



Notice of Preparation and Public Scoping Meeting

Date: December 9, 2022

To: Office of Planning and Research, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Clerk of the County of San Diego, and Other Interested Stakeholders

Subject: Notice of Preparation of Supplement to the Environmental Impact Report for the 2021 Regional Plan and Public Scoping Meeting Notice

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will prepare a Supplement to the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for an amendment to the 2021 Regional Plan. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, SANDAG has issued this Notice of Preparation to provide responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and other interested stakeholders with information describing the proposed project and its potential environmental effects.

Project Location

The Project location includes the 18 cities and unincorporated areas of San Diego County.

Project Description

Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) provides for a planning process to coordinate land use planning and regional transportation plans (RTP) to help California meet the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions established in Assembly Bill 32. SB 375 requires RTPs prepared by metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), including SANDAG, to incorporate into an RTP a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that demonstrates how the region would achieve GHG emissions reduction targets for passenger vehicles set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

In March 2018, CARB updated regional GHG emissions reduction targets. The current SANDAG targets are per capita carbon dioxide emissions reductions from passenger vehicles of 15 percent by 2020 and 19 percent by 2035, relative to 2005 levels. In accordance with state and federal law, SANDAG developed the 2021 Regional Plan, which included both the region's RTP and SCS, and achieved the 2020 and 2035 GHG emissions reduction targets set by CARB. On December 10, 2021, the SANDAG Board of Directors adopted the 2021 Regional Plan and certified the [Final Program EIR](#) for the 2021 Regional Plan.

Following adoption of the 2021 Regional Plan, the SANDAG Board directed staff to prepare a focused amendment to the 2021 Regional Plan without the regional road usage charge (Project), and an environmental analysis for the Board's consideration. A road usage charge is a direct user fee where drivers pay to use the roadway network, whether the vehicle is powered by gas or electricity or hydrogen, based on distance traveled or other factors.

EIR Scope

A lead agency may choose to prepare a supplement to an EIR when “[a]ny of the conditions described in Section 15162 would require the preparation of a subsequent EIR” and when “only minor additions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to



the project in the changed situation.” (CEQA Guidelines § 15163, subd. (a)(1)–(2).) A supplement to an EIR “need contain only the information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project as revised. (CEQA Guidelines § 15163, subd. (b).) As the lead agency, SANDAG will describe and analyze the impacts of the proposed Project on the physical environment. The SEIR will identify potential impacts to the following environmental resources:

- Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use
- Mineral Resources
- Noise and Vibration
- Population and Housing
- Public Services and Utilities
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Water Supply
- Wildfire

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

Submitting Comments

Responsible and trustee agencies, and other interested stakeholders are invited to provide written comments on the scope and content of the SEIR. Consistent with CEQA, your response should be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than thirty days after publication of this Notice. Please submit your comments by 5:00 p.m. PST on January 9, 2023, by mail or email to:

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Scoping Meeting

SANDAG will hold a public scoping meeting where interested stakeholders will receive a brief presentation on the Project and will have the opportunity to provide comments on the scope and content of the environmental analysis that will be included in the SEIR for the Project.

Date and Time: December 21, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. PST

Place: Virtual meeting accessible at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84519676872>
Call in at +1 669 900 6833
Meeting ID: 845 1967 6872