

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE 2018 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

The San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) has prepared a Draft Program EIR, SCH#2017032042, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act for the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2018 RTP/SCS). The 2018 RTP/SCS is a long-term coordinated transportation/land use strategy to meet San Joaquin County transportation needs out to the year 2042. The 2018 RTP includes projects, policies, and can be considered the San Joaquin region's 27-year "statement of priorities" for the future transportation system. Individual projects are preliminarily identified in the 2018 RTP. Because projects are identified at a conceptual level for purposes of the RTP, this Draft Program EIR is programmatic in nature and does not specifically analyze individual projects. The following project and alternatives are addressed in the Draft Program EIR:

The 2018 RTP/SCS, the Project, is based on a preferred land use and transportation scenario which defines a pattern of future growth and transportation system investment for the region emphasizing a transit-oriented development and compact infill approach to land use and housing. Population and job growth is allocated principally within existing urban areas served by public transit. Allocation of future growth directly addresses jobs-housing balance issues.

The preferred scenario consists of an intensified land use distribution approach that concentrates the forecasted population and employment growth in existing urban areas. This focus intends to minimize impacts on rural areas which contain the majority of agricultural land throughout the County. The transportation network includes additional highway, local street, active transportation, and transit investments to serve a more concentrated urban growth pattern. The preferred scenario also shifts investment towards bicycle and pedestrian improvements that complement public transit and other non-vehicle alternatives.

Alternative 1: No Project. The No Project Alternative is comprised of a land use pattern that reflects existing land use trends and a transportation network comprised of transportation projects that are currently in construction or are funded in the short range Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

Alternative 2: Business As Usual. The Business As Usual Alternative has focused funding in roadway expansion and maintaining and rehabilitating existing roads and streets. This Alternative places investments that support land use patterns along highway corridors and less in urban core areas. This Alternative has a future growth pattern that is reflective of growth and development trends over the last two decades in San Joaquin County

Alternative 3: Compact Development. The Compact Development Alternative places investments in transportation systems that support higher levels of compact growth and infill. It increases density and transit beyond what is included in the SCS. It includes a higher percentage

of new growth as infill/redevelopment, additional transit and active transportation investments and a larger percentage of new housing as small lot or multi-family.

The Program EIR finds that implementation of the 2018 RTP/SCS could result in significant impacts to the following issue areas: Aesthetics; Agriculture and Forestry Resources; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Hydrology; Noise; and Transportation.

The Draft Program EIR is available on San Joaquin COG's website at www.sjcog.org/rtp. Hard copies are available for review at SJCOG offices and at major public libraries in the region (contact SJCOG at 209-235-0600 for specific locations). The review period for the Draft Program EIR begins on March 13, 2018. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on April 26, 2018. Public hearings will be held on April 4, 2018 at 12:00 pm at the City of Lathrop City Council Chambers in the City Hall office building located at 390 Towne Centre Drive, Lathrop, CA 95330 and on April 26, 2018 at 4:00pm at the SJCOG office building located at 555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202 to receive public comment.

Please direct written comments to: Kim Anderson, Senior Regional Planner
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