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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **SWP-4**

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: September 20, 2022

TO: California Office of Planning and Research, Responsible and Trustee Agencies and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meeting for a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

PROJECT: San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan (SGVGNSIP)

LEAD AGENCY: County of Los Angeles

REVIEW PERIOD: September 20, 2022, to October 20, 2022

The County of Los Angeles (County), through the Department of Public Works (Public Works), is the Lead Agency and will prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the proposed San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Implementation Plan (SGVGNSIP or Plan) identified in this notice. The Project description, location, and the probable environmental effects are discussed below. An Initial Study was not prepared since the County determined that a PEIR would be necessary as permitted by Section 15060(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Public Works is soliciting input from interested persons and agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be evaluated in the SGVGNSIP PEIR. In accordance with CEQA, agencies are requested to review the Project Description in this NOP and provide their comments on environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of the agency. The PEIR will be used by the County's governing Board — the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors — when considering approval of the proposed SGVGNSIP as well as any related discretionary actions.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The NOP can be viewed online at <https://www.sgvgreenway.org/project-documents>. Future SGVGNSIP documents, including the Plan and PEIR, will also be made available at this website.

SUBMITTAL OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

In accordance with CEQA State Guidelines Section 15082, this NOP is being circulated for a 30-day comment period. Public Works requests that written comments on the NOP be provided at the earliest possible date, **but are due no later 5 p.m. on October 20, 2022.**

Please send your written/typed comments to Public Works to the physical address or e-mail address shown below. In your comments, please include your name, agency, email address, telephone number, address, and **Subject Line: SGVGNSIP PEIR Scoping Comment** at the top of your comment.

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SCOPING MEETING

Public Works will hold an online scoping meeting for the Proposed SGVGNSIP to receive comments on the scope and content of the proposed PEIR. The scoping meeting will include a brief presentation providing an overview of the proposed Project and the CEQA process. The scoping meeting will be held as follows:

Date: October 4, 2022
Time: 4:00 PM
Location: Online, meeting link at:
<https://www.sgvgreenway.org/events/view/232>

PROJECT LOCATION

The SGVGNSIP study area is the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) rights-of-way (ROW) and adjacent parcels along 15 washes and creeks in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) in eastern Los Angeles County (Figure 1, attached).

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2017, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution “to create a network of interconnected, multi-use community greenways” by updating the County’s flood control systems along the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo River watersheds in the SGV. The SGVGNSIP integrates multiple previous planning and design efforts focusing on parks and open space, flood control, green infrastructure and water quality and transportation projects. The SGVGNSIP expands on the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' ongoing Active Transportation Planning Initiative - Greenway Feasibility Study and identifies areas of opportunity and creates an implementation framework for creating multi-benefit projects that advances the goals of Plan that were developed with the various stakeholder and partner agencies.

The SGVGNSIP development process included a comprehensive community engagement program, in addition to input from the SGV Greenway Network steering committee and expertise from the technical design team. The three-pronged approach was designed to represent the broad range of interests within the San Gabriel Valley.

Thirty-two public meetings with the Steering Committee were held between April 2020 through September 2022 with the Public Works Project Management Team, the consultant, and the Steering Committee Members. The main objective was to gather feedback and discuss the various technical deliverables for the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan.

THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Pursuant to the CEQA, Public Resources Code, Sections 21000 *et seq.*, Public Works is initiating preparation of a PEIR to evaluate and disclose the potential impacts associated with the proposed Project, which is the SGVGNSIP.

The SGVGNSIP provides a plan to develop an active transportation and recreational corridor for bicyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians; beautify the LACFCD ROW; and enhance stormwater management and natural habitats around river channels, stormwater channels, washes, and creeks in the San Gabriel Valley.

Beneficial Project Elements that are covered in the PEIR include greenway paths; greenway trail amenities (e.g., shade structures, bike racks, informational signs, picnic tables, benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, decorative gates, lighting, etc.); pocket parks and greenspaces; safe crossings at roads, railroad tracks, and channels; stormwater management opportunities (e.g., permeable pavements, bioswales, stormwater detention basins, etc.).

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The purpose of the PEIR will be to disclose the environmental impacts of the proposed Project, which is the SGVGNSIP. Potential environmental effects to be examined in the PEIR are those related to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, hazards & hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities/service systems, and wildfire. Agriculture and forestry resources will not be analyzed in the PEIR because these resources are not present in the study area.

Detailed impacts resulting from both short-term construction and long-term operation of the SGVGNSIP will be identified in the PEIR; all elements will be analyzed at a program level. A brief discussion of the anticipated environmental impacts and environmental topics that will be examined in the PEIR is presented below. Pursuant to Section 15126 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the PEIR will discuss the potential significant environmental effects of the proposed project, significant environmental effects, which cannot be avoided if the proposed project is implemented, significant irreversible

environmental changes which would be involved in the proposed project should it be implemented, growth-inducing impact of the proposed project, mitigation measures proposed to minimize the significant effects, and alternatives to the project.

