# Connect SoCal PEIR Scoping Meeting

Southern California Association of Governments

February 13, 2019

www.scag.ca.gov

INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

# Introduction

## SCAG Core Team

- Mr. Kome Ajise, Director of Planning
- Mr. Ping Chang, Manager, Compliance & Performance Monitoring
- Mr. Roland Ok, Senior Regional Planner
- Ms. Anita Au, Associate Regional Planner
- Ms. Joann Africa, Chief Legal Counsel
- Ms. Justine Block, Deputy Legal Counsel
- Ms. Patricia Chen, Outside Legal Counsel

# Introduction

## Consultant Core Team

Impact Sciences, Inc.

- Ms. Jessica Kirchner Flores, AICP, ENV SP, Managing Principal

Sirius Environmental

- Ms. Wendy Lockwood, Principal

SWCA

- Ms. Heather Gibson, Ph.D., RPA, Principal

Veneklasen Associates

- Mr. Stephen A. Martin, Ph.D., PE, Principal

# Introduction

- SCAG is currently developing the Connect SoCal Plan (2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy)
- SCAG is the lead agency for the Program Environmental Impact Review (PEIR) for Connect SoCal.
- SCAG released the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a PEIR for a 30-day public review and comment period on January 23, 2019, through February 22, 2019.

# Purpose of the Scoping Meeting

## Purpose of the Meeting

- CEQA requires a Scoping Meeting as part of the NOP process

## Meeting Objectives

- Project background
- Project Location
- Project description
- Scope of the PEIR for Connect SoCal
- Solicit input and refine scope of the environmental analysis

# 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

# SCAG Region

- Nation's largest Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Governed by a Regional Council of 84 elected officials
- Nation's Global Gateway for Trade

## SCAG Facts

**6** COUNTIES

**48.1%** STATE POPULATION

**191** CITIES

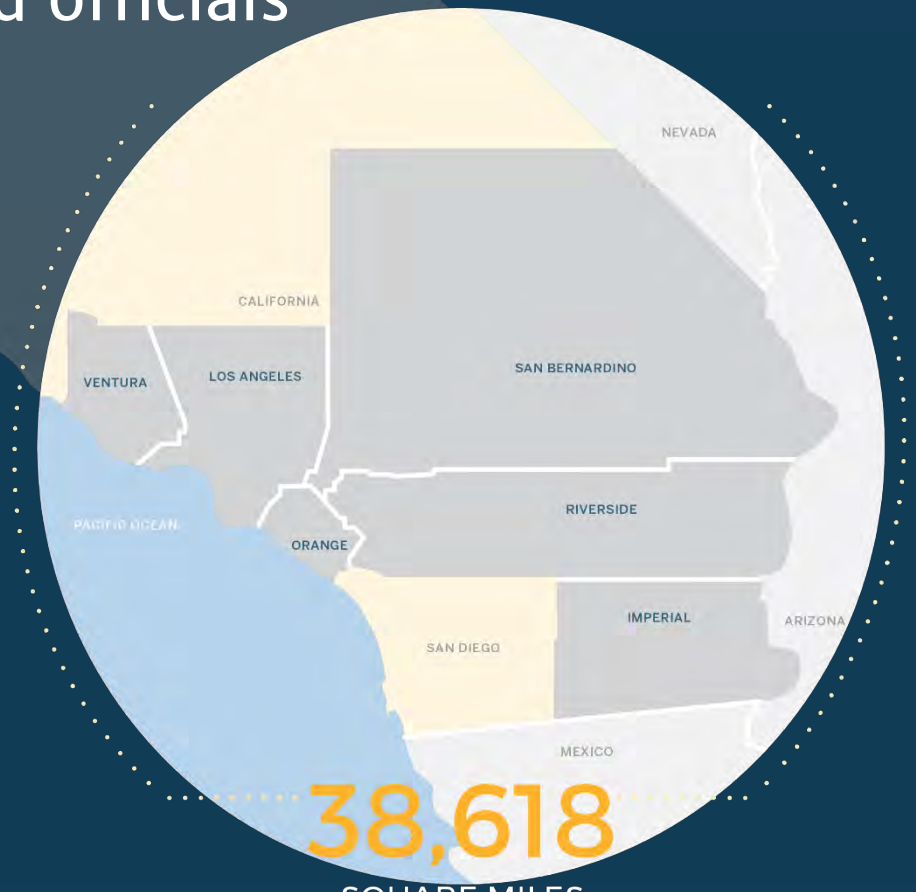
**5.8%** U.S. POPULATION

**19.1** MILLION RESIDENTS

**15th** LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD

**$1.2T** REGIONAL GDP

**40%** NATION'S CONTAINER IMPORTS



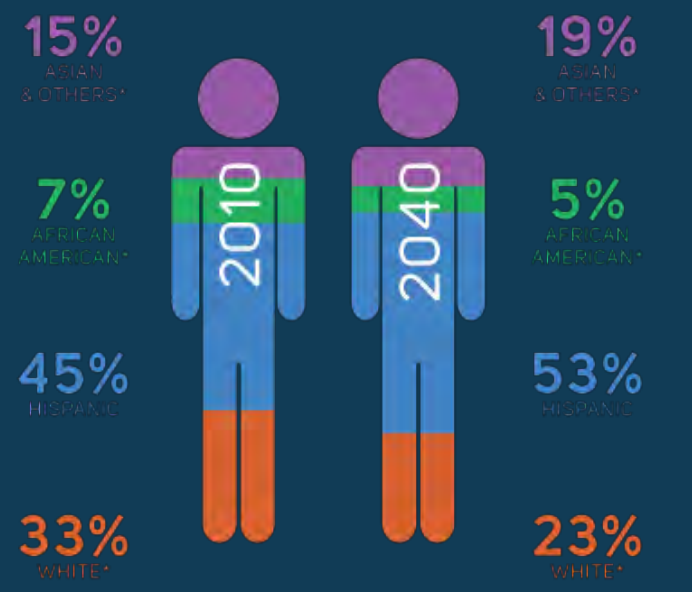

**38,618** SQUARE MILES

# What is Connect SoCal (2020 RTP/SCS)?

- Long-term vision and investment framework
- Federal Requirements
  - Updated every 4 years to maintain eligibility for federal funding
  - Long Range: 20+ years into the future
  - Passes regional emission standards
  - Outreach and EJ requirements
- State Requirements
  - Integrated regional development pattern and transportation network
  - Must meet GHG per capita reduction targets (19 percent) for passenger and light/medium duty vehicles

# Why is Connect SoCal Important?

- Align with major trends in economy, demographics, & technology
- Reflect the most up to date transportation investments
- Update financial plan to reflect new revenues and latest costs
- Comply with new requirements such as the performance based planning approach called for by MAP-21/FAST Act
- Adjust/update SCS strategies to address new GHG targets and related California climate goals




* Non-Hispanic | Source: US Census Bureau, SCAG

# What will be included in Connect SoCal?

- Vision, Goals, Policies, & Performance Measures
- Growth/Demographic Forecasts
- Financial Plan
- Strategies
- List of Projects
- Performance Analysis

# Draft Goals for Connect SoCal

1. Encourage regional economic prosperity and global competitiveness.
2. Improve mobility, accessibility, reliability, and travel safety for people and goods.
3. Enhance the preservation, security, and resilience of the regional transportation system.
4. Increase person and goods throughput and travel choices within the transportation system.
5. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.
6. Support healthy and equitable communities.
7. Adapt to a changing climate and support an integrated regional development pattern and transportation network.
8. Leverage new transportation technologies and data-driven solutions that result in more efficient travel.
9. Encourage development of diverse housing types in areas well supported by multiple transportation options.
10. Promote conservation of natural and agricultural lands and restoration of critical habitats.

# Connect SoCal PEIR

- SCAG as a lead agency is required to prepare a PEIR for Connect SoCal
- PEIR provides a region-wide program level assessment of potential effects of implementing projects, programs, and policies included in the RTP/SCS.
- PEIR is first-tier environmental analysis and provides a foundation for subsequent, project- or site-specific environmental reviews that will be conducted by implementing agencies, as projects in the RTP/SCS are developed.
- PEIR includes **program-level** mitigation measures and a range of reasonable alternatives to the RTP/SCS that would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives.

# State Climate Change Requirements

Address consistency with the GHG reduction goals as set forth in:

- Executive Order (S-3-5)
- AB 32
- SB 32
- SB 375

# Goals for Connect SoCal PEIR

- Streamline the CEQA process for efficient development of future projects.
- Ensure consistent stakeholder involvement via outreach
- Improve or incorporate new mitigation measures (program and project-level mitigation measures)
- Address Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) updates to the State CEQA Guidelines (i.e. wildfire, SB 743).
- Engage in Tribal Consultation pursuant to AB 52
- Design the PEIR as a resource tool for local jurisdictions

# Connect SoCal PEIR Scope of Environmental Effects

## 20 Environmental Factors

- Aesthetics and Views
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources and Open Space
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology, Soils and Mineral Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Resources
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Public Services and Utilities
- Wildfire

## Mitigation Measures

- SCAG Mitigation Measures

- Project-Level Mitigation Measures
  - Performance standards based
  - “Can and Should”
  - Useful for tiering

# Preliminary Draft Alternatives

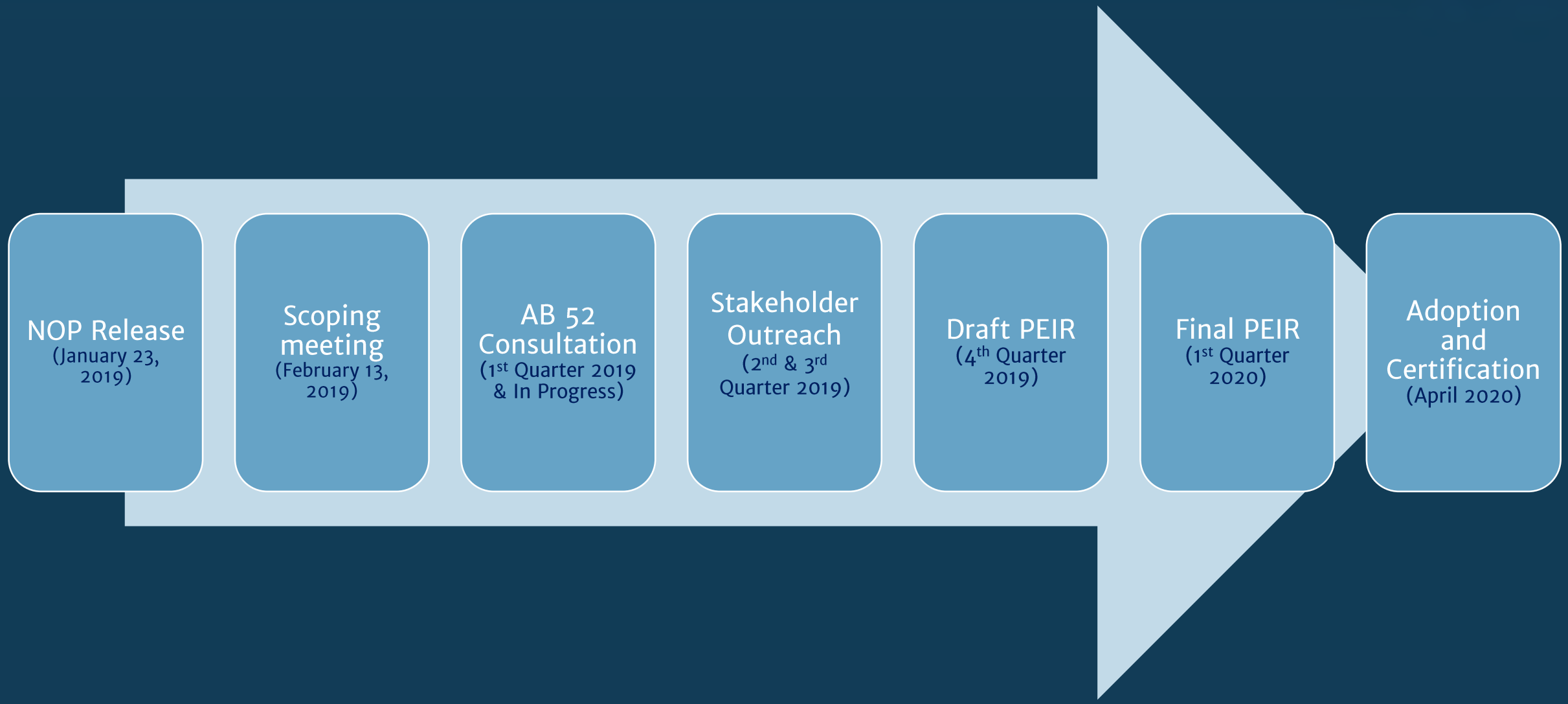
## Preliminary Draft Alternatives

- No Project Alternative
- 2020 Local Input Alternative
- Intensified Land Use Alternative

# Technical Appendices to Support the PEIR

- Health Risk Assessment
- Tribal Consultation Report
- Aviation Noise Analysis
- Cultural Resources Report
- Biological Resources Report

# Next Steps


NOP Release
(January 23, 2019)
Scoping meeting
(February 13, 2019)
AB 52 Consultation
(1st Quarter 2019 & In Progress)
Stakeholder Outreach
(2nd & 3rd Quarter 2019)
Draft PEIR
(4th Quarter 2019)
Final PEIR
(1st Quarter 2020)
Adoption and Certification
(April 2020)

# Public Participation Opportunities

**Mail written comments to SCAG by 5:00 p.m., February 22, 2019, to the address below:**

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
Attn: Roland Ok, Senior Regional Planner
900 Wilshire Blvd, Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017
E-mail: 2020PEIR@scag.ca.gov

**OR submit comments electronically to:**

2020PEIR@scag.ca.gov

# Public Participation Opportunities (cont'd)

## Provide written comments TODAY on the comment cards

- Please use comment cards and fill out requested contact information
- Written comments will become part of the administrative record for the PEIR

## Provide verbal comments TODAY

- Please complete a speaker card and provide to the moderator at your location OR provide comments via the chat function for webinar participants
- Verbal comments are being recorded as part of the administrative record for the PEIR
- SCAG reserves the right to adjust allotted speaker time to provide for meaningful participation by meeting attendees

# Thank You

All written, verbal, and electronic comments/questions received from the scoping meeting and staff responses will be available on the Connect SoCal website.

To learn more about the NOP or Connect SoCal, please visit: http://connectsocal.org



INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW