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August 27, 2021

TO: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

FROM: San Diego Association of Governments

SUBJECT: Public Notice of Availability and Notice of Completion of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan (SCH # 2010041061)

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan (Regional Plan) (including the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy – RTP/SCS).

Project Title: Draft Environmental Impact Report for San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan

Project Location: The Regional Plan covers the entire San Diego region that includes the Cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar El Cajon, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach, Vista, and the unincorporated areas within the County of San Diego.

Project Description: The Regional Plan is an update of the 2015 Regional Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy for the San Diego Regional and the 2019 Federal Regional Transportation Plan. SANDAG is a regional planning agency and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) composed of 18 cities and the county government within the San Diego region. SANDAG must prepare a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every 4 years (Government Code Section 65080 et seq.; 23 United States Code Section 134). In 2019, the California Legislature granted a 2-year extension for the RTP/SCS for the San Diego region, and declared the 2015 Regional Plan/SCS valid through 2021. The RTP must include a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) consisting of land use, housing, and transportation strategies that, if implemented, would allow the region to meet its regional targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions from passenger vehicle use established by the California Air Resources Board (Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, Senate Bill 375, Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008).

The Regional Plan integrates land uses, transportation systems, infrastructure needs, and public investment strategies within a regional framework intended to preserve and improve quality of life, maximize mobility and transportation choices, and conserve and protect natural resources. It meets the requirements of federal and state transportation planning law, and also meets the requirements for the Regional Comprehensive Plan for the San Diego Region established by state law (Assembly Bill 361, Chapter 508, Statutes of 2003).

Probable Environmental Effects: The Regional Plan would result in less than significant impacts to Energy, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Hydrology and Water Quality. The Draft EIR found that the Regional Plan would result in significant and unavoidable impacts, both direct and cumulative, to: Aesthetics and Visual Resources, Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use, Mineral Resources, Noise and Vibration, Population and Housing, Public Services and Utilities, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Water Supply, and Wildfire.

Availability and Comments: In accordance with Sections 15105 and 15087 of the CEQA Guidelines, this Public Notice officially notifies the general public, public agencies, and interested individuals and organizations that a 45-day public review period will begin August 27, 2021. Written comments regarding the adequacy of the Draft EIR must be received by October 11, 2021. All comments post marked October 11, 2021 will be accepted as timely. Comments should be emailed with subject line "Regional Plan EIR" to: RegionalPlanEIR@sandag.org

Written comments can be addressed and sent to:

SANDAG Regional Plan EIR
C/O Kirsten Uchitel, Associate Planner
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

Comments can also be submitted using a comment form at: www.sandag.org/RegionalPlanEIRComments

Copies of the Draft Regional Plan, Draft EIR, and supporting appendices are available on the SANDAG website at www.SDForward.com or at the SANDG offices at 401 B Street, Suite 800, San Diego, California, 92101.

The following statement is required to be included in this notice: Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15087(c)(6), the Regional Plan Location contains hazardous waste sites as enumerated under California Government Code Section 65962.5.

If you have any questions, please contact Kirsten Uchitel, Associate Planner at 619-699-7335.