



Notice of Preparation of Availability of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) is the lead agency has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: BCAG has developed a 2020 update to the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to guide future transportation projects and to facilitate a land use scenario for the region that is consistent with the requirements of Senate Bill 375 (SB 375).

PROJECT LOCATION: The geographical extent of the proposed 2020 RTP-SCS includes the area within the limits of Butte County, California, including the incorporated cities of Biggs, Chico, Gridley, Oroville, and Paradise, and all unincorporated areas under the jurisdiction of the County of Butte. The attached figure shows the 2020 RTP/SCS plan area.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT: BCAG is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the analysis and proposed mitigation measures described in the Draft 2020 RTP/SCS Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR), which is a supplement to the 2016 RTP Program EIR (State Clearinghouse # 2015092038). You may comment by submitting written comments to BCAG prior to the close of public comment which ends on November 22, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

PROJECT DETAILS: The proposed project is the Butte County 2020 RTP/SCS, which updates BCAG's previous 2016 RTP adopted in December 2016. BCAG, as both the federally-designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and the State-designated regional transportation planning agency (RTPA) for Butte County, is required by both federal and State law to prepare a long-range (at least 20-year) transportation planning document known as a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP is an action-oriented document used to achieve a coordinated and balanced regional transportation system. California Government Code Section 65080 et seq. and Title 23 United States Code (USC) Section 134 require Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA) and MPO to prepare long-range transportation plans to: 1) establish regional goals, 2) identify present and future needs, deficiencies and constraints, 3) analyze potential solutions, 4) estimate available funding, and 5) propose investments. State Statutes require that the RTP serve as the foundation for the short-range transportation planning documents: the Regional and Federal Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIP and FTIP).

The 2020 RTP/SCS is the long-range planning, policy, action, and financial document for the Butte County Region. The RTP/SCS covers a 20-year period from 2020 to 2040 and is an update of the 2016 RTP/SCS. The RTP/SCS identifies the region's transportation needs and issues and sets forth actions, programs, and projects to address those needs and issues. The RTP/SCS adopts policies, sets goals, and identifies financial resources to encourage and promote the safe and efficient management, operation, and development of a regional intermodal transportation system that would serve the mobility needs of goods and people. As described above, BCAG does not propose any land use changes, but rather the land use patterns envisioned by the RTP/SCS are based on the General Plan land use and zoning designations of the local agencies (the five incorporated cities and the county). The RTP/SCS would be consistent with the land use and zoning designations in the incorporated and unincorporated areas. The

2020 RTP/SCS reflects changes in legislative requirements, local land use policies, and resource constraints since the most recent RTP was adopted on December 8, 2016. The 2020 update to the RTP/SCS is focused on implementation of the 2016 RTP, with minor updates to ensure consistency with federal, state and local planning requirements.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: BCAG has prepared a Draft SEIR pursuant to requirements of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The SEIR has been prepared because of the potential for unavoidable, significant adverse effects resulting from program implementation. The SEIR prepared for the 2020 RTP/SCS identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts, and monitoring requirements for issue areas that were not previously covered by the 2016 EIR or for which the 2020 RTP/SCS would have different impacts than were previously analyzed in the 2016 EIR. Additional significant and unavoidable effects of the 2020 RTP/SCS not previously identified in the 2016 EIR are anticipated in the following areas:

- Transportation and Circulation; and
- Wildfire

If the project description changes, BCAG will require a reevaluation of the SEIR to consider the changes. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed 2020 RTP/SCS.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: If a copy of the SEIR is not attached, the SEIR may be obtained and all documents referenced in the SEIR may be reviewed at the BCAG office located at: 326 Huss Drive, Suite 150, Chico, California 95928. In addition, the SEIR and Draft RTP are available online at <http://www.bcag.org/Planning/RTP--SCS/2020-RTPSCS-EIR/index.html>.

HOW TO COMMENT: Because of the time sensitive nature of the regional transportation planning process, we request your response at the earliest possible date. Please mail comments to Iván García at **BCAG, 326 Huss Drive, Chico, CA 95928** or e-mail comments to igarcia@bcag.org no later than **November 22, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

If representing an agency, please identify the agency name and appropriate contact name, phone number, and email address. Comments from the public must include name, phone number, and email or postal address. Please limit comments to environmental issues evaluated in the Draft SEIR such as traffic, biology, noise, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public meetings to consider project approval or denial. BCAG is expected to consider certification of the SEIR and approval of the 2020 RTP/SCS at its board meeting on December 10, 2020. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. at the BCAG Board Room, 326 Huss Drive, Suite 100, Chico, California, 95928.

For more information, visit <http://www.bcag.org/Planning/RTP--SCS/2020-RTPSCS-EIR/index.html> or call 530-809-4616.