



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

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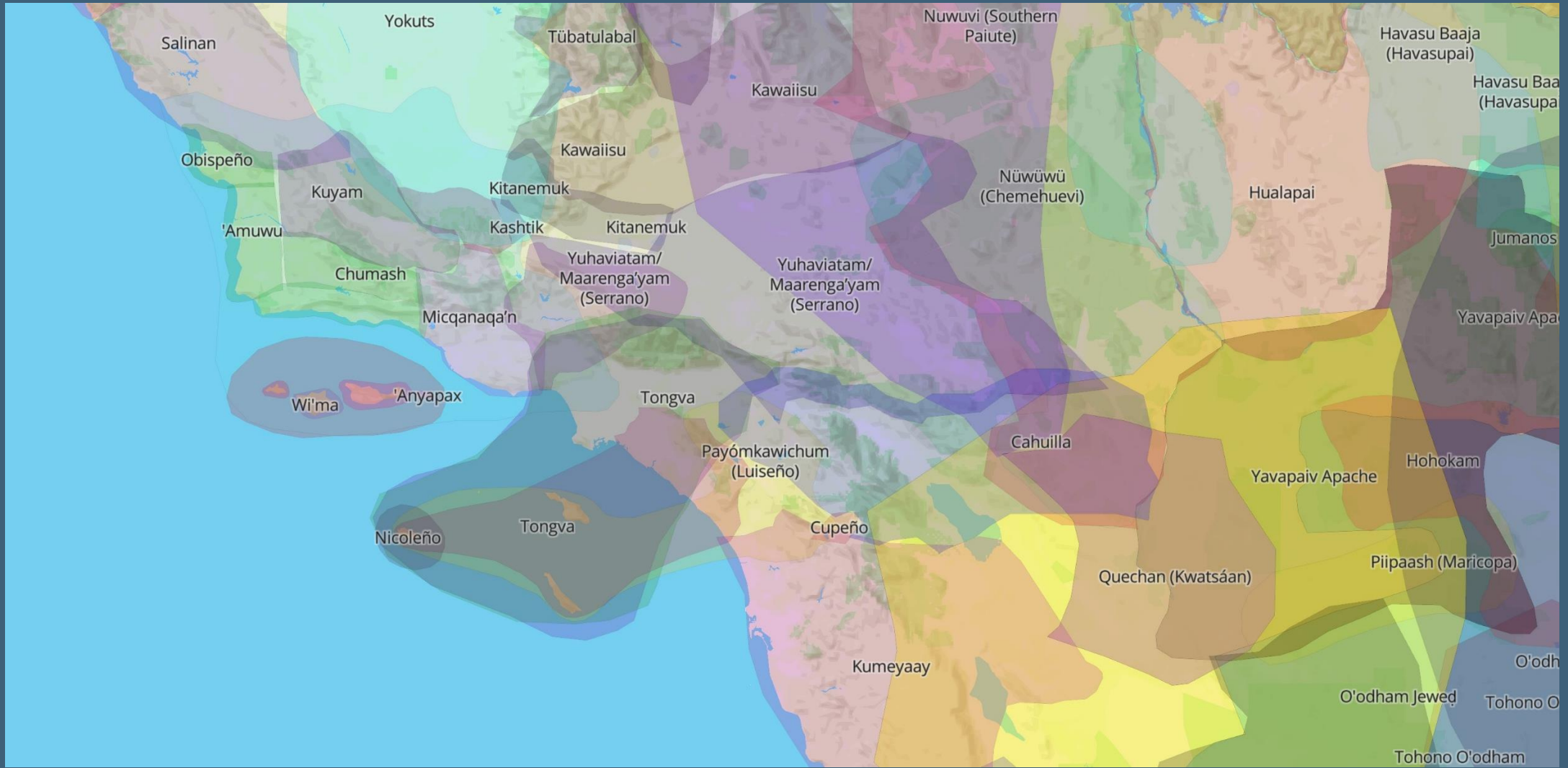
November 9 and 10, 2022

[WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV](http://WWW.SCAG.CA.GOV)

# Housekeeping

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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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# TRIBAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

# Agenda

- 1 Introduction**
- 2 Purpose and Objectives of Meeting**
- 3 Project Overview of Connect SoCal 2024**
- 4 Scope of Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR**
- 5 Public Scoping Comments**
- 6 Conclusion**

# Core Team Representatives

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- 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

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- 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



**NOTICE OF PREPARATION**

**TO:** Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

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

**DATE:** October 17, 2022

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

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), as Lead Agency, is publishing this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to prepare a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed 2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), referred to alternatively as "2024 RTP/SCS", "Connect SoCal 2024", "Plan", or "Project".

To ensure full consideration of environmental issues with potential significant adverse impacts when preparing the Draft PEIR, **all written comments on the NOP must be received within thirty (30) days of the start of the required 30-day public review and comment period, which begins October 17, 2022, and ends November 16, 2022 at 5:00 PM (PST).**

Two (2) virtual public scoping meetings for the NOP, each providing the same information, will be held on **Wednesday, November 9, 2022, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**, and **Thursday, November 10, 2022, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**. The meetings will be held in an online format using Zoom. You may join, view, and participate in the meetings by using the Zoom application, by your web browser, or by phone. Information for the webcast is provided below:

<https://scag.zoom.us/j/81023287939>  
Dial by location: +1 669 900 6833 US Toll or +1 669 444 9171 US Toll  
Meeting ID: 810 2328 7939

Please send your comments on the NOP to Ms. Karen Calderon, Senior Regional Planner, either electronically to: [ConnectSoCalPEIR@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ConnectSoCalPEIR@scag.ca.gov) or by mail to the address shown above. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive CEQA notices regarding the PEIR for the Plan, need additional information, or require special accommodations or translation services for a scoping meeting, please email Ms. Karen Calderon at least 72 hours prior to the scoping meeting or call (213) 236-1983 so that SCAG has sufficient time to make arrangements.

Footnote: SCAG. Available at: <https://scag.ca.gov/ceqa>

# 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



**Sarah Dominguez**

Program Manager II

Connect SoCal Development

# What is Connect SoCal?

## Project Background



## **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/ SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY**

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?

## Project Background



- **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

**2021**

Data  
Collection and  
Policy  
Development

**2022**

Outreach  
and  
Analysis

**2023**

Plan  
Adoption

**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

# 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

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## 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

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- 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**

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

# Next Steps

**WE  
ARE  
HERE**

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

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# 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!

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