

Notice of Preparation for a Environmental Impact Report

2022 San Joaquin Council of Governments Regional Transportation Plan & Sustainable Communities Strategy

Notice is hereby given that the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) will be the lead agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2022 Regional Transportation Plan (“RTP”) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (“SCS”) hereby referred to as the 2022 RTP/SCS. Pursuant to Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), SJCOG is soliciting comments from all interested persons, responsible and trustee agencies and organizations concerned with the project as to the scope and content of the of the EIR and the environmental information to be analyzed in connection with the proposed project.

The project description, location, environmental review requirements, and probable environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR are attached. The RTP will guide the development of the Regional and Federal Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIP and FTIP) as well as other transportation programming documents and plans throughout the San Joaquin County region. Specifically, the project will update the region’s goals and policies for meeting current and future mobility needs and identify programs, actions, and a revised plan of projects intended to address these needs consistent with adopted goals and policies.

The SCS is required by California Senate Bill 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (“SB 375”). SB 375 mandates regional greenhouse gas (“GHG”) reduction targets for passenger vehicles and, pursuant to that law, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has established 2020 and 2035 GHG reduction targets for each region covered by one of the state’s metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). As the MPO for the San Joaquin County region, SJCOG is required to prepare an SCS or Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) that demonstrates how GHG reduction targets will (or, in the case of an APS, can) be met through integrated land use, housing, and transportation planning. SJCOG will identify multiple potential growth scenarios to will meet the goals of SB 375.

SJCOG will host an EIR Scoping Meeting/Public Workshop. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input on the scope and content of the environmental analysis that will be included in the Programmatic EIR, to inform the public of the updates to the RTP and SCS, as well as solicit public input on the RTP and SCS, including changes to the preferred future scenario for the SCS from a range of transportation and land use alternatives. The date, time and location of the meeting is:

- **January 13, 2021, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM, Zoom Meeting – Join at <https://sjcog.zoom.us/j/91024859674>**

Mail comments to Hailey Lang at SJCOG, 555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202, or e-mail comments to lang@sjcog.org no later than thirty days after receipt of this notice or by January 27, 2021.

For more information, visit <https://www.sjcog.org/275/RTP-Sustainable-Communities-Strategy> or call (209) 235-0389.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Project Title

The project is referred to as the 2022 SJCOG RTP/SCS. This Programmatic EIR will be prepared to evaluate the update to the SJCOG Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Project Location

The geographical extent of the updated RTP/SCS includes the area within the limits of San Joaquin County, California, including the incorporated cities Escalon, Lathrop, Lodi, Manteca, Ripon, Stockton, Tracy, and all unincorporated areas under the jurisdiction of the County of San Joaquin. Capital improvement projects identified in the RTP/SCS are primarily located on state highways, county roads and locally owned streets, as well as on airport property, transit district property and public utility lands.

Project Description

The proposed project is the 2022 SJCOG RTP/SCS. SJCOG is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and state recognized Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for San Joaquin County and has the statutory responsibility to develop a comprehensive minimum 20-year vision of the region's transportation system. The 2022 RTP/SCS will cover the planning period through the year 2050. The EIR is intended to comply with CEQA. It will also require coordination with or reference to: the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (Title 23 SFR Parts 450 and 500) (FAST Act); the Federal Clean Air Act; the California Clean Air Act; California SB 375; California SB 743; California Assembly Bill 32, and California Senate Bill 32. The EIR will consider the 2022 RTP/SCS programmed projects and preferred SCS scenarios, a No Project alternative, the SCS alternative scenarios carried forward, and any alternatives to address identified significant impacts. The EIR will evaluate the potential impacts of implementing the policies and programs in the RTP in accordance with CEQA and will concentrate on the long-term environmental impacts of the RTP/SCS that extend to the 2050 planning horizon.

The 2022 RTP/SCS EIR will be prepared as a program-level document that analyzes the effects of proposed actions for all modes of transportation, as well as other issues and concerns such as transportation control measures and demand management, congestion management, and intelligent transportation systems. As a programmatic EIR, it will be prepared at a level of detail necessary to facilitate effective tiering by lead agencies for future transportation and development projects, particularly regarding potential SB 375 streamlining.

Issues to Be Addressed in the EIR

The impact categories listed below have been preliminarily identified for analysis.

- Visual Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change
- Hydrology/Water Resources
- Land Use (including Agricultural Resources)

- Noise
- Transportation

In addition, the EIR will address cumulative impacts, growth inducing impacts, and other issues required by CEQA.

