



CITY OF EL CAJON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

NOTICE OF SCOPING MEETING AND PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: February 28, 2019

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

Lead Agency: City of El Cajon, Community Development Department
200 Civic Center Way, 3rd Floor
El Cajon, CA 92020
Contact: Melissa Devine or Lorena Cordova, Project Managers
Phone: 619-441-1742
E-Mail: mdevine@cityofelcajon.us or lcordova@cityofelcajon.us

Project Title: El Cajon Climate Action Plan

Project Location: Encompasses the entire jurisdiction of the City of El Cajon

Project Applicant: City of El Cajon

SCOPING MEETING

On March 18, 2019 starting at 6:00 P.M., the City of El Cajon Community Development Department will conduct a public scoping open house to solicit input and comments from public agencies and the general public on the proposed Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the El Cajon Climate Action Plan.

This meeting will be held at the Renette Recreation Center in the Meeting Room West, located at 935 Emerald Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92020. The open house meeting will run from 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., and interested parties may drop in during this time to discuss the project and submit verbal or written comments on the scope of the Draft EIR during the meeting. Representatives from the Community Development Department and the EIR consultant will be available to address questions regarding the EIR process.

Information is also available at: www.cityofelcajon.us/cap.

If you have any questions regarding this scoping meeting, please contact Melissa Devine or Lorena Cordova, Project Managers, via e-mail mdevine@cityofelcajon.us or lcordova@cityofelcajon.us or phone 619-441-1742.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP)

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), this is to notify public agencies and the general public that the City of El Cajon, as the Lead Agency, will prepare an EIR for the El Cajon Climate Action Plan (project). The City is interested in the input and/or comments of public agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information that will be studied in connection with the project. Public agencies may need to use the EIR prepared by the City when considering applicable permits or other approvals for the project. The general public is also encouraged to provide input on the scope of the EIR.

NOP Comment Period

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 5:00 P.M. on April 1, 2019. Please send your response to the City of El Cajon Community Development Department, c/o Melissa Devine, at the above address.

Project Background

The City of El Cajon proposes to prepare and adopt a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to both reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and help the community adapt to the effects of climate change in the City, consistent with State and local guidance. A CAP is a document that includes policies, measures, and strategies to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change, as well as to improve the health, safety, mobility, and livability of the greater community. The objectives of the CAP are to reduce GHG emissions, streamline project reviews consistent with CEQA by serving as a "qualified GHG reduction plan" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5, provide strategies for the community to use in adapting to the effects of climate change, and prioritize measures to comply with California environmental and land use planning laws.

Project Area

The City of El Cajon is in eastern San Diego County, east of the cities of San Diego and La Mesa, south of the City of Santee and about 15 miles inland (Figure 1).

The planning area for the CAP is the entire City of El Cajon, which encompasses approximately 14.4 square miles (Figure 2).

Project Description

The CAP has been prepared to be consistent with the requirements of AB 32 (2006), which tasked the California Air Resources Board (ARB) with developing a Climate Change Scoping Plan to establish an interim target to achieve 1990 levels of GHG emissions by 2020 and provide a path for local governments to contribute to the GHG reductions necessary to achieve the target and SB 32 (2016), which requires a 2030 statewide GHG reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels.

To achieve these objectives and align with the State's 2020 and 2030 targets, the CAP will:

- ▶ include a summary of baseline GHG emissions and forecasted growth of these emissions in 2020 and 2030;
- ▶ identify GHG emissions reduction targets and goals to reduce the City's GHG emissions in 2020 and 2030; and
- ▶ identify and evaluate strategies, measures, and actions to comply with statewide GHG reduction targets and goals.

The CAP will also be used for future project-specific environmental documents by maintaining consistency with the tiering and streamlining provisions of Section 15183.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Where projects are determined to be consistent with the CAP, the EIR will provide the appropriate level of environmental review to allow future projects to tier from and streamline their analyses of GHG emissions pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(2).

As part of ongoing implementation and monitoring of the CAP, the CAP strategies, measures, and actions will be assessed and monitored. Reporting on the status of the actions, periodic updates to the GHG emissions inventory, and other monitoring activities will provide the mechanisms to ensure that the City is making progress towards the CAP's stated goals.

The CAP will also include provisions for how the City's operations contribute to GHG reductions through local actions and operations.

The CAP will consider GHG reduction strategies for the following sectors:

- ▶ On-Road Transportation
- ▶ Off-Road Transportation
- ▶ Building Energy (Electricity & Natural Gas)
- ▶ Solid Waste
- ▶ Water and Wastewater

The proposed GHG Reduction Measures and Adaption Measures under consideration for inclusion in the Draft CAP are listed in Attachment A of this NOP. This list of proposed measures is a good faith attempt at disclosing project details at the time the NOP is prepared, and the list may be modified or changed in the Draft CAP document or as a result of public comments on the Draft CAP.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

Adoption of the CAP and Certification of the EIR

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT:

Pursuant to CEQA and California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15064, the discussion of potential effects on the environment in the EIR shall be focused on those impacts that the City has determined may be potentially significant. The EIR will also evaluate the cumulative impacts of the project when considered in conjunction with other related past, current, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. The City has determined that the project could result in potential environmental impacts in the following topic areas, which will be further evaluated in the EIR:

- ▶ Aesthetics,
- ▶ Air Quality,
- ▶ Biological Resources,
- ▶ Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources,
- ▶ Greenhouse Gas Emissions,
- ▶ Energy,
- ▶ Noise, and
- ▶ Transportation and Traffic.

CEQA allows a lead agency to limit the detail of discussion of the environmental effects that are not considered potentially significant (PRC Section 21100, CCR Sections 15126.2[a] and 15128). CEQA requires that the discussion of any significant effect on the environment be limited to substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse changes in physical conditions that exist within the affected area, as defined in PRC Section 21060.5 (statutory definition of "environment"). Environmental issue areas scoped out of the focused EIR will include an explanation of why these issues would not result in significant environmental effects and are not required to be evaluated further. Environmental issue areas that would be scoped out of the focused EIR are listed below.

- ▶ Agricultural and Forest Resources
- ▶ Geology and Soils
- ▶ Hazards and Hazardous Materials,
- ▶ Hydrology and Water Quality
- ▶ Land Use and Planning
- ▶ Mineral Resources
- ▶ Population and Housing
- ▶ Public Services
- ▶ Recreation, and
- ▶ Utilities and Service Systems

Alternatives to be Evaluated in the EIR

In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR Section 15126.6), the EIR will describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project that are capable of meeting most of the project's objectives and that would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project. The EIR will also identify any alternatives that were considered but rejected by the lead agency as infeasible and briefly explain the reasons why. The EIR will provide an analysis of the No Project Alternative and will also identify the environmentally superior alternative.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The NOP is available for public review at the following locations:

City of El Cajon
Community Development Dept.
200 Civic Center Way
El Cajon, CA 92020

El Cajon Branch Library
201 East Douglas Ave
El Cajon, CA 92020

Fletcher Hills Branch Library
576 Garfield Avenue
El Cajon, CA 92020

The NOP is also available for public review online at: www.cityofelcagon.us/cap

Figures

Figure 1: Regional Map

Figure 2: Planning Area

Attachments

Attachment A: Proposed GHG Reduction Strategies, Measures, and Actions under Consideration

