Connect SoCal 2024 Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Public Scoping Meetings

November 9 and 10, 2022

WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV
1. Meeting length: 2 hours
2. This meeting is being recorded and by attending you consent to the recording
3. Take care to mute your microphone when not speaking
4. At the end of the presentation, there will be a commenting session
   • Press the "raise hand" function or type comments into the chat box
   • Verbal comments may be limited to 3 minutes
5. The slides are available on the SCAG PEIR website at: https://scag.ca.gov/peir
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Core Team Representatives

- SCAG PEIR Planning Staff
- SCAG Legal Counsel
- Outside Special Counsel
- Consultants
Southern California Association of Governments

- Founded in 1965, SCAG is a Joint Powers Authority
- Under federal law, SCAG is designated as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Under state law, SCAG is a multi-county designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency and a Council of Governments
Primary Roles & Responsibilities

1. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)
2. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY (SCS)
3. FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (FTIP)
4. REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT (RHNA)
5. REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC AND GROWTH FORECASTS
6. FORUM FOR ISSUES OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE
SCAG as Lead Agency

• SCAG is currently developing the 2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), referred to as “Connect SoCal 2024” or the Project.

• The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires SCAG to evaluate and disclose potential environmental impacts of the Project prior to approval.

• SCAG is the CEQA Lead Agency for the Connect SoCal 2024.
Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft PEIR for Connect SoCal 2024 (State Clearinghouse No.: 2022100337)

• Staff received authorization for the public release of NOP from SCAG’s Energy & Environment Committee on 10/6/2022
• SCAG released the NOP for public review and comments on 10/17/2022
• CEQA requires 30-day public review and comment period: 10/17/2022 – 11/16/2022
• Seek feedback on the scope and contents to be considered in the Draft PEIR
Purpose and Objectives of the Scoping Meeting

• Purpose:
  • Solicit input and refine scope of the environmental analysis

• Objectives:
  • Project Overview
    • Background
    • Location
    • Description
  • Scope of the Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR
  • Collect comments
THE 2024 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY
OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

CONNECT SoCal

Sarah Dominguez
Program Manager II
Connect SoCal Development
What is Connect SoCal?

Project Background

REGиональный ТРАНСПОРТНЫЙ ПЛАН/ПЛАН СОХРАНЕНИЯ ОБЩЕСТВЕННЫХ СООБЩЕСТВ

Connect SoCal is a 20+ year plan with 6,000+ transportation projects, a regional development pattern and many supportive programs and strategies.
What is required for the RTP/SCS?

State Requirements (SB 375)
- Integrated regional development pattern & transportation network
- Reduce GHG emission to meet targets for passenger vehicles

Federal Requirements
- Updated every 4 years
- 20+ years into the future
- Revenues = Costs
- Demonstrate transportation conformity
- Outreach and environmental justice analysis
Meeting our Federal and State requirements is critical for projects in the region to receive transportation funding or approval

- **Federal Transportation Conformity**
  - Required for federal funding or approval of projects
  - $41.1 Billion of Federal Revenue Sources in Connect SoCal 2020

- **State GHG Emission Reduction Target**
  - Required by Solutions for Congested Corridors Program and the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program
  - In 2020, SCAG projects won a total of $925 Million in funding from both programs
The SCAG Region

Project Location

- **191** Cities
- **6** Counties
- **18.8M** Residents

- **38,620** Square Miles
- **$1.2T** Regional GDP
- **15th** Largest Economy Worldwide
- **48%** of State Population
Development Overview
Project Description

Foundations and Frameworks

Data Collection and Policy Development

Outreach and Analysis

Plan Adoption

2021
2022
2023
2024

COMPLETED MILESTONES
✓ 2024 RTP/SCS Framework
✓ Subregional SCS Framework & Guidelines
✓ Relaunched Working Groups
✓ Preliminary Growth Forecast
✓ Policy Development Framework

MILESTONES FOR 2022
✓ Draft Goals & Vision
✓ Draft Performance Measures
  • Local Data Exchange
  • Project List

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What will be in Connect SoCal 2024?

