



Transportation Committee

January 26, 2012

Review of Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy for 2035

Issue: SACOG staff and the EIR consultant team will present an overview of the Draft EIR and take questions and comment from the committee.

Recommendation: This item is for information and discussion.

Discussion: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, SACOG must prepare a programmatic environmental impact report (EIR) for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy for 2035 (MTP/SCS). The Draft EIR evaluates the environmental impacts related to the adoption and implementation of the MTP/SCS for the six-county SACOG region.

As reported to the Board in prior meetings and pursuant to SB 375, the MTP/SCS is analyzed for impacts from both the transportation and land use components of the plan. To assist the reader in understanding the new scope of SACOG's MTP/SCS, potential impacts of the MTP/SCS are analyzed first in terms of the land use components, then in terms of the transportation components of the plan, then, where applicable, in terms of the sum total of impacts from the combined land use and transportation components of the proposed MTP/SCS. This analytical structure is used to provide the reader information about all components of the proposed project.

Because of the positive performance of the MTP/SCS, the project has very few impacts to transportation, air quality, energy, and greenhouse gases. For those areas with potential impacts, the EIR suggests options for mitigation but acknowledges that SACOG does not have the authority to implement those mitigation measures.

The MTP/SCS can serve as a first-tier environmental document under CEQA to support second-tier environmental documents for transportation projects developed during the engineering design process and residential or mixed-use projects and transit priority projects consistent with the SCS. In all cases, the local lead agency will have to do some level of project-level CEQA review. It is up to the local lead agency to decide what impacts are significant and how to mitigate potential impacts.

Approved by:

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