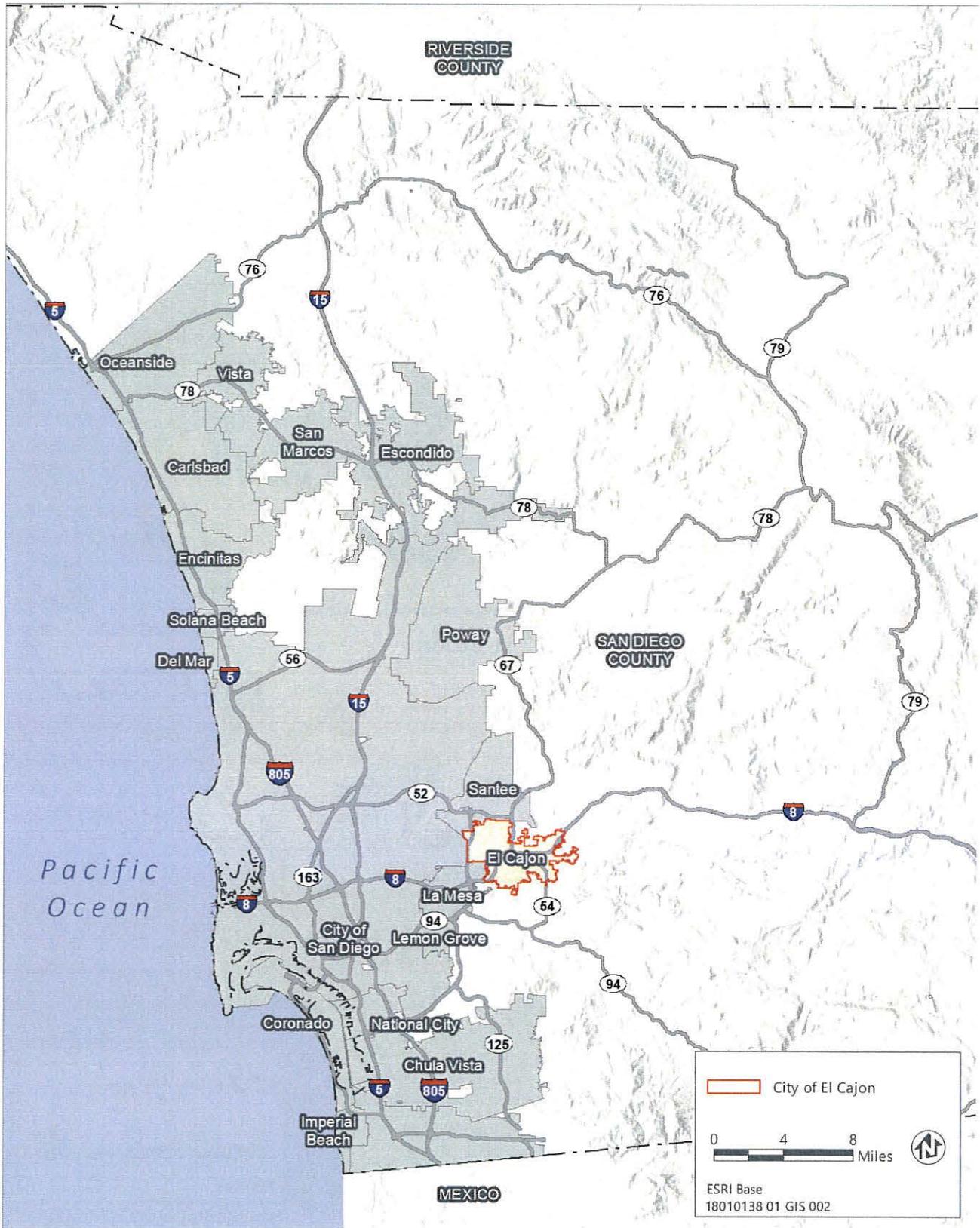


Figure 1 Regional Location

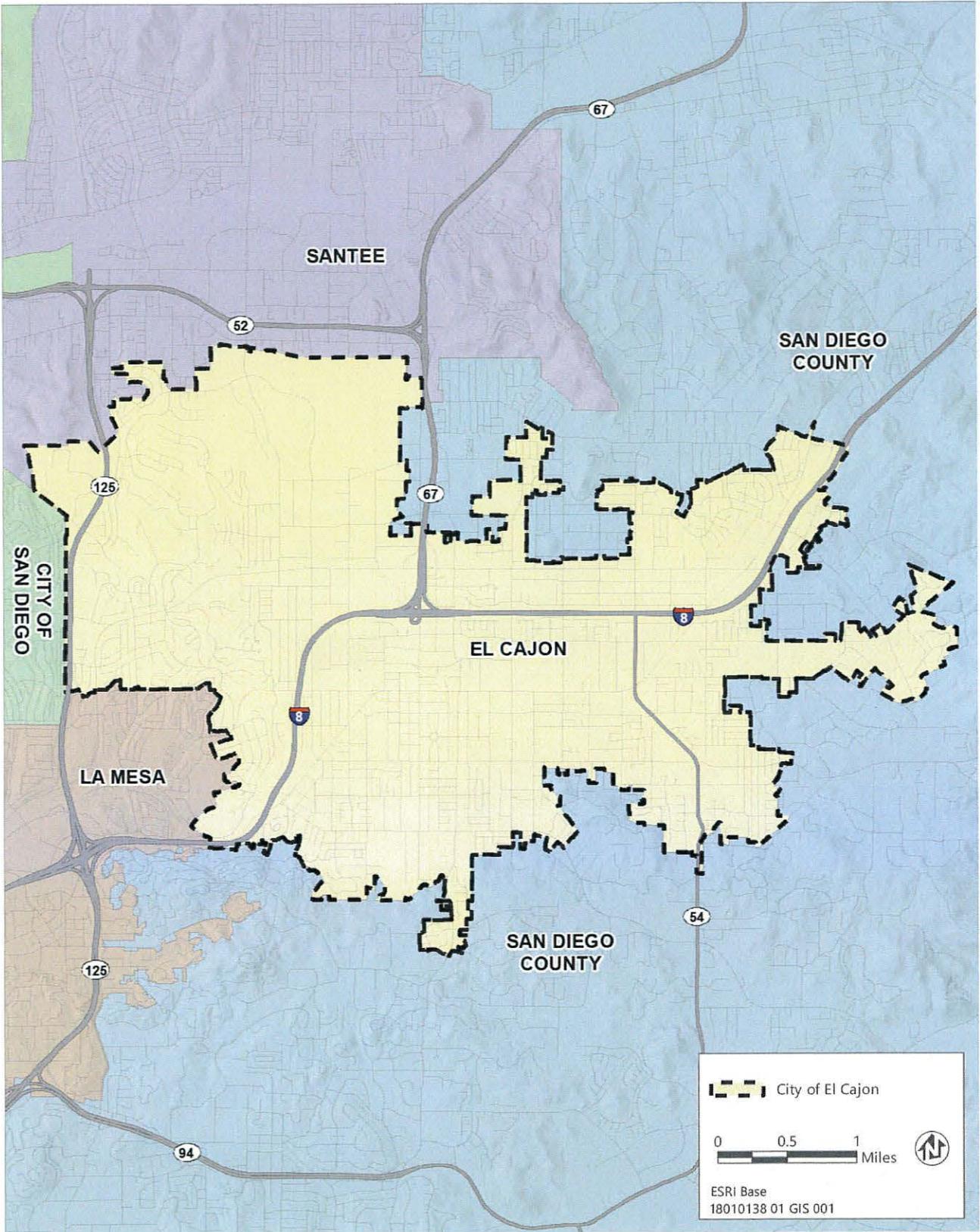


Figure 2 Planning Area

Attachment A

**Proposed GHG Reduction Strategies,
Measures, and Actions Under
Consideration**



Number	GHG Strategies, Measures, and Actions
Strategy 1	Increase Use of Zero Emission/Alternative Fuel Vehicles
T-1	Transition to a More Fuel-Efficient Municipal Vehicle Fleet
T-1.1	Develop a Fleet Management Program
T-2	Increase Electric Vehicle and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Citywide
T-2.1	Install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
T-2.2	Incentivize the Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
T-2.3	Increase Preferential Parking Spaces
T-2.4	Convert School Bus Fleet to Electric
Strategy 2	Reduce Fuel Use
T-3	Improve Fuel Use Efficiency Through Transportation Systems Management
T-3.1	Increase the Number of Synchronized Traffic Lights and Roundabouts
T-4	Improve Fuel Use Efficiency in Construction Equipment
T-4.1	Increase Renewable and Alternative Fuel in Construction Equipment
Strategy 3	Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled
T-5	Increase Use of Alternative Modes of Travel
T-5.1	Increase Alternative Modes of Travel Through Transportation Demand Management
T-6	Encourage Active Transportation
T-6.1	Complete an Active Transportation Plan
T-7	Reduce Household Vehicle Miles Traveled Through Smart Growth Development
T-7.1	Increase Residential Dwelling Units in Transit Oriented Development Areas
