

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION FO DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE MTP FOR 2035**



TO: ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PERSONS **FROM:** SACRAMENTO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
1415 L STREET, SUITE 300
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916)321-9000

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2035 (Proposed Project). SACOG needs to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the Proposed Project. Your agency may use the program EIR prepared by SACOG for tiering purposes related to your project-specific environmental review and when considering your permit or other approval for the project. This NOP is being distributed in order to identify issues of concern regarding the MTP and to incorporate comments into the analysis for the draft program EIR.

This Notice of Preparation includes

- A list of potential environmental effects
- A map of the Sacramento metropolitan area, which is the study area for the MTP for 2035 and EIR. The metropolitan area includes the counties of Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba, and the portions of El Dorado and Placer Counties outside of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

A copy of the Initial Study (is is not) attached.

SACOG seeks your views on the following questions:

- Are there potential environmental issues that SACOG hasn't already identified in the list of potential environmental effects or the attached outline? If so, please identify these potential issues.
- What additional alternatives do you believe SACOG should evaluate as well?
- What types of mitigation measures do you think would help avoid or minimize potential environmental effects?

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible data but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. Please submit your written responses **no later than February 11, 2007** through any of the following methods:

By Mail	By Fax	By E-mail
Debra Jones, Project Delivery Manager Sacramento Area Council of Governments 1415 L Street, Suite 300 Sacramento, CA 95814	(916) 321-9551	eircomments@sacog.org

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Please contact the SACOG staff listed below if you have any questions on this Notice of Preparation, the environmental review process in general, or the transportation planning process that is the subject of the EIR. You may call SACOG staff at **(916) 321-9000**, or send a message to:

Notice of Preparation and
MTP Environmental Review Process Debra Jones djones@sacog.org

MTP and MTP Planning Process Matthew Carpenter mcarpenter@sacog.org

WHAT IS THE MTP?

SACOG is the designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the counties of Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba, and for Placer and El Dorado Counties except for the Lake Tahoe Basin. Map 1 depicts the Sacramento Metropolitan Planning Area. To receive federal or state funding, projects nominated by cities, counties, and agencies must be consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The MTP is the long-range transportation plan that identifies various problems on the metropolitan transportation system, and proposes solutions that address those problems. The MTP sets policies to guide transportation decisions, proposes a program of capital, operational, and management improvements needed by 2035, and recommends a package of revenue measures to fund the proposed program. Prior federal law and regulations required SACOG to prepare and adopt a Metropolitan Transportation Plan every three years. With the passage of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), this requirement changes to every four years.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following types of potentially significant and adverse environmental impacts could result from the implementation of the MTP for 2035:

Population and Housing

- Potential for displacement of residents and businesses
- Potential to induce substantial population growth in an area

Land Use and Planning

- Potential to disrupt or divide a community
- Potential conflicts with land use plans, policies or regulations

Agricultural Resources

- Potential impacts to prime or unique farmland or farmland of statewide importance
- Potential conflicts with existing zoning for agricultural use or Williamson Act contracts
- Potential for action that could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use

Air Quality



- Potential conflict with an applicable air quality plan
- Potential violation of any air quality standard or a substantial contribution to an existing or projected air quality violation

Transportation/Traffic

- Potential for increased traffic
- Potential to exceed established level of service standards
- Potential to result in inadequate emergency access
- Potential conflicts with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation modes

Noise

- Noise-sensitive land uses could be exposed to noise in excess of locally adopted standards or substantial increases in noise as a result of the operation of expanded or new transportation facilities

Hydrology/Water Quality

- Potential for substantial degradation of water quality
- Potential for substantial interference with ground water recharge
- Potential for substantial alteration of drainage patterns

Geology and Soils

- Potential for exposure to strong seismic ground shaking or seismic-related ground failure
- Potential for landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse
- Potential for substantial flooding or erosion

Mineral Resources

- Potential for the loss of availability of a known mineral resources or mineral resource recovery site that would be of value to the region and residents of the state

Biological Resources

- Potential degradation of sensitive habitats, and reduction of wildlife habitat and native wildlife species
- Potential impacts to endangered and threatened species - either by direct impact onto the species itself or encroachment into areas of ecological significance by such species. This includes the possible interference with the movement of resident or migratory fish and wildlife species

Cultural and Historic Resources

- Potential for substantial change to historic or archaeological resources.
- Potential for disturbance or destruction of a unique paleontological resource or unique geologic feature

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Aesthetics and Views

- Potential to create a new source of substantial light or glare.
- Potential for substantial damage to scenic resources along or near designated scenic highways and/or vista points.
- Potential to create significant contrasts with the overall visual character of the existing landscape setting.

Public Services

- Potential impacts to:
 - Fire protection
 - Police protection
 - Schools
 - Public parks
 - Other public facilities, e.g. Hospitals

Utilities and Service Systems

- Projects may require relocation of utilities and/or disrupt utilities and services during construction and may increase demand for public services during operations.

Recreation

- Potential to increase the use of regional parks and recreation facilities such that substantial physical deterioration would occur or be accelerated

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- Potential for increased safety risks due to the transport of hazardous materials.

Environmental Justice

- The proposed project has the potential to result in disproportionate adverse effects on minority and low-income populations in areas where major transportation improvements are proposed.

DATE: JANUARY 11, 2007

SIGNATURE: *Debra Jones*

TITLE: PROJECT DELIVERY MANAGER

TELEPHONE: (916) 321-9000

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

