



Second Scoping Meeting Program Environmental Impact Report for the 2025 Regional Plan

February 15, 2023

Agenda



Introduction



Project Overview



Scope of PEIR



**Process for Submitting
Public Scoping Comments**

The background of the slide is a semi-transparent aerial map of the San Diego region, showing the coastline, major roads, and urban areas. The map is overlaid with a dark purple-to-blue gradient.

Introduction

Staff Introductions

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Purpose and Objectives of the Scoping Meeting

Purpose

- Solicit input and refine scope of the 2025 Regional Plan Program EIR (PEIR) analysis

Objectives

- Project Overview
 - Background
 - Location
 - Description
- Scope of the PEIR analysis
- Process for submitting comments

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Project Overview

Federal Metropolitan Transportation Planning

- SANDAG must develop a regional transportation plan (RTP) addressing no less than a 20-year planning horizon.
- The RTP must include both long-range and short-range strategies/actions that provide for the development of an integrated multimodal transportation system facilitating the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in addressing current and future transportation demand.
- SANDAG must also make an air quality conformity determination in accordance with the Clean Air Act and the EPA transportation conformity regulations.

California Senate Bill 375

- SANDAG must develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that demonstrates how the region would achieve the GHG emissions reduction targets for passenger vehicles set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).
- In March 2018, CARB updated regional GHG emissions reduction targets. SANDAG's 2035 target is a per capita carbon dioxide emissions reduction from passenger vehicles of 19% as compared to 2005 levels.
- If the SCS falls short of meeting that target, SANDAG would have to prepare an “alternative planning strategy” that, if implemented, would meet the target.
- The 2025 Regional Plan will build on the visioning completed for the 2021 Regional Plan with the latest planning assumptions to identify projects, programs, and policies to achieve the state's emissions reduction targets and attain federal air quality conformity standards.

The 2025 Regional Plan

- The **2025 Regional Plan** will consist of a Regional Transportation Plan and a Sustainable Communities Strategy that identify the future of the San Diego region's transportation investments and growth.
- The 2025 Regional Plan will be a **20+ year plan** with transportation projects, a forecasted development pattern, and supportive programs and strategies.
- SANDAG is required to update the Regional Plan every four years.
- On **December 10, 2021**, the SANDAG Board adopted the 2021 Regional Plan and certified the **Final Program EIR**. SANDAG anticipates the Board considering adoption of the 2025 Regional Plan in late 2025.

Notice of Preparation



Notice of Preparation and Public Scoping Meeting

Date: January 3, 2023
To: Office of Planning and Research, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Clerk of the County of San Diego, and Other Interested Stakeholders
Subject: Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report for the 2025 Regional Plan and Public Scoping Meeting Notice

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2025 Regional Plan (2025 Regional Plan or Project). The 2025 Regional Plan will consist of a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that identify the future of the San Diego region's transportation investments and growth.

In accordance with state and federal guidelines, the RTP and SCS are updated every four years and must include at least a 20-year planning horizon. On December 10, 2021, the SANDAG Board of Directors adopted the 2021 Regional Plan and certified its EIR. The 2025 Regional Plan is scheduled for consideration by the SANDAG Board of Directors in late 2025. A new EIR will be prepared for the 2025 Regional Plan to evaluate its significant effects on the environment, identify alternatives to the Project, and indicate whether and how significant effects from the Project can be mitigated or avoided.

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, SANDAG has issued this Notice of Preparation to provide responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and other interested stakeholders with information describing the proposed project and its potential environmental effects.

Project Description

Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) provides for a planning process to coordinate land use planning and regional transportation plans (RTP) to help California meet the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions established in Assembly Bill 32. SB 375 requires RTPs prepared by metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), including SANDAG, to incorporate into an RTP a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that demonstrates how the region would achieve GHG emissions reduction targets for passenger vehicles set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

In March 2018, CARB updated regional GHG emissions reduction targets. The current SANDAG targets are per capita carbon dioxide emissions reductions from passenger vehicles of 15 percent by 2020 and 19 percent by 2035 compared to 2005 levels. The 2025 Regional Plan will build on the visioning completed for the 2021 Regional Plan with the latest planning assumptions to identify projects, programs, and policies to achieve the state's emissions reduction targets and attain federal air quality conformity standards.

SB 375 requires SANDAG to include an SCS in the RTP that demonstrates how the region will meet the greenhouse gas emission targets. If the SCS falls short of meeting the targets,



- SANDAG posted a **Notice of Preparation** of a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Project on January 4, 2023 to CEQA.net
 - State Clearinghouse # 2023010039
 - CEQA review and comment period:
 - **January 4, 2023 to March 6, 2023**
- SANDAG is seeking feedback on the scope and content to be considered in the Draft PEIR

The background of the slide is a semi-transparent aerial photograph of a region, likely in the San Diego area. It shows a mix of urban areas, agricultural fields, and natural terrain. A large body of water is visible on the left side. The entire image is overlaid with a dark purple gradient.

Scope of PEIR

What Environmental Impacts Will be Analyzed in the PEIR?

As part of the PEIR for the 2025 Regional Plan, SANDAG will analyze the impacts to the resource areas listed below:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population/Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities/Service Systems
- Wildfire

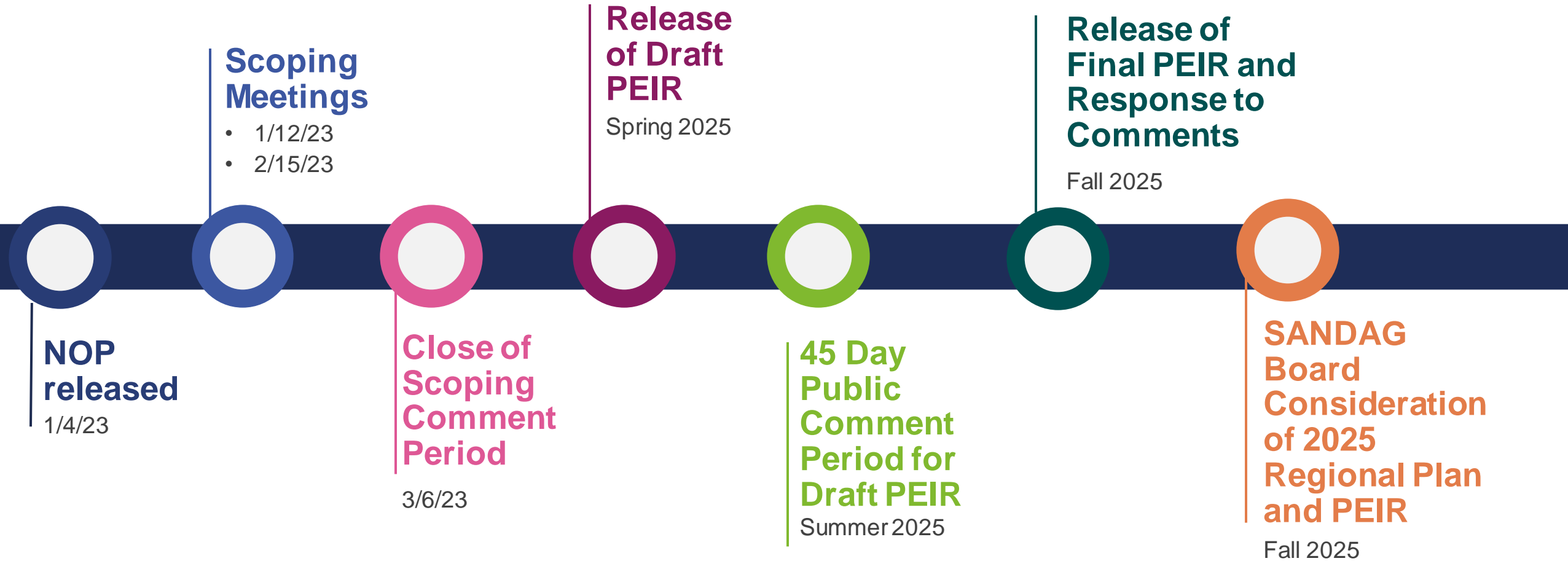
Additionally, the EIR will address cumulative impacts and growth inducing impacts.

Alternatives Analysis in the PEIR

- The PEIR will also analyze a reasonable range of alternatives to the 2025 Regional Plan that would feasibly attain most of the Project's basic objectives, while avoiding or substantially lessening any of the Project's significant effects on the environment.
- The EIR will also identify other alternatives that were initially considered, but rejected for reasons including, but not limited to, infeasibility due to economic, legal, or other considerations, inability to meet most of the Project's basic objectives, or failure to avoid or substantially lessen any of the Project's significant environmental impacts.
- SANDAG is seeking input on alternatives as part of this scoping process

Process for Submitting Public Scoping Comments

Timeline for the PEIR



Public Participation in the PEIR

There will be multiple opportunities for public participation in the PEIR:

- (1) Comments can be submitted until **March 6, 2023**, on the scope of the PEIR by mail or email – please include a contact name.
- (2) Comments can be submitted on the **Draft PEIR** when it is released in the Spring of 2025. SANDAG will include Responses to Comments received on the Draft PEIR in the Final PEIR.
- (3) Comments can be provided to the **Board of Directors** during their deliberation on the 2025 Regional Plan and PEIR in late 2025.

2025 Regional Plan

- Comments submitted as part of the PEIR scoping process will inform the approach taken in the PEIR.
- There will be a separate public engagement process for the 2025 Regional Plan, with multiple opportunities to engage in the planning process between 2023 and 2025.

Amendment to the 2021 Regional Plan and SEIR

- Throughout 2023, SANDAG also will be working on a Supplemental EIR for an Amendment to the 2021 Regional Plan.
- The focus of the SEIR is limited to analyzing the physical environmental impacts of removing the regional road usage charge from the 2021 Regional Plan, along with a cumulative impacts analysis and an analysis of alternatives that further reduce environmental impacts.
- The SEIR analysis is entirely separate from the 2025 Regional Plan PEIR.

Submitting Scoping Comments on the PEIR

Please submit your comments by 5:00 p.m. PST on March 6, 2023

Comments can be submitted by mail to:

Kirsten Uchitel, Associate Regional Planner
SANDAG
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

Comments can also be submitted by email to:

Kirsten.Uchitel@sandag.org