T-7.2	Encourage Development in Mixed-Use Residential Overlay Areas
T-7.3	Implement the Transit District Specific Plan
T-7.4	Transition to an Online Submittal Permitting System
Strategy 4	Increase Building Energy Efficiency
BE-1	Increase Residential Building Efficiency
BE-1.1	Require Energy Audits of Existing Residential Additions
BE-1.2	Continue the Critical Home Repair Program
BE-2	Increase Commercial Building Efficiency
BE-2.1	Require Energy Audits of Non-Residential Additions
BE-3	Increase Municipal Operation Energy Efficiency
BE-3.1	Continue Energy Efficiency Projects in Municipal Facilities
BE-3.2	Retrofit High Pressure Sodium Street Lights
Strategy 5	Increase Renewable Energy
RE-1	Increase Behind-the-Meter Renewable Energy Supply
RE-1.1	Incentivize Photovoltaic Installation on Commercial Buildings
RE-1.2	Install Photovoltaic Systems at School Sites
RE-2	Increase Grid Renewable Electricity
RE-2.1	Establish or Join a Program that Increases Renewable Electricity Supply
Strategy 6	Increase Water Efficiency

Number	GHG Strategies, Measures, and Actions
WE-1	Increase Outdoor Water Efficiency
WE-1.1	Require Covers on New Pools
WE-1.2	Require Weather-Based Irrigation Systems
Strategy 7	Reduce and Recycle Solid Waste
SW-1	Reduce Solid Waste and Increase Recycling
SW-1.1	Implement Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Targets
Strategy 8	Carbon Sequestration
CS-1	Increase Urban Tree Planting
CS-1.1	Increase Shaded Landscape Area
CS-1.2	Increase Tree Shade in Surface Parking Lots