![KCAG logo] **Kings County Association of Governments**

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Member Agencies: Cities of Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford and Lemoore, County of Kings

Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report for the
2022 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) is the lead agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). Pursuant to section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), KCAG is soliciting comments from all interested persons, responsible and trustees agencies, and organizations concerned with the project as to the scope and content of the of the EIR and the environmental information to be analyzed in connection with the proposed project.

The project description, location, environmental review requirements, and probable environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR are attached. The RTP will guide the development of the Regional and Federal Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP and FTIP) as well as other transportation programming documents and plans throughout the Kings County region. Specifically, the project will update the region's goals and policies for meeting current and future mobility needs and identify programs, actions, and revised plan of projects intended to address these needs consistent with adopted goals and policies.

The SCS is required by California Senate Bill 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protections Act of 2008 (SB 375). SB 375 mandates regional greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets for passenger vehicles and light-duty trucks. Pursuant to that law, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has established 2020 and 2035 GHG reduction targets for each region covered by one of the state's metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). As the MPO for the Kings County region, KCAG is required to prepare an SCS or Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) that demonstrates how GHG reduction targets will (or, in the case of an APS, can) be met through integrated land use, housing, and transportation planning. KCAG will identify multiple potential growth scenarios with the goal of meeting the SB 375 mandates.

KCAG will hold a public information/EIR Scoping Meeting on **Wednesday November 3, 2021 at 1:00 pm** via Zoom. The following option is available to members of the public to attend the scoping meeting via Zoom:

By Teleconference: Zoom Meeting Direct Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89835449890

Click the link above and follow the prompts to join the meeting (see Meeting ID and Passcode below).

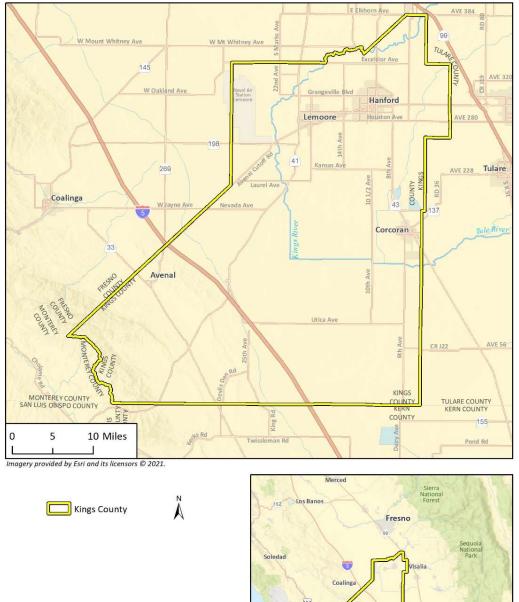**Meeting ID**: 898 3544 9890
Passcode: 148858

The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input on the scope and content of the environmental analysis that will be included in the Programmatic EIR, to inform the public of the updates to the RTP and SCS, as well as solicit public input on the RTP and SCS, including changes to the preferred future scenario for the SCS from a range of transportation and land use alternatives.

The 30-day public review and comment period will commence on October 20, 2021 and conclude November 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Public comments may be submitted in writing by 5:00 p.m. on November 18, 2021, to Christopher Xiong at the address below.

Contact Person: Christopher Xiong, Regional Planner
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For more information, visit the KCAG website: https://www.kingscog.org/.

Project Location:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Project Title
The project is referred to as the 2022 KCAG RTP/SCS. This Programmatic EIR will be prepared to evaluate the update to the KCAG Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Project Location
The geographical extent of the updated RTP/SCS includes the area within the limits of Kings County, California, including the incorporated cities Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford, Lemoore, and all unincorporated areas under the jurisdiction of the County of Kings. KCAG as the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Kings County, is required to prepare a long-range transportation planning document known as the RTP/SCS. The RTP/SCS is an action-oriented document used to achieve a coordinated and balanced regional transportation system. Within the RTP/SCS, capital improvement projects are identified and are primarily located on state highways, county roads and locally owned streets, as well as on transit district property.

Project Description
The proposed project is the 2022 KCAG RTP/SCS, which will be an update to the 2018 RTP/SCS. KCAG, by state and federal mandate, is required to develop a comprehensive minimum 20-year plan for the region's transportation system. The 2022 RTP/SCS will cover the planning period through the year 2046. The EIR is intended to comply with CEQA. It will also require coordination with or reference to: Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (Title 23 SFR Parts 450 and 500) (FAST Act); the Federal Clean Air Act; the California Clean Air Act; California SB 375; California SB 743; California Assembly Bill 32, and California Senate Bill 32. The EIR will consider the 2022 RTP/SCS programmed projects and preferred SCS scenario, a No Project alternative, the SCS alternative scenarios carried forward, and any alternatives to address identified significant impact. The EIR will evaluate the potential impacts of implementing the policies and programs in the RTP in accordance with CEQA and will concentrate on the long-term environmental impacts of the RTP/SCS that extend to the 2046 planning horizon.

The 2022 RTP/SCS EIR will be prepared as a program-level document that analyzes the effects of proposed actions for all modes of transportation, including other issues and concerns such as transportation control measures and demand management and intelligent transportation systems. As a Programmatic EIR, it will be prepared at a level of detail necessary to facilitate effective tiering by lead agencies for future transportation and development projects, particularly regarding potential SB 375 streamlining.

Issues to Be Addressed in the EIR
The impact categories listed below have been preliminarily identified for analysis.

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forest Resources
- Air Quality/GHG Emissions
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources/Tribal Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Environmental Justice
- Geology
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

In addition, the EIR will address cumulative impacts, growth inducing impacts, and other issues required by CEQA.

After the Draft EIR is circulated for public review, responses are provided to all public comments received, and a Final EIR is prepared, the KCAG Board will ultimately consider the Programmatic EIR for the 2022 KCAG RTP/SCS and approve the adoption of the EIR.

CEQA Streamlining

SB 375 contains incentives, or streamlining provision, to encourage coordinated land use and transportation planning. Certain types of development projects (i.e., transit priority projects or residential/mixed use residential projects, as defined by the statute) may qualify for CEQA streamlining as long as the requisite criteria are met. Generally, meeting such criteria means that the proposed project is determined to be consistent with an adopted SCS. Consistency will be determined by the local jurisdiction that is the lead agency for each project to be streamlined. KCAG's primary role is to include appropriate information in the SCS, such as land use information as required by SB 375 and/or guidance to aid in interpreting land use information that will allow a jurisdiction to make a consistency determination with respect to appropriate streamlining option on project-by-project basis.