal to the cities and counties of its region. The housing needs are allocated by determining household growth, job availability, and transit availability. For the 2021 to 2029 sixth cycle, Irwindale's RHNA allocation is 119 residential units. Housing Elements must show what the location and extent of future housing, how the City's share of housing will be provided, quantified objectives for new housing, and how government constraints can be limited for development. Here we have a map of the residential neighborhoods here in Irwindale, for your viewing pleasure. Summary, the housing element shouldn't only meet the State and regional requirements but should reflect that of the community. In the meantime, Staff will continue efforts that identify housing opportunities pursuant to these elements policies and will maintain consistency with the other General Plan Elements, to ensure that they always interrelate. Any questions for the Housing Element?

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA

I have a quick question on the allocation for the residential units, is that determined just by the, like it says here... I guess is that the number that SCAG comes up with that they determine for the City?

ASSISTANT
PLANNER PALMER

Yeah. So that's based off the determination of the... I can go back to that slide. The household growth, job availability, and transit availability. So, SCAG just allocates depending on how many cities and counties are in its region. And then depending on the household growth and then job and transit availability, that's how they allocate how much housing each city needs. Up next is our Safety Element. This is typically called the Safety Element and Noise Element in the State's mandatory elements. However, the City of Irwindale uses the term Public Safety Element to describe this, and it combines the two. It focuses on a reduction in mitigation of both natural and man-made hazards, as well as noise issues to people and property. Key issues in this element include flooding, seismic hazards and exposure to high level of noise. Public safety in this element addresses policies and programs that are designed to alleviate risk in the City, as well as to discuss what agencies provide emergency services. The presence of large industrial activities and open pit mining requires special consideration, while we evaluate hazards in this City. We try to maintain the highest level of readiness to respond to disasters and/or emergencies, as well as to reduce high levels of noise exposure associated with the existing development and transportation facilities throughout the City. This element includes public safety resources, geologic and seismic setting, flood risk, hazardous materials, characteristics of sound, and air quality. The City does have some major active faults that run through or near it, specifically the Duarte and Sierra Madre faults, however, there have not been any major activity on these faults since the late twentieth century. Here from our element, you can see the flood and inundation risk, the risk is mostly associated with areas nearby the San Gabriel River and Live Oak Creek, as well as the Santa Fe Dam and spreading grounds. In the event of an emergency, the evacuation routes in the City are the major thoroughfares: Foothill Boulevard, Irwindale Avenue, Arrow Highway and Live Oak Avenue. There are numerous programs in this element for public safety. These include the likes of code enforcement, fire prevention, environmental reviews, hazard mitigation plans, and health and safety management, to name a few. The City has emergency operations through its Emergency Operations Plan, known as our EOP. And this provides a strategic guidance for response and recovery to a full range of emergencies, both man-made and natural. It conforms with the California Standardized Emergency Management system and the National Incident Management system. We also have the Continuity Of Operations Plan known as the COOP. This provides a framework that effectively responds to any event that threatens business operations in the City, and focuses on a restoration of mission critical functions, minimization of disruptions, and identification of workarounds. So, the noise portion of this element revolves around the existing noise concerns, in order to protect residents from excessive noises. Sources of noise in the City fall into five categories, the Foothill and San Gabriel River freeways, aircraft, major and minor arterial roads, rail lines and stationary sources. The traffic noise in the City can be measured through noise levels in decibels, L10, L50, and L90. L10 is the maximum noise level, L50 is typical noise, and L90 is background noise. On the right we have a chart showing this decibel range. The

City usually experiences decibels in the range between normal conversations and portable fans or roadway traffic. This map comes from that element and shows what future noise exposures in the City. The orange and bluish-purple zones represent noise sensitive areas and the yellow represents areas that may see increased noises or noise levels.

COMMISSIONER
MIRANDA

Jarrold, how often and is it already metered all the time? Or when do they measure it, these levels?