Aesthetics

The PEIR will describe the existing visual character of the proposed Project study area and surrounding areas, and it will identify key visual resources and scenic views. The probable impacts of the Project include substantial adverse effects on key visual resources and scenic vistas, potential conflicts with applicable zoning, and the potential to create new sources of substantial light or glare affecting day or nighttime views. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Air Quality

The PEIR will describe the existing air quality conditions in the South Coast Air Basin and will evaluate the impacts of the proposed Project in accordance with current South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) CEQA Guidelines. The probable air quality impacts of the Project include the potential to conflict with the air quality plan, potential to cause cumulatively considerable net increase in a criteria pollutant for which the Project region is a nonattainment area, potential to expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, and the potential to result in other emissions, such as those leading to odors. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Biological Resources

The PEIR will describe the existing biological resources in the Project area, discuss the impacts of the proposed Project on biological resources (plants, wildlife, and waters), and identify any conflicts with applicable local policies and ordinances protecting biological resources. Specifically, the probable biological resource impacts of the Project include the potential to have a substantial adverse effect on either any candidate, sensitive, or special-status species or riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in State, Federal, local, or regional plans, policies, or regulations. Other probable impacts could include a substantial adverse effect on State or Federally protected wetlands through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means; substantial interference with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Additionally, probable impacts related to conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources or the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan could occur. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Cultural Resources

The cultural resources (archaeology and built environment) analysis in the PEIR would analyze the potential impacts of the SGVNSIP, including establishing a process for future cultural resources identification and analysis at the project level, once project-specific locations are known, to ensure compliance with CEQA. The PEIR will describe steps to establish the locations of known cultural resources; recommend research and documentation steps needed to determine significance of resources in specific locations; and establish procedures for addressing local requirements. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Energy

The PEIR will include an analysis of energy consumption and consistency of the proposed SGVNSIP with State and local plans for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Potential energy impacts include the potential to waste energy from inefficient or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during Project construction or operation. Additionally, potential impacts could include the potential to conflict or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. The PEIR will analyze the Project's estimated consumption of energy resources, where feasible, during construction and operation, and would evaluate its consistency with State and local plans for renewable energy and energy efficiency. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Geology/Soils

The PEIR will describe the geologic and soil impacts that may affect the Project design, including seismicity, landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, and potential for expansive soils as well as paleontological resources. The PEIR will determine whether paleontologically sensitive geologic units are within the study area and will analyze the potential impacts on paleontological resources. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The construction and operational GHG emissions in the proposed Project vicinity related to implementation of typical projects under the proposed Project will be quantified. Potential impacts related to climate change will be addressed consistent with the SCAQMD's current guidance. The proposed Project's consistency with the County of Los Angeles Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP), as well as the Climate Action Plan adopted by any of the incorporated cities in the Project area, will also be discussed. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Hazards & Hazardous Materials

The PEIR will describe the existing conditions on and adjacent to the proposed Project study area— including the potential for existing soil or groundwater contamination in the Project study area — and will identify hazardous impacts from both construction and operations, where feasible. Specifically, the PEIR will analyze whether the Project would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport,

use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The PEIR will also consult the lists compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code to determine whether the Project and any alternatives are located on a site which is included on any list. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Hydrology/Water Quality

The PEIR will analyze the differences between the existing conditions and the future conditions with respect to Hydrology and Water Quality. Specifically, the PEIR will evaluate the Project's potential to violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements that the Project could potentially degrade pertaining to surface or groundwater quality standards. Potential impacts also include the potential to substantially decrease groundwater supplies or substantially interfere with groundwater recharge. Additionally, the PEIR will analyze existing drainage patterns of the Project area and assess whether the Project will result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site, substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff that would result in flooding, create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems, or impede or redirect flood flows. The PEIR will analyze the risk from releasing pollutants in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones due to Project inundation as well as the Project's potential to conflict or obstruct a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Land Use/Planning

A variety of land uses occurs adjacent to the proposed San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network. The PEIR will evaluate the compatibility of the proposed Project with neighboring areas, change to or displacement of existing uses, compliance with zoning regulations, and consistency of the project with relevant local land use policies that have been adopted in land use documents within the Project area. Specifically, the PEIR will analyze the Project's potential to physically divide an established community or cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Mineral Resources

