



CITY OF VACAVILLE

NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) FOR THE GENERAL PLAN TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT UPDATE AND ENERGY AND CONSERVATION ACTION STRATEGY UPDATE PROJECT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)

COMMENT PERIOD: September 28, 2020 through October 27 2020

All persons and public agencies are invited to submit written comments as to the scope and content of the EIR.

The City of Vacaville (City) will be the Lead Agency and will prepare a Supplement to the City's 2015 General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR), herein referred to as a Supplemental EIR (SEIR) for a proposed update of the City's 2015 General Plan Transportation Element and Energy and Conservation Action Strategy ("proposed project"). The City is requesting input as to the scope and content of the environmental information in the Draft SEIR.

In 2013, Senate Bill (SB) 743 was signed into law. SB 743 is intended to promote the state's goals of encouraging infill development, alternative transportation, and reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To promote these goals SB 743 directed the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to consider new methods of evaluating transportation impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as an alternative to existing measures of congestion and delay (typically expressed as level-of-service). As a result of SB 743, the CEQA Guidelines were revised to identify vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as the most appropriate metric to evaluate a project's transportation impacts, effective July 1, 2020. The City proposes to update its General Plan Transportation Element policies to implement the VMT impact metric. The City's proposed VMT standard of significance would generally be based on the recommendations of OPR, as described in *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA* (OPR, December 2018).

The City is not proposing any changes to the General Plan's adopted land use plan. The project location includes the City limits and the planning area identified in the City's 2015 General Plan.

This General Plan Update will include modifications to the General Plan goals, policies, and objectives to incorporate VMT as the primary transportation metric, while also describing the extent to which other transportation metrics (e.g., level of service) may still be applicable. The General Plan update will also include an evaluation of project-specific VMT throughout the City under a buildout condition.

In addition, as part of this project, the City's Energy and Conservation Action Strategy (ECAS), which includes a long-range strategy to reduce GHG emissions and achieve greater conservation of resources with regard to transportation and land use, energy, water, solid waste, and open space would be updated to align with the state's goal of reducing statewide GHG emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. These two elements comprise the proposed project.

Environmental Effects: The Draft SEIR will analyze the environmental effects of the proposed project related to greenhouse gas emissions and transportation. Other environmental effects were adequately addressed in the 2015 General Plan EIR.

Send your comments no later than October 27, 2020 to: Christina Love, Senior Planner, City of Vacaville Community Development Department, 650 Merchant Street, Vacaville, CA 95688, or email christina.love@cityofvacaville.com. Ph: (707) 449-5140.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING: The City Planning Commission will hold a Scoping Meeting to solicit agency and public comments on the scope of the environmental issues to be addressed in the SEIR at their regularly scheduled meeting on October 20, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Please see the City website for Planning Commission agendas and how to participate remotely.

<https://www.ci.vacaville.ca.us/government/community-development/planning-commission>