



Peter Rei  
Chairman

Darin Grossi  
Executive Director

## TUOLUMNE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

# NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

**Date:** June 7, 2023

**To:** State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Interested Parties

**From:** Tuolumne County Transportation Commission

**Subject:** **Notice of Preparation of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Tuolumne County Regional Transportation Plan**

**Review Period:** June 7, 2023 to July 6, 2023

Notice is hereby given that the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) is the lead agency for the preparation and review of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan Update. Pursuant to section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), TCTC is soliciting your comments to assist us in identifying the potential environmental impacts that may occur from approval of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update. The SEIR would update the 2016 Program EIR prepared for TCTC's Regional Transportation Plan. A Program EIR may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project. The purpose of a Program EIR is to allow the lead agency to consider broad policy alternatives and program-wide mitigation at an early time when the agency has greater flexibility to deal with basic concerns or cumulative impacts. The current undertaking of a SEIR would involve updating the 2016 Program EIR to address changes in the RTP as a result of the 2023 RTP Update, disclose that information to the public, and solicit public comments on the project and the potential environmental impacts and mitigation disclosed therein.

### Purpose of This Notice of Preparation

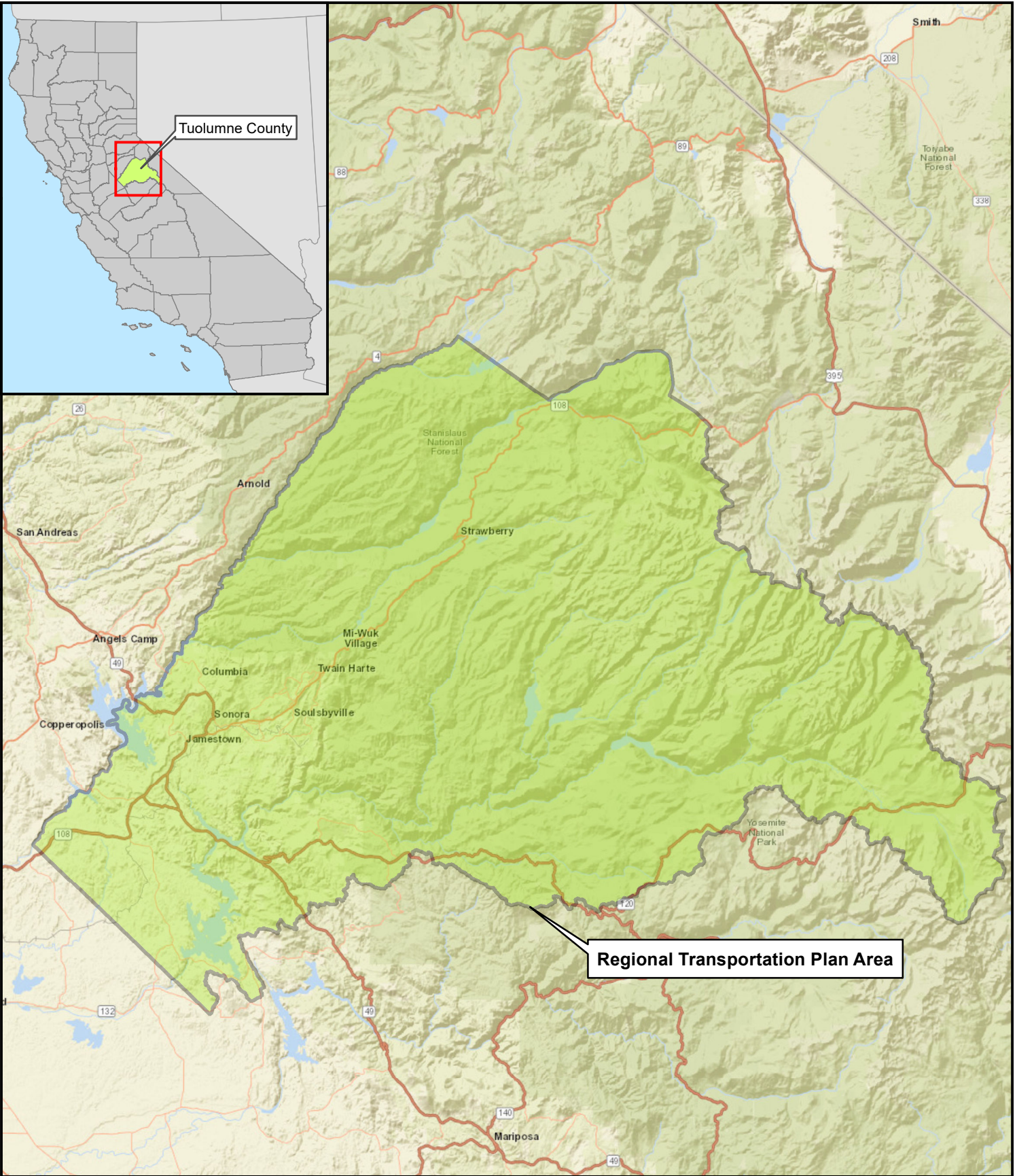
In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 15082), the TCTC has prepared this notice of preparation (NOP) to inform agencies and interested parties that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) will be prepared for the above-referenced project. The purpose of an NOP is to provide sufficient information about the proposed project and its potential environmental impacts to allow agencies and interested parties the opportunity to provide a meaningful response related to the scope and content of the SEIR, including mitigation measures that should be considered and alternatives that should be addressed (State CEQA Guidelines 14 CCR Section 15082[b]).

