



CEQA 101 and SCAG Roles Under CEQA

10/18/2022



Toolbox
Tuesday

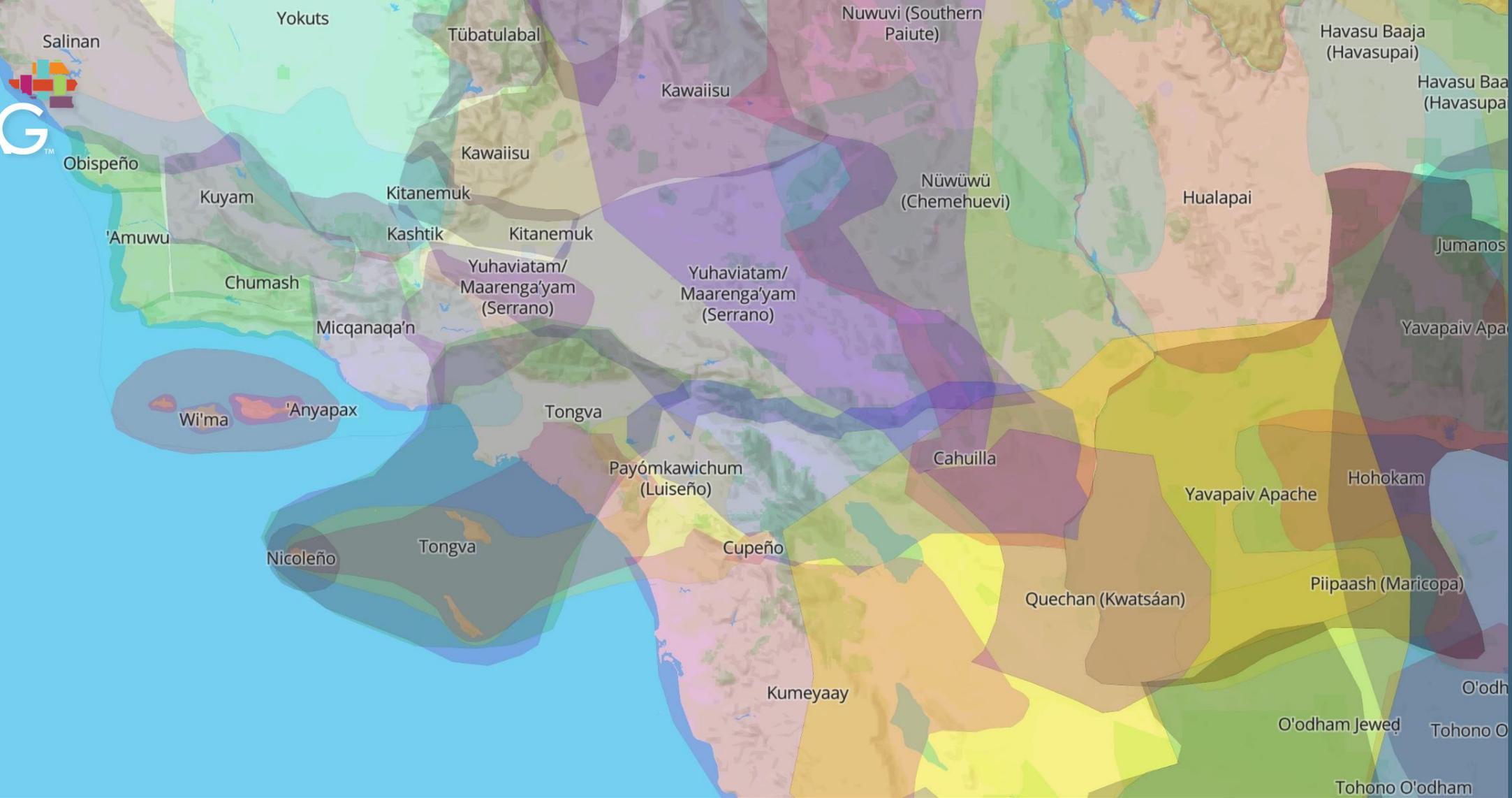
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Housekeeping

1. Meeting length: 1.5 hour
2. This meeting is being recorded and by attending you consent to the recordation
3. All participant lines will be muted
4. At the end, there will be a Q&A session
5. If you have a question during the presentation, please type it into the chat box or press the "raise hand" function
6. We will log all questions and then voice a selection at the end of the presentation
7. A recording of this webinar and the PowerPoint slides will be available on the SCAG website. We will send a link to everyone who has registered after the event

Disclaimer

This presentation has been developed by SCAG planning staff for discussions in the Toolbox Tuesday session. The presentation does not alter or substitute a CEQA lead agency's decision-making authority, independent judgment, or responsibility in determining and preparing appropriate environmental documents for project or governmental action subject to CEQA requirements. This presentation is provided for general information purposes only and is not to be construed as legal advice or legal opinion.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

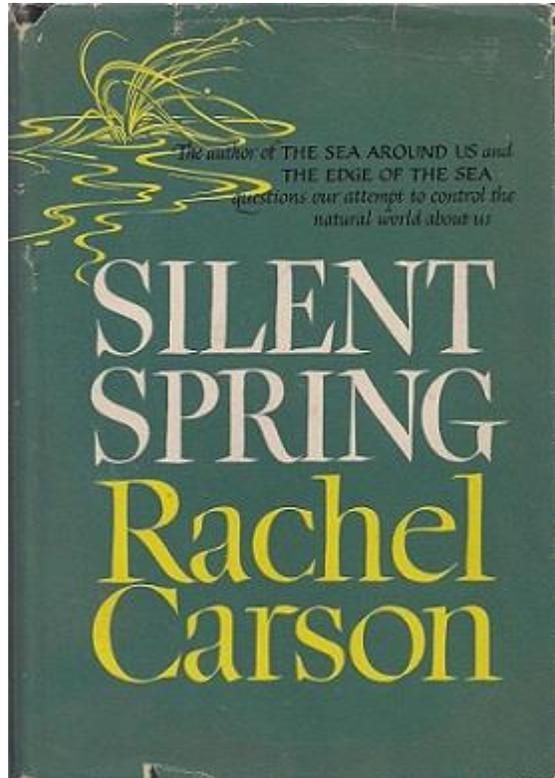
AGENDA

- 1 CEQA Basics**
- 2 Intergovernmental Review Program**
- 3 Program Environmental Impact Report for Connect SoCal 2024**



CEQA BASICS

History

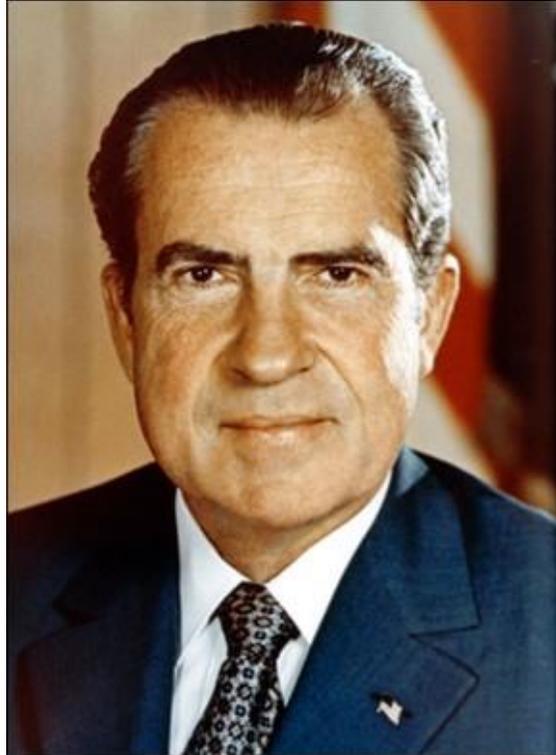


1962: Silent Spring



1969: Santa Barbara Oil Spill

History



1969: President Nixon signs National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [42 USC 4321 et seq.]



1970: Governor Reagan signs California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [Public Resources Code 21000 et seq.]

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Applies to projects which are carried out, financed, or approved in whole or in part by federal agencies
- Codified in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 40, Part 1500
- NEPA Document Types:
 - ✓ Environmental Assessment
 - ✓ Environmental Impact Statement
 - ✓ Findings of No Significant Impact
- Integrate CEQA requirements with other environmental review and consulting requirements such as NEPA requirements (CEQA Guidelines Section 15006(i))
- In California, a project or governmental action may trigger both NEPA and CEQA
 - Preparation of joint NEPA and CEQA documents
 - CEQA document ready and certified before NEPA document
 - NEPA document ready before CEQA document

Basics (also seen in the CEQA handbook*)

- California Environmental Quality Act of 1970
 - ✓ Written and amended by Legislature (this is the “law”)
- CEQA Guidelines implementing Public Resources Code
 - ✓ Implementing Public Resources Code
 - ✓ Written and amended by CA Natural Resources Agency periodically to reflect statutory amendments

**available at the AEP website: https://www.califaep.org/statute_and_guidelines.php*

Basics – Purposes (illustrative)

1. To **inform** government decision makers and the public of the potential environmental impacts.
2. To **identify & disclose** significant environmental effects of projects or actions of public agencies by the Lead Agency under the CEQA
3. To **mitigate** significant environmental effects, when feasible **[CEQA requires mitigation measures, whereas NEPA doesn't require such]**.
4. To **avoid** significant environmental effects, when feasible (e.g., a reasonable range of feasible alternatives).
5. To **balance** with other public interests and **disclose** why a project is approved notwithstanding its unavoidable, significant environmental impacts.

Basics – Principles (illustrative)

- CEQA does not require a “right” decision
- CEQA facilitates public information and requires only an “informed” decision of potential environmental effects of the proposed project or governmental action
- Principles:
 - ✓ Public disclosure
 - ✓ Neutral manner
 - ✓ Public participation
 - ✓ A piece of the puzzle that is considered together and balanced with the consideration of other, and sometimes competing, public interests (e.g., economic interests)
 - ✓ Finality (CEQA review is time-consuming and costly)

Step 1 – CEQA “Project”

- Public agency to determine whether activity is a CEQA “project”
- CEQA defines “project” **very broadly**.
- “Project” means an activity which may cause *either* a direct physical change in the environment, *or* a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and which is **any** of the following:
 - ✓ An activity directly undertaken by any public agency (e.g., SCAG’s RTP/SCS).
 - ✓ An activity undertaken by a person which is supported, in whole or in part, through contracts, grants, subsidies, loans, or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies.
 - ✓ An activity that involves the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies. (Public Resources Code Section 21065)

Step 1 – CEQA “Project”

“Projects” are typically those requiring:

- **Discretionary** approval that requires the exercise of judgment or deliberation on part of lead agency (e.g., a private project is subject to CEQA if a public agency issues a discretionary permit or approval of a project. A “discretionary project” is a project that requires public agency or body approval.); or
- **Governmental actions** (e.g., SCAG’s RTP/SCS) that are required for the public agency to prepare or adopt by other laws (e.g., federal metropolitan planning requirements and state greenhouse emissions reduction requirements)

Step 2 – “Exempt?”

- Statutory Exemption
 - ✓ The legislature passes a bill to exempt particular activities (ex: emergency actions, passenger rail, and seismic retrofit projects on existing bridges)
- Categorical Exemption
 - ✓ Applies when a project has no possibility to cause significant adverse environmental effects (ex: minor alterations or replacement of existing structure, public gatherings, and small wildlife restoration projects)
 - ✓ There are 33 Classes of categorical exemptions
 - ✓ Exception to the exemption
- Common Sense Exemption
 - ✓ Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA

If a project is exempt, the prudent practice is to prepare Notice of Exemption (NOE) and file it with the State Clearinghouse at OPR and County Clerk’s office for a 30-day public inspection period. An NOE is not required under CEQA. If it’s filed, only a 35-day statute of limitation applies. If not filed, 180 days to file a litigation.

Step 2 – “Exempt?”

- If it is a CEQA project, and it is not exempt, public agency evaluates project to determine if there is any possibility that the project will cause significant environmental impacts
- Conduct an Initial Study to determine the appropriate CEQA document to prepare
- Example types of CEQA documents after the Initial Study:
 - ✓ Negative Declaration (ND)
 - ✓ Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
 - ✓ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)* [NOTE: various types of EIRs exist]

Step 3 – “What CEQA Doc?”

What is Initial Study?

- It is the “analysis” of the 20 environmental topics listed in the standard CEQA checklist ([Appendix G](#))
- Topics include, for example, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, energy, and transportation.
- An initial Study is best practice for ND and MND since it is the analysis or (legally) substantial evidence for ND and MND
- Initial Study is often prepared before preparing a DEIR if you know some environmental topics out of the 20 topics can be scoped out

Step 3 – “What CEQA Doc?”

Level of Significance:

- Based on the results of the Initial Study, one of the following three conclusions will be reached:
 - ✓ No impact or Less than significant → then, the question is “scoped out”
 - ✓ Significant but can be reduced to less than significant with mitigation measures → then, identify the mitigation measures
 - ✓ Significant and warrant further analysis → then, this question is carried forward to the next DEIR phase
- The appropriate CEQA document is based on the results of the Initial Study

Level of Significance	CEQA Doc Type (Substantive)	CEQA Notice Type (Procedural)
All 20 topics, including Tribal Cultural Resources under AB 52 requirements and Wildfire, are found to have “no impact” or “less than significant”	ND*	Notice of Intent (NOI)
Some of 20 are found to be “less than significant” while others can be reduced to “less than significant” after incorporating mitigation measures	MND*	Notice of Intent (NOI)
Significant and can’t be mitigated thereby warranting further analysis	EIR*	Notice of Preparation (NOP)

*NOTE: ND and MND are the official CEQA names. If an EIR is required, more work is needed. First up is the Draft EIR (CEQA official name).

Types of Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

- **Project EIR or just EIR** – Examines environmental impacts of specific development project; focuses primarily on changes in the environment resulted from the project
- **Program EIR (PEIR)** – Prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project (e.g., SCAG's Connect SoCal PEIR)
- **Master EIR** – alternative to project EIR or program EIR with a similar CEQA streamlining benefit
- **Supplement to an EIR** – Prepared when minor additions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the project in the changed situation
- **Subsequent EIR** – Prepared when substantial changes occur and require important revisions in the previous EIR
- **Addendum to an EIR** – Prepared when minor technical changes or additions are necessary to make the EIR adequate

Step 4 – “Agency’s Role?”

Agency:

- In addition to determining the appropriate CEQA document, it is important to determine what is your agency’s role
 - ✓ Lead Agency
 - ✓ Public commenting agency
 - ✓ Responsible agency
- Lead Agency: Public agency with the principal responsibility for approving or carrying out a project [e.g., SCAG for the Connect SoCal (2020 RTP/SCS)]
- Public Commenting Agency: substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project that are within an area of expertise of SCAG (Public Resources Code Section 21153(c)) (**a function of the SCAG IGR Program**)
- Responsible Agency: Not designated as lead agency but have project approval responsibilities for the area of expertise (e.g., **permits**) (Public Resources Code Section 21153(c))

Step 4 – Commenting Agency

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)*

- The Inter-Governmental Review (IGR) program reviews regionally significant local plans, projects, and programs for consistency with SCAG's adopted regional plans (more information starting slide 29)
- It also reviews Federal Grant applications pursuant to the Presidential E.O. 12372**.
- Regional significance is defined in the CEQA Guidelines Section 15206.

Sources: *<http://www.scag.ca.gov/programs/Pages/IGR.aspx>. **<https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/12372.html>.

Step 5 – “CEQA Doc Preparation”

ND or MND:

- After a project is deemed less than significant (after Initial Study analysis), the lead agency must circulate a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND).
- To prepare for an NOI to Adopt a ND or MND, may use the CEQA checklist (Appendix G)
 - Negative Declaration is valid when the response to each category in the checklist is “no impact” or “less than significant”
 - Mitigated Negative Declaration is valid when one or more of the response to a category in the checklist is “Less than significant with mitigated incorporated”
 - If any categories are marked as “potentially significant” then an EIR must be prepared.
- NOI to adopt a ND or MND is circulated for a minimum 20 days or often 30 days for public review and comments
- The lead agency must consider the ND or MND by the decision-makers prior to approving the project

Step 5 – “CEQA Doc Preparation”

Draft EIR (DEIR):

- Based on the Initial Study analysis, if an EIR is needed, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to prepare a DEIR is prepared and circulated for a 30-day public review and comment period.
- At a minimum, a scoping meeting is held during the NOP 30-day period.
- EIR is a detailed statement prepared under CEQA describing and analyzing the significant environmental effects of a project and discussing ways to mitigate or avoid the effects, including alternatives to the project or changes to the project design.
- When the DEIR is ready for a minimum 45-day public review period, a **Notice of Availability (NOA)** of a DEIR is prepared as the appropriate public notice.
- During the NOA review period, a public meeting or community workshop on the DEIR is not required but may be held.

CEQA Process Step 5 – “CEQA Doc Preparation”

Final EIR (FEIR):

- After the completion of the minimum 45-day public review, the **Final EIR** is prepared.
- The review of the Final EIR focuses on the responses to comments on the Draft EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15089 (b)).
- The responses to comments must be circulated for a minimum 10 days to only the public agency that provides comments on the Draft EIR (Public Resources Code Section 21092.5(a)).
- A Notice of Availability (NOA) is often associated with the Final EIR
- Final EIR is not the re-do of the Draft EIR analysis. It includes:
 - ✓ Draft EIR, together with all of the technical appendices
 - ✓ Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR either verbatim or in summary
 - ✓ A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR
 - ✓ The responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process **[this is what IGR typically receives in the Final CEQA phase]**
 - ✓ Any other information added by the Lead Agency

Step 5 – “CEQA Doc Preparation”

- After Draft EIR is circulated and comments are received, lead agency must prepare a Final EIR with changes in the Draft and responses to all comments received within the comment period.
- Decision-makers at the Lead Agency should consider the CEQA environmental information in the Final EIR and makes a decision on certifying the Final EIR, prior to approving the project.
- A formal public hearing to consider the Final EIR is not required.
- Typically, environmental review is included as one of the subjects at a public meeting in which decision-makers consider the environmental information in the Final EIR prior to approving the project).
- Although not required, it is also the typical practice that the Final EIR is certified at the same time other project approvals are decided.
- The Notice of Determination (NOD) must be filed with OPR and County Clerks within five (5) days after approval of the project.

Step 5 – “CEQA Doc Preparation”

Key contents of the DEIR

1. Table of Contents
2. Executive Summary
3. Introduction
4. Project Description
5. CEQA Environmental Analysis (for each of the CEQA topics carried forward to the EIR phase), including baseline, methodology, mitigation measures, and conclusion
6. Alternatives, including the identification of the environmentally superior alternative
7. Growth-inducing impacts
8. List of preparers
9. List of sourced considered and cited
10. Appendices

Step 5 – “CEQA Doc Preparation”

Key components of the Draft EIR Environmental Analysis:

1. Existing setting (background or baseline conditions)
2. Impacts
 - a. Direct impacts: activities that may produce impacts directly affecting the air quality or health risks (e.g., a direct “causal relationship”). Examples of project activities or features:
 - i. Project location (e.g., boundary and cross streets)
 - ii. Project size (e.g., acres, square-feet)
 - iii. Project nature or category (e.g., goods movement, residential, warehouse, transportation)
 - iv. Project activities that are pertinent to air quality (e.g., demolition and construction → how many to demolish or construct? How long? What equipment? When?)
 - b. Indirect impacts: secondary effects which are caused by the project and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable
 - c. Cumulative impacts: two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts from closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects
3. Mitigation measures and level of significance after incorporating mitigation measures

