Elisa Arias (SANDAG) provided a brief background on the role and function of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as it relates to the Regional Transportation Plan/ Sustainable Communities Strategy and Regional Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Arias informed that the merging of the RTP/SCS with the RCP into a single comprehensive document was approved by the SANDAG Board of Directors in May 2012 and is scheduled for adoption in July 2015.

Rob Rundle (SANDAG) announced the Notice of Preparation of the Programmatic EIR for the combined Regional Plan was issued in December 2012. Public comments and questions were requested from the general public and may be submitted by February 15, 2013. Mr. Rundle informed that the preparation of the EIR will occur through this year and next year, to be circulated for public review and comment in early 2015. Following this, SANDAG will respond to all comments before finalizing the EIR for comment and approval from the SANDAG Board of Directors.

Deborah Knight (Friends of Rose Canyon) opened the period for public comments and questions. Ms. Knight requested clarification regarding the relationship of the EIR to the RTP/SCS as well as to the city and county General Plans. Mr. Rundle responded to explain that the RTP/SCS has been combined with the RCP into a single comprehensive document that will include updates to the general plans of all cities and county. However, Mr. Rundle clarified that this refers to the planning process, whereas the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the EIR, which informs on potential environmental impacts of the plan.

Jack Shu (Cleveland National Forest Foundation) recommended that SANDAG make efforts to address the Governor’s Executive Order in addition to SB375. Mr. Shu with agreement from other participants commented that SANDAG should focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and focus on public health risks as they relate to the Regional Plan. Mr. Shu further made recommendations that public outreach be expanded to reach under represented portions of the population; Mr. Shu referred to the San Diego Foundation as a model.

Nicole Burgess (B2PAC) and other members of the public recommended that SANDAG focus on bicycle and pedestrian/active transportation culture as a method of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving environmental and public health outcomes in the content of the EIR.
Deborah Knight (Friends of Rose Canyon) recommended that the EIR address issues of watershed protection and habitat conservation in urban areas.

In response to a question from George Adrian (City of San Diego), Elisa Arias (SANDAG) confirmed that an updated Growth Forecast dealing with population and housing will be incorporated into the new Regional Plan.

In response to questions from Jesse Mays (Sherri Lightner’s office, City of San Diego), Ms. Arias provided an overview of the identification and ranking process for incorporating projects into various alternatives.

Jim Nakagawa (Imperial Beach) verified that sea level rise will be subsumed under the topic of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the plan.

Overall, public comments were centered on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving public health, and increasing efforts to provide safe bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the region.

Mr. Rundle concluded the meeting by making a final reminder that **all public comments and questions should be submitted by February 15, 2013.**

Comments and questions can be submitted by fax, e-mail, phone, or in writing to:

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