### Project Location

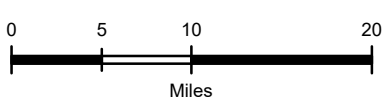
The proposed Plan Area for the RTP include the entirety of unincorporated Tuolumne County. The main facilities that the plan covers include local roads and highways, State highways, aviation, pedestrian and bicycle paths, transit facilities, and other multi modal transportation options within Tuolumne County.

### Project Description

The TCTC proposes to develop a comprehensive update to the 2016 RTP and the EIR that was prepared in support of it. The TCTC is the designated regional transportation planning agency for Tuolumne County and is required by federal and state law to prepare and/or update a long range (20+ year) transportation planning document known as the RTP. The RTP is an action-oriented document used to achieve a coordinated and balanced regional transportation system. California Government Code §65080 et seq. and Title 23 United States Code (USC) §134 require Regional Transportation Planning Agencies to prepare long-range transportation plans to: 1) establish regional goals, 2) identify present and future needs, deficiencies, and constraints, 3) analyze potential solutions, 4) estimate available funding, and 5) propose investments. State statutes require that the RTP serve as the foundation for the short-range transportation planning documents: the Regional and Federal Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIP and FTIP).



**FIGURE 1**  
**PROJECT VICINITY**  
 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE  
 TUOLUMNE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
 MARCH 2023



## Potential Environmental Impacts

The SEIR will analyze program level potentially significant impacts that result from construction and operation of the proposed Project. Some sections of the 2016 EIR may not have meaningful changes as a result of the 2023 RTP Update and will not require additional analysis or updating based on project or regulatory changes. In these cases, the analysis provided in the 2016 EIR would remain applicable to the 2023 RTP Update. The SEIR would evaluate the full range of environmental issues contemplated for consideration under CEQA and are anticipated to include:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise and Vibration
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities / Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Cumulative Impacts

When applicable these issue areas will be discussed further in the SEIR, providing a description of the existing setting, potential impacts of the proposed project, potential cumulative effects, and feasible and practicable mitigation measures will be recommended to reduce any identified potentially significant impacts.

## Alternatives to Be Evaluated in the SEIR

In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR Section 15126.6), the SEIR will describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project that are capable of meeting most of the projects' objectives and would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project. The SEIR will also identify any alternatives that were considered but rejected by the lead agency as infeasible and briefly explain the reasons why. The SEIR will provide an analysis of the No-Project Alternative and will also identify the environmentally superior alternative.

## Providing Comments

Agencies and interested parties may provide the TCTC with written comments on topics to be addressed in the SEIR for the project. Because of time limits mandated by State law, comments should be provided no later than 3:00 PM on July 6, 2023. Please send all comments to:

Tuolumne County Transportation Council  
2 South Green Street  
Sonora, CA 95370  
Attention: Shannon Thaggard  
Telephone: 209-533-5537  
Email: [sthaggard@co.tuolumne.ca.us](mailto:sthaggard@co.tuolumne.ca.us)

Throughout development of this project, the TCTC will post current relevant project information on their webpage at the following location: [www.tuolumnecountytransportationcouncil.org/regional-transportation-plan](http://www.tuolumnecountytransportationcouncil.org/regional-transportation-plan).