



Scoping Meeting
Supplement to the Environmental Impact
Report for the 2021 Regional Plan

December 21, 2022

Agenda



Introduction



Project Overview



Scope of SEIR



**Process for Submitting
Public Scoping Comments**

Introduction

Staff Introductions

SEIR Project Manager

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Purpose and Objectives of the Scoping Meeting

Purpose

- Solicit input and refine scope of the SEIR analysis

Objectives

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

Project Overview

Regional Plan

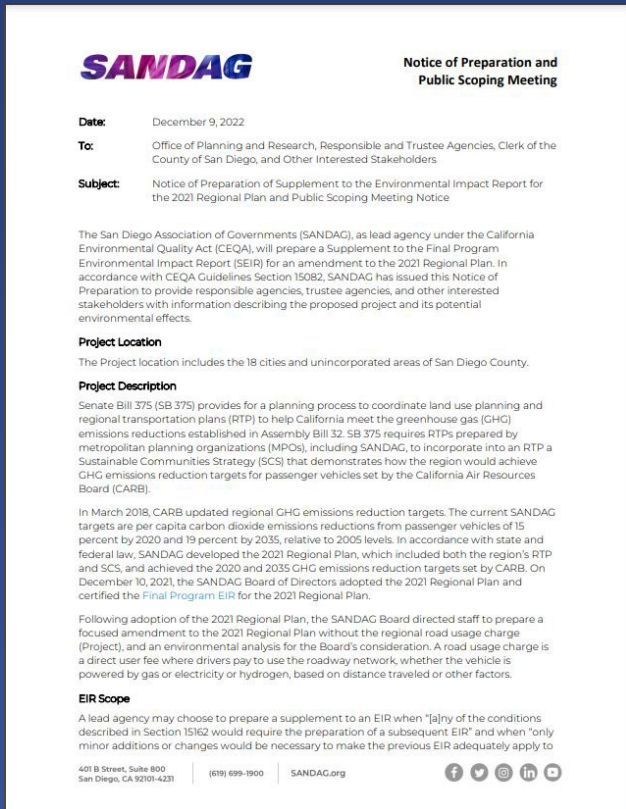
- The **SANDAG Regional Plan** serves as the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy for the San Diego region.
- It includes a **20+ year plan** with transportation projects, a forecasted development pattern, and supportive programs and strategies
- On **December 10, 2021**, the SANDAG Board adopted the 2021 Regional Plan and certified the **Final Program EIR**.

Removal of Regional Road Usage Charge

The SANDAG Board directed staff to prepare a focused amendment to the 2021 Regional Plan without the regional road usage charge.

- A road usage charge is a direct user fee where **drivers pay to use the roadway network**, whether the vehicle is powered by gas or electricity or hydrogen, based on distance traveled or other factors.
- **No roadway or transportation network** elements of the 2021 Regional Plan are expected to be altered or modified in the focused amendment.
- The Project location includes the 18 cities and unincorporated areas of **San Diego County**.

Notice of Preparation



SANDAG Notice of Preparation and Public Scoping Meeting

Date: December 9, 2022

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 Supplement to the Environmental Impact Report for the 2021 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 a Supplement to the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for an amendment to the 2021 Regional Plan. 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 Location
The Project location includes the 18 cities and unincorporated areas of San Diego County.


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, relative to 2005 levels. In accordance with state and federal law, SANDAG developed the 2021 Regional Plan, which included both the region's RTP and SCS, and achieved the 2020 and 2035 GHG emissions reduction targets set by CARB. On December 10, 2021, the SANDAG Board of Directors adopted the 2021 Regional Plan and certified the Final Program EIR for the 2021 Regional Plan.

Following adoption of the 2021 Regional Plan, the SANDAG Board directed staff to prepare a focused amendment to the 2021 Regional Plan without the regional road usage charge (Project), and an environmental analysis for the Board's consideration. A road usage charge is a direct user fee where drivers pay to use the roadway network, whether the vehicle is powered by gas or electricity or hydrogen, based on distance traveled or other factors.

EIR Scope
A lead agency may choose to prepare a supplement to an EIR when "[a]ny of the conditions described in Section 15162 would require the preparation of a subsequent EIR" and when "only minor additions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to

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- SANDAG released a **Notice of Preparation** of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Project on December 9, 2022
 - State Clearinghouse No. 2022120212
- CEQA 30-day review and comment period:
 - **December 9, 2022 to January 9, 2023**
- SANDAG is seeking feedback on the scope and content to be considered in the Draft SEIR

Scope of SEIR

What is a Supplemental EIR?

Under the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA, a lead agency may choose to prepare a supplement to an EIR when:

- **Substantial changes** are proposed that result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial **increase in the severity** of previously identified significant effects, but
- **Only minor additions** or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequately

What does a Supplemental EIR need to include?

- A supplement to an EIR “need contain only the information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project as revised.”
- The Supplemental EIR will consider 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.

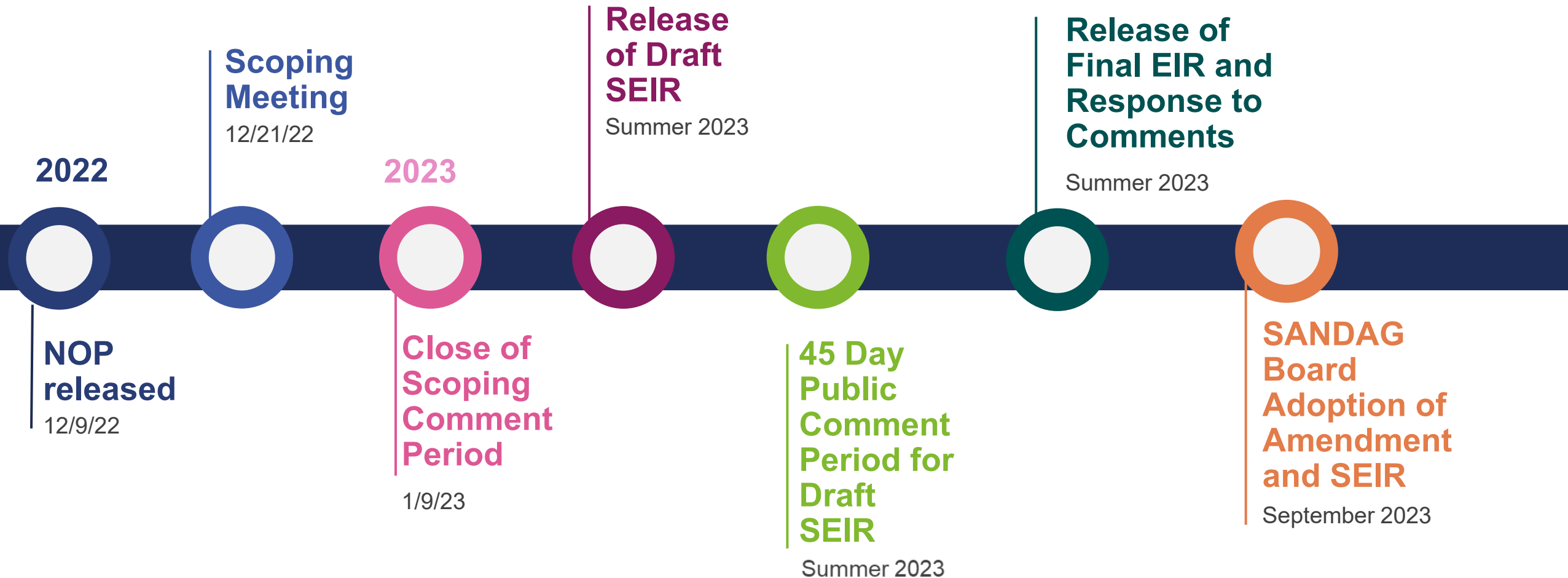
What environmental impacts will be analyzed in the Supplemental EIR?

As part of the EIR for the 2021 Regional Plan, SANDAG analyzed the impacts to the resource areas listed below. It is anticipated that SEIR will provide updated analysis to the those highlighted in **Bold**:

- Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- **Air Quality**
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- **Energy**
- Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use
- Mineral Resources
- **Noise and Vibration**
- Population and Housing
- Public Services and Utilities
- **Transportation**
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Water Supply
- Wildfire

Process for Submitting Public Scoping Comments

Timeline for the Supplemental EIR



Public Participation in the Supplemental EIR

There will be multiple opportunities for public participation in the Supplemental EIR:

- (1) Comments can be submitted until **January 9, 2023**, on the scope of the Supplemental EIR by mail or email – please include a contact name.
- (2) Comments can be submitted on the **Draft Supplemental EIR** when it is released in the Summer of 2023. SANDAG will include Responses to Comments received on the Draft Supplemental EIR in the Final Supplemental EIR.
- (3) Comments can be provided to the **Board of Directors** during their deliberation on the Amendment in September 2023.

2025 Regional Plan and EIR

- During 2023, SANDAG will be working to complete the Supplemental EIR to the 2021 Regional Plan and will also begin working on the 2025 Regional Plan and EIR.
- A **Notice of Preparation** for the Program Environmental Impact Report for the 2025 Regional Plan will be released later this week. The Scoping Meeting for the **EIR for the 2025 Regional Plan** will be held on **January 12, 2023**. Details for attending the virtual Scoping Meeting for the EIR for the 2025 Regional Plan will be included in the NOP and will be posted on SANDAG website.

Submitting Scoping Comments on the SEIR

Please submit your comments by 5:00 p.m. PST on January 9, 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