ASSISTANT
PLANNER PALMER

The noise, how's it measured? I'm not sure how often it's measured. I don't know if we have any noise monitoring stations in the City.

COMMISSIONER
MIRANDA

Who is it measured by?

ASSISTANT
PLANNER PALMER

I'm not sure if engineering might know. Brandi has an answer.

COMMISSIONER
MIRANDA

She's got an answer all the time. She's got it.

SENIOR PLANNER
JONES

I'll try to answer, but when that latest version of the General Plan was done, which I believe was the 2008. So, during the analysis, for example with the environmental, there would have been some measurements done. Also, when if we get a complaint about noise currently Code Enforcement will go out with their equipment to measure the noise levels.

COMMISSIONER
MIRANDA

What kind of device do they use?

SENIOR PLANNER
JONES

I don't know, it's a noise measuring device, so it does measure in decibels. So that comes in handy.

COMMISSIONER
MIRANA

Thank you.

SENIOR PLANNER
JONES

You're welcome.

ASSISTANT
PLANNER PALMER

Thank you, Brandi. Well, that was the last part of that element. So were there any other questions, about the Safety Element? Okay, our last element for tonight is the Circulation Element. The City of Irwindale refers to this as the Infrastructure Element. It includes both infrastructure, utilities and facilities, as well as circulation, and it's a guide to the ongoing development of the City's roads. Identifying the general location and extent of existing and proposed thoroughfares, transit routes and other utilities, as well as correlating with the land use and public safety elements. So, it's divided into three sections. This element has an introduction for an overview of scope, a profile for an

overview of the existing infrastructure, circulation, and traffic conditions, and a plan to identify policies and programs that can help implement and establish standards and programs that are designed to improve the traffic and circulation in the City. So, for the introduction, this element describes the road system that's needed to serve traffic generated by the permitted land uses. Traffic forecasts that are used to determine future traffic noise levels and airborne emissions for our Public Safety Element, and responds to regional transportation plans, focusing on the development of regional transportation systems with future demand in mind. The profile of this element describes the existing system of roadways and facilities in the City, considering regional access, existing traffic volumes and characteristics of the City streets. It's measured through Levels of Service or LOS. You may be familiar with VMT or Vehicle Miles Traveled in the environmental documents you read. That is the more modern use. The City, though, in this element at the time, was rated a D for Irwindale's standard for intersections. This is fair, so that's a good rating. We're rated E for our threshold standard, which is for the general area, not just the City of Irwindale, but surrounding cities as well. And rated C for the standard for individual road segments. So, we're rated good for road segments in the City. This element also talks about the bridges in the City. We have twenty-one. It also addresses public transit, such as Foothill Transit, LA Metro, and Access LA van service. Lastly, it addresses the utilities of infrastructure such as electricity, gas, communications, water, sewage, and storm drainage.

COMMISSIONER
MIRANDA

Regarding the last slide, please. Perhaps you have an answer, I'm not sure. You mentioned D that was fair, I wish that was true in high school, but I wanted to know what are we doing to mitigate that or improve those these things that were lower on thresholds standards for instance and making it better situations for the roadways. Is there a plan enforced to make that happen?

ASSISTANT
PLANNER PALMER

I'm not sure. I mean this element was last updated in 2008, I believe, with the rest of the General Plan...

COMMISSIONER
MIRANDA

Okay, so we're this is the this we're... I gotcha. Okay, so.

ASSISTANT
PLANNER PALMER

So, Engineering may have a statement on that.

ASSISTANT
ENGINEER
PIMENTEL

Hello Commission, I could probably talk a little bit about that. So whenever a new development comes in or anything that comes in when we do the CEQA analysis, VMT is studied but also, we do still do a Level of Service analysis. That way we can see what the level of service will be with those new developments that come in, and then we can propose Mitigation Measures to improve our infrastructure, whether it be at an intersection level or a corridor level. So, we can implement some sort of improvements that will help decrease those added capacities and kind of keep it at that fair level or close to it as possible.

COMMISSIONER
MIRANDA New developments come in; we help change that.