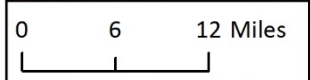
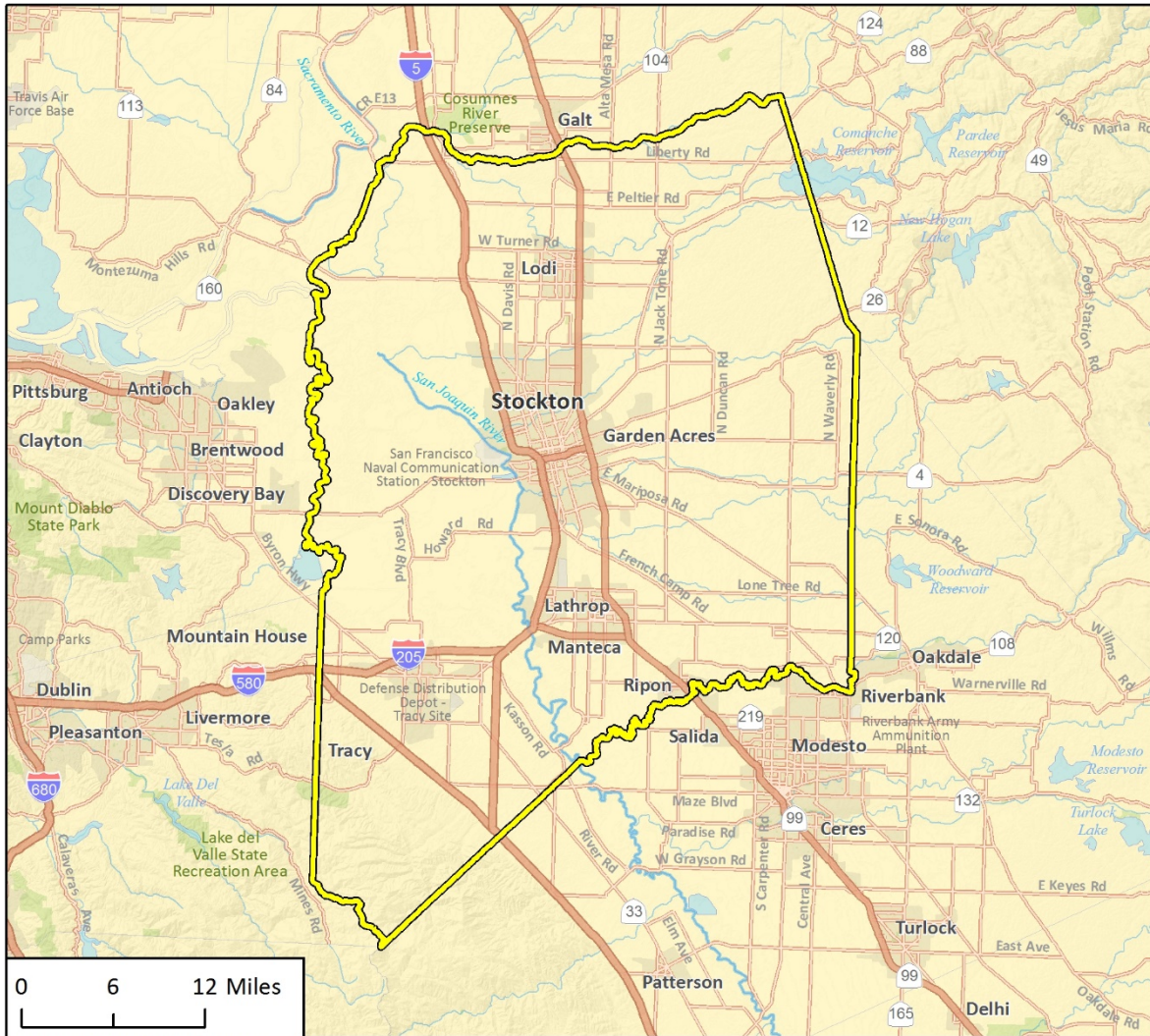
After the Draft EIR is circulated for public review, responses are provided to all public comments received, and Final EIR is prepared, the SJCOG Board will ultimately consider the Programmatic EIR for the 2022 SJCOG RTP/SCS and approve the adoption of the EIR.

CEQA Streamlining

SB 375 contains CEQA incentives, or streamlining provisions, to encourage coordinated land use and transportation planning. Certain types of development projects (i.e., transit priority projects or residential/mixed use residential projects, as defined by the statute) may qualify for CEQA streamlining as long as the requisite criteria are met. Generally, meeting such criteria means that the proposed project is determined to be consistent with an adopted SCS.

Consistency will be determined by the local jurisdiction that is the lead agency for each project to be streamlined. SJCOG's primary role is to include appropriate information in the SCS, such as land use information as required by SB 375 and/or guidance to aid in interpreting land use information that will allow a jurisdiction to make a consistency determination with respect to appropriate streamlining options on a project-by-project basis.

Project Location Map



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 San Joaquin County 



Fig 2 Regional Location