



July 13, 2023

TO: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

FROM: San Diego Association of Governments

SUBJECT: Public Notice of Availability and Notice of Completion of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for Amendment to the 2021 Regional Plan (SCH # 2022120212)

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (Draft SEIR) for the Amendment to the 2021 Regional Plan (Amendment).

Project Title: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for Amendment to the 2021 Regional Plan

Project Location: The Amendment covers the entire San Diego region that includes the Cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach, Vista, and the unincorporated areas within the County of San Diego.

Project Description: SANDAG is a regional planning agency and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) composed of 18 cities and the county government within the San Diego region. SANDAG must prepare a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every 4 years (Government Code Section 65080 et seq.; 23 United States Code Section 134). The current, approved RTP is the 2021 Regional Plan. The RTP must include a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) consisting of land use, housing, and transportation strategies that, if implemented, would allow the region to meet its regional targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions from passenger vehicle use established by the California Air Resources Board (Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, Senate Bill 375, Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008).

In September 2022, the SANDAG Board of Directors directed staff to prepare an Amendment to the 2021 Regional Plan without the regional road usage charge (RUC). The Amendment removes the regional road usage charge (RUC), updates the financial strategies used in the 2021 Regional Plan, and assesses the region's continued ability to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions target set by the California Air Resources Board as well as federal air quality standards. The proposed Amendment does not include any transportation network changes, new construction, or changes to the 2021 Regional Plan SCS land use pattern. The Amendment meets the requirements of federal and state transportation



planning law, and also meets the requirements for the Regional Comprehensive Plan for the San Diego Region established by state law (Assembly Bill 361, Chapter 508, Statutes of 2003).

Probable Environmental Effects: The Draft SEIR found that the Amendment would result in less than significant impacts to Energy; and would result in significant and unavoidable impacts, both direct and cumulative, to Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Noise and Vibration, and Transportation. The Amendment would not alter the impact conclusions described in the 2021 Regional Plan PEIR for: Aesthetics and Visual Resources; Agricultural and Forestry Resources; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use; Mineral Resources; Population and Housing; Public Services and Utilities; Tribal Cultural Resources; Water Supply; and Wildfire. These resources are not addressed in the Draft SEIR as the impacts were adequately analyzed in the 2021 Regional Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Report.

Availability and Comments: In accordance with Sections 15105 and 15087 of the CEQA Guidelines, this Public Notice officially notifies the general public, public agencies, and interested individuals and organizations that a 45-day public review period will begin July 13, 2023. Written comments regarding the adequacy of the Draft SEIR must be received by August 28, 2023. All comments postmarked by August 28, 2023 will be accepted as timely.

To share your comments on the Draft SEIR:

- Submit a comment using the online form at www.sandag.org/RegionalPlanSEIRComments.
- Email comments to: RegionalPlanSEIR@sandag.org with the subject “2021 Regional Plan SEIR.”
- Mail written comments to: SANDAG Regional Plan SEIR, 401 B Street, Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101, c/o Kirsten Uchitel, Associate Planner. Comments should be emailed with subject line “Regional Plan SEIR” to: RegionalPlanSEIR@sandag.org

Copies of the Draft Amendment, Draft SEIR, and supporting appendices are available on the SANDAG website at www.sandag.com/2021RegionalPlanAmendment or at the SANDAG offices at 401 B Street, Suite 800, San Diego, California, 92101.

The following statement is required to be included in this notice: Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15087(c)(6), the Regional Plan Location contains hazardous waste sites as enumerated under California Government Code Section 65962.5.

If you have any questions, please contact Kirsten Uchitel, Associate Planner at 619-699-7335.