Project Description

- Vision, Goals, Policies, & Performance Measures
- Demographic Forecasts and Forecasted Development Pattern
- List of Projects
- Financial Plan
- GHG Reduction Strategies
- Performance, Equity and Economic Analysis
SCOPE OF CONNECT SOCAL 2024 DRAFT PEIR
Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR and SCAG’s Role

• CEQA requires SCAG to evaluate potential environmental impacts and disclose the evaluation in a CEQA document
• SCAG is the CEQA Lead Agency for the proposed Connect SoCal 2024
• PEIR is the appropriate type of CEQA document
• PEIR includes a region-wide, first-tier, programmatic level environmental assessment
Preliminary Content Based on Previous Connect SoCal PEIR

Draft PEIR:
- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1.0 – Introduction
- Chapter 2.0 – Project Description
- Chapter 3.0 – Environmental Impact Analysis
- Chapter 4.0 – Alternatives
- Chapter 5.0 – Other CEQA Considerations
- Chapter 6.0 – Persons and Sources Consulted
- Chapter 7.0 – Glossary

Final PEIR:
- Chapter 8.0 – Introduction to the Final PEIR
- Chapter 9.0 – Response to Comments
- Chapter 10.0 – Clarifications and Revisions
- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program*
- Findings of Fact*
- Statement of Overriding Considerations*

* Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, Findings of Fact, and Statement of Overriding Considerations are exhibits to resolution for the Final PEIR
Scope of Environmental Effects

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- 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
Environmental Setting

- CEQA requirements
- Select appropriate CEQA baseline year
  - Permitted under CEQA requirements
  - Appropriate for a regionwide environmental analysis
- Other considerations:
  - Data availability
  - Technical and modeling assumptions
- CEQA baseline year may vary depending on environmental resource areas
Mitigation Measures

• CEQA requirements

• SCAG has no authority or jurisdiction to require or implement project-level mitigation

• SCAG Mitigation Measures
  • Implemented by SCAG

• Project-Level Mitigation Measures
  • Implemented by local agencies or developers, as applicable
  • Useful for tiering
Preliminary Consideration of Alternatives

• CEQA Requirements:
  • No Project Alternative
  • A range of reasonable alternatives
  • Meet most of the basic project objectives (Plan Goals and Objectives)
  • At least one needs to be environmentally superior

• Preliminary Alternatives:
  • No Project Alternative (CEQA required)
  • Intensified Land Use Alternative
Other Preliminary Considerations

- Enhanced support for CEQA streamlining and tiering
- Provide technical resources for subsequent, project-level environmental analyses
Next Steps

- **Public Release of NOP** (Oct 17, 2022)
- **30-Day Public Comment Period** (Oct 17, 2022 - Nov 16, 2022)
- **AB 52 Consultation** (Ongoing)
- **Public Release of Draft PEIR** (Within 30 days after Draft Connect SoCal 2024 release)
- **Draft PEIR Public Comment Period** (Anticipated in Fall/Winter 2023)
- **Final PEIR** (Spring 2024)

Public and Stakeholders Outreach and Consultation: Ongoing
PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS
Opportunities to Comment on the NOP

Submit comments at a scoping meeting through:

**Verbal comments** during Public Scoping Comments time

**Written comments in the Zoom chat** at any time during the scoping meeting

Submit comments by **5:00 p.m. PST, November 16, 2022** through:

**By E-mail:**
[ConnectSoCalPEIR@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ConnectSoCalPEIR@scag.ca.gov)

**By Mail:**
Southern California Association of Governments
Attn: Ms. Karen Calderon
900 Wilshire Blvd, Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017
THANK YOU!

For more information, please visit: https://scag.ca.gov/peir