ASSISTANT
ENGINEER
PIMENTEL Correct, correct.

COMMISSIONER
MIRANDA Got it. That great.

ASSISTANT
ENGINEER
PIMENTEL So it maintains until we get something that comes into the City. Once something affects it, then we have to look at it more and then Mitigation Measures are put in place to make sure that we can take care of that.

COMMISSIONER
MIRANDA That's great, thank you.

ASSISTANT
PLANNER PALMER And a thank you to Luis. So, the last section of the infrastructure is the plan. This has policies in place to maintain the highest standards of service with respect to circulation and infrastructure, as well as to improve the safe and efficient circulation in the City. There are numerous programs in the element, including Caltrans coordination, enforcement of truck parking, public transit review programs, signalization, and truck route planning. Roadways are classified as four (4) types. We have major arterials, secondary highways, collector roads, and local streets. This table shows more specifics on how these are designated. The main function of the circulation system is to provide access to property, as well as to accommodate the transport of both people and goods in and through the City. And here we have a map from that element that shows at the time the roads and their classifications. So that's the end of Presentation 1. I'll ask for questions in a second. But I just wanted to let you guys know, the Commission, that we will have another meeting in May 21st that will be General Plan Presentation 2 going over the Land Use, Resource Management, and Environmental Justice Elements as well as some further information if necessary.

COMMISSIONER
MIRANDA Would that be a better question to wait for that, regarding some of the mining we're doing here. Would that be a better time for that?

ASSISTANT
PLANNER PALMER Yeah, we can address that in the next meeting. If you would like.

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA Thank you very much Jarrod.

ASSISTANT
PLANNER PALMER You're welcome. Oh, Brandi just reminded me. There is a flyer on your dais, just has some helpful resources and links, so if you want to research some more about what we talked about tonight you can go look that up. And there will be another one for next presentation with links on those topics.

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA

Thank you, Jarrod. Okay, we're going to move on to Number 6, the Community Development Director Report.

**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR REPORT**

SENIOR PLANNER
BRANDI JONES

Good evening. I have three (3) quick updates. So, there's a flyer that Jarrod prepared for emergency preparedness. So that's for either at home or at work, so that should be pretty helpful, especially since we just had an earthquake recently. And on May 8th, we have two (2) events. We have the Budget Workshop, which will be here at 4:30pm, and we also have the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at 7:30am at Southern California Edison.

COMMISSIONER
MIRANDA

When is this again?

SENIOR PLANNER
BRANDI JONES

May 8th.

COMMISSIONER
MIRANDA

May 8th. Thank you.

SENIOR PLANNER
BRANDI JONES

And that's it.

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA

I'm sorry. Brandi, the workshop was May 8th, at what time?

SENIOR PLANNER
BRANDI JONES

4:30pm in the Council Chamber.

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA

Thank you. Anything else?

SENIOR PLANNER
BRANDI JONES

That's it.

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA

Alright. Go on to Number 7, Legal Counsel Comments.

**LEGAL COUNSEL
COMMENTS**

ASSISTANT
ATTORNEY
TRAXLER

Yes, thank you, Vice Chair. This is just a reminder and save the date to you all if you're planning on attending the Contract Cities Conference out in Palm Desert, May 15th in the evening, the City Attorney's Office will be hosting a dinner and you are all invited. So, we will be finalizing the details and sending you a formal invite probably by the end of the week.

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA

Great. Thank you. Alright. Number 8, Commissioner Comments.

**COMMISSIONER
COMMENTS**

VICE CHAIR
ACOSTA

Do we have any comments? No. Okay, I just want to thank the staff for their time and for their work on that presentation. And if we don't have anything further, I guess that'll I'll be adjourning in the meeting at 7:01pm.

ADJOURNMENT
7:01 p.m

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at



Maricela Frymark, Planning Commission Chair

Attest:



Jesus Hernandez, Administrative Secretary

Approved as presented at the meeting held May 21, 2025