February 4, 2011

TO: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

FROM: San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Staff

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Sorrento to Miramar Phase 2 Project

Notice of Preparation
SANDAG, as lead agency, will prepare an EIR for the Sorrento to Miramar Phase 2 Project for curve realignment and double tracking in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). SANDAG would like to know your views or the views of your organization or agency regarding the scope and content of the environmental information that will be addressed in the draft EIR. The project description, location, and probable environmental effects are contained in the attached material. An initial study was not prepared for this project.

Scoping Meeting
A public scoping meeting will be held on the following date and location:

February 15, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center
4126 Executive Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

Public input will be taken at the meeting. In addition, public input can be provided in writing at the meeting or submitted via letter or e-mail to SANDAG. Contact information is provided below.

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

SANDAG Contact Information
Please send your response to:
Cheryle Hodge, Senior Environmental Planner
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101
Email: cho@sandag.org
Phone: (619) 699-6938
Fax: (619) 699-1905
Please include your name and contact information or the name of a contact person in your organization or agency, if appropriate.

**Lead Agency**
San Diego Association of Governments

**Project Title**
Sorrento to Miramar Phase 2 Project

**Project Location**
The project is located along the Los Angeles to San Diego (LOSSAN) rail corridor, within the City of San Diego within San Diego County, California. The project limits are near Milepost [MP] 251, east of Interstate Highway 805 (I-805), to near MP 253, south of Miramar Road. The railroad right-of-way (ROW) is south of Carroll Canyon Road/Carroll Road, and north of Miramar Road, within Soledad Canyon, trending generally east-west.

**Date**
February 4, 2011

Attachment:
1. Sorrento to Miramar Phase 2 Project Description

Prepared by:  
Rob Rundle  
Principal Regional Planner
Sorrento to Miramar Phase 2 Project Description

The proposed project is located along the Los Angeles to San Diego (LOSSAN) Rail Corridor in the northwest portion of San Diego County, California (See Figure 1). The project site extends from near Milepost [MP] 251, east of Interstate Highway 805 (I-805), to near MP 253, south of Miramar Road. The railroad right-of-way (ROW) is south of Carroll Canyon Road/Carroll Road, and north of Miramar Road, within Soledad Canyon, trending generally east-west. The rail is presently single tracked and has the sharpest curves and steepest grade of any segment within the LOSSAN Corridor. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the horizontal track alignment by realigning the curved track to improve passenger train speed and safety, and also to add a second track to increase rail capacity and improve reliability.

Ten alternative project alignments and engineering designs were analyzed and evaluated in the Sorrento to Miramar Curve Realignment and Second Track – Phase 2 Alternatives Analysis Report (October 7, 2010). Based on physical and operational constraints, as well as environmental effects, land acquisition demands, and development costs, two project alignments were selected for detailed analysis within the Environmental Impact Report (EIR): Alignment 1c – South Alignment with Open Cut Curve Straightening and Alignment 6 – Northern Alignment (See Figure 2). Alternative 1C roughly follows the existing alignment and remains on the south side of Soledad Canyon. Alternative 6 includes new tracks on the north side of Soledad Canyon with two bridges crossing over Soledad Canyon. Both alternatives require the acquisition of new railroad right-of-way.

Issues Addressed in the EIR
The EIR will analyze the impacts of the curve realignment and double tracking on the physical environment and address the project’s potential impacts to the following environmental resource areas:

1. Aesthetics/Visual Resources
2. Air Quality
3. Biological Resources
4. Cultural Resources
5. Geology and Soils
6. Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Global Climate Change
7. Land Use
8. Noise
9. Paleontological Resources
10. Public Services/Utilities
11. Recreational Resources
12. Transportation/Parking
13. Water Resources (including hydrology/drainage)
14. Mandatory Findings of Significance

In addition, the EIR will address cumulative impacts, growth-inducing impacts, and other issue areas as required by CEQA.

**Alternatives Analyzed in the EIR**

SANDAG will evaluate alternatives 1C and 6 at an equal level of detail in the EIR. The EIR will also consider the No Project Alternative. In addition, the EIR will identify and summarize other alternatives (Alignments 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8) that were initially considered, but rejected for reasons including infeasibility in the *Alternatives Analysis Report*.

Although these alternatives have been identified, SANDAG is seeking input in the Notice of Preparation process on the alternatives that could result in modifications to the number of alternatives analyzed in the EIR or modifications to the alternatives identified above.