The PEIR will use the California Geologic Survey's guidelines and will consult the areas known as Mineral Resource Zones to determine if the proposed Project lies within a zone(s) that contains mineral resources across Project area. The PEIR will describe any identified zones and summarize the relevant information from the state mandated Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 as part of the proposed Project's regulatory setting in relation to Mineral Resources. In addition, applicable general plans, municipal codes, and any other specific or land use plan will be reviewed to determine if they delineate any locally important mineral resources within the study area. The PEIR will assess whether the Project will result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the State as well as the potential to lose the

availability of locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Noise

The PEIR will identify sensitive noise receptors and sources of noise and vibration in the Project area and will analyze short-term construction and long-term operational noise and vibration impacts, where feasible. The construction analysis will use established modeling methodology (e.g., the Federal Highway Administration Roadway Construction Noise Model and the Federal Transit Administration Noise and Vibration Manual), along with typical construction equipment information. Operations noise analysis will use modeling software, such as the most recent version of SoundPLAN, to identify potential distances at which inclusion of these actions could affect nearby noise sensitive receptors. The PEIR will analyze the Project's potential to generate substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies. Additionally, the PEIR will analyze the Project's potential to generate excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Population/Housing

The PEIR will address the proposed Project's potential for inducing population growth and displacing people and housing within the region. Analysis of population and housing along San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network will assess the differences between forecasts based on existing general plans and regional growth projections. Specifically, the PEIR will assess whether the Project would induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure). Additionally, the PEIR will analyze whether the Project would displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Public Services

The PEIR will determine, at a program-level, if the Project would result in impacts on Public Services, including fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and other public facilities, by considering response times and increased demands, as applicable. The PEIR will assess available information on the current demand for public services against any new demand that is created by Project improvements. In addition, emergency access impacts during construction and operations would be analyzed. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Recreation

The PEIR will address the proposed Project's potential impact on notable recreation areas; regional, neighborhood, and local parks; trails; and other local recreational facilities and uses — such as water recreation and equestrian uses — within and near the Project

area. Specifically, the PEIR will analyze the Project's potential to increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. Additionally, the PEIR will analyze whether the Project includes recreational facilities or would require the construction or expansion of recreation facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Transportation

A transportation impact analysis will be prepared for the PEIR to describe the existing local and regional transportation network and to evaluate the proposed Project's construction- and operations-related traffic impacts, where feasible, for vehicular, transit, bike, and pedestrian circulation. The PEIR will analyze whether the Project will conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system. The transportation analysis for the PEIR will be conducted using a uniform approach based on the transportation assessment guidelines, including application of the project screening criteria and the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) thresholds. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Tribal Cultural Resources

In accordance with Assembly Bill 52 (Govt. Code Section 65352.4), the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and any tribes it identifies will be contacted and consulted about the presence of traditional lands or cultural places in the proposed Project vicinity; potential tribal cultural resources impacts will be identified in the PEIR. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Utilities/Service Systems

The PEIR will describe the existing utilities in the Project study area and will address the ability of existing and planned public facilities and service systems to meet demands generated by the project and physical impacts on public utilities — including sanitary sewers, storm drains, and solid waste. The PEIR will analyze whether the Project would require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities; the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects. The PEIR will assess whether the Project would result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the Project, that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments. Additionally, the PEIR will analyze whether the Project would generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals and whether the Project would comply with Federal, State, and local management, and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. The PEIR will describe the existing water supply serving the proposed Project study area and will evaluate the impacts of the proposed Project on water supply at a program level, including whether

the Project would have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Wildfire

The PEIR will analyze the consistency of proposed improvement actions under the SGVGNSIP with current wildfire hazard programs and regulatory documents. Specifically, the PEIR will analyze whether the Project would substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. These impacts, and their level of significance, will be assessed in detail in the PEIR.

Cumulative Impacts

Consistent with CEQA, this section will address the impacts of implementing the proposed Project in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the Project vicinity.

Growth-Inducing Impacts

The PEIR will discuss the ways in which the proposed Project could foster growth in the surrounding environment; growth-related secondary impacts also will be discussed.

Mandatory Finding of Significance

The PEIR will analyze whether the Project has the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The PEIR will discuss if the Project has impacts that are individually limited, but considered cumulatively significant. Additionally, the PEIR will analyze whether the Project has environmental effects which cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Other CEQA-Required Analysis

Additional issues to be analyzed in the PEIR include, but are not limited to, Alternatives, Significant Unavoidable Impacts, Significant Irreversible Environmental Change, Persons Consulted and List of Preparers, References, and technical appendices.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The NOP can be viewed online at <https://www.sgvgreenway.org/project-documents>. Future SGVGNSIP documents, including the Plan and PEIR, will also be made available at this website.

Si desea obtener más información o necesita que la notificación sea traducido a otro idioma, por favor llame al (626) 300-2363.



Upon 72 hours' notice, Public Works can provide program information and publications in alternate formats or make other accommodations for people with disabilities. In addition, program documents are available at our main office in Alhambra (900 S. Fremont Ave.), which is accessible to individuals with disabilities. To request accommodations ONLY or for more Americans with Disabilities Act information, please contact our departmental Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at (626) 458-4081 or by TDD (626) 282-7829, Monday through Thursday, from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

