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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

TO: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

SUBJECT: Public Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for Connect SoCal 2024 (2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy)
State Clearinghouse No. 2022100337

DATE: November 9, 2023

LEAD AGENCY: Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1700
Los Angeles, California 90017

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), as the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft 2024 PEIR) (State Clearinghouse No.: 2022100337) for the proposed 2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), also referred to as “Connect SoCal 2024”, “2024 RTP/SCS”, “Plan”, or “Project”. The Draft 2024 PEIR serves as a programmatic document that presents a region-wide assessment of potential environmental effects of Connect SoCal 2024.

Electronic copies of this NOA and the Draft 2024 PEIR are available on SCAG’s website at: <https://scag.ca.gov/peir>. Hard copies are available at SCAG’s Los Angeles and regional offices upon request.

The CEQA 65-day public review and comment period begins November 9th, 2023 and ends January 12th, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. (PST). If you wish to submit comments on the Draft 2024 PEIR, comments shall be written and submitted to Ms. Karen Calderon, via email (preferred method) at ConnectSoCalPEIR@scag.ca.gov or by mail to the address provided below.

Signature:  Date: 11/9/2023

Southern California Association of Governments
Attn: Ms. Karen Calderon
900 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1700
Los Angeles, California 90017

PROJECT LOCATION

SCAG is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) under Title 23, United States Code (U.S.C.) section 134(d)(1) and one of 18 MPOs in the State of California. The total area of the SCAG region is approximately 38,000 square miles. The SCAG region consists of six counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura), and 191 cities. To the north of the SCAG region are the counties of Kern and Inyo; to the east is state of Nevada and state of Arizona; to the south is the county of San Diego; and to the northwest is the Pacific Ocean. The SCAG region also consists of 15 subregional entities that serve as partners in the regional planning process.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Connect SoCal 2024 is a long-range visioning plan that balances future mobility and housing needs with economic and environmental goals. Connect SoCal 2024 represents the vision for Southern California's future through 2050, including planning policies, strategies, and projects. The Plan details how the region will address its transportation and land use challenges and leverage opportunities to support attainment of applicable federal air quality standards and achieve state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets. Connect SoCal 2024 builds from the policy directions established in Connect SoCal 2020 as amended, as well as more recent policy directions from SCAG's Regional Council to reflect emerging issues including racial equity, resilience and conservation, climate change, next generation infrastructure, and the economy.

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The 2024 PEIR is a programmatic document that analyzes potential effects of the Plan on the environment. Although Connect SoCal 2024 includes policies, strategies and approximately 2,000 individual transportation projects, the 2024 PEIR does not specifically analyze environmental effects of any individual transportation or land use project. Project-level environmental analyses are prepared by implementing agencies and local jurisdictions on a project-by-project basis as projects proceed through the design and decision-making process.

Based on the analysis included in the Draft 2024 PEIR, the Plan would result in significant adverse impacts in the following environmental resource areas even after the incorporation of Regional Planning Policies, Implementation Strategies, and CEQA mitigation measures:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources (except for timberland in Impact AG-3)
- Air Quality (except for consistency with federal transportation conformity requirements in Impact AQ-1)
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions (except for consistency with SB 375 in Impact GHG-2)
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire