Connect SoCal PEIR Scoping Meeting

Southern California Association of Governments
February 13, 2019

www.scag.ca.gov
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
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

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- 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
What will be included in Connect SoCal?

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

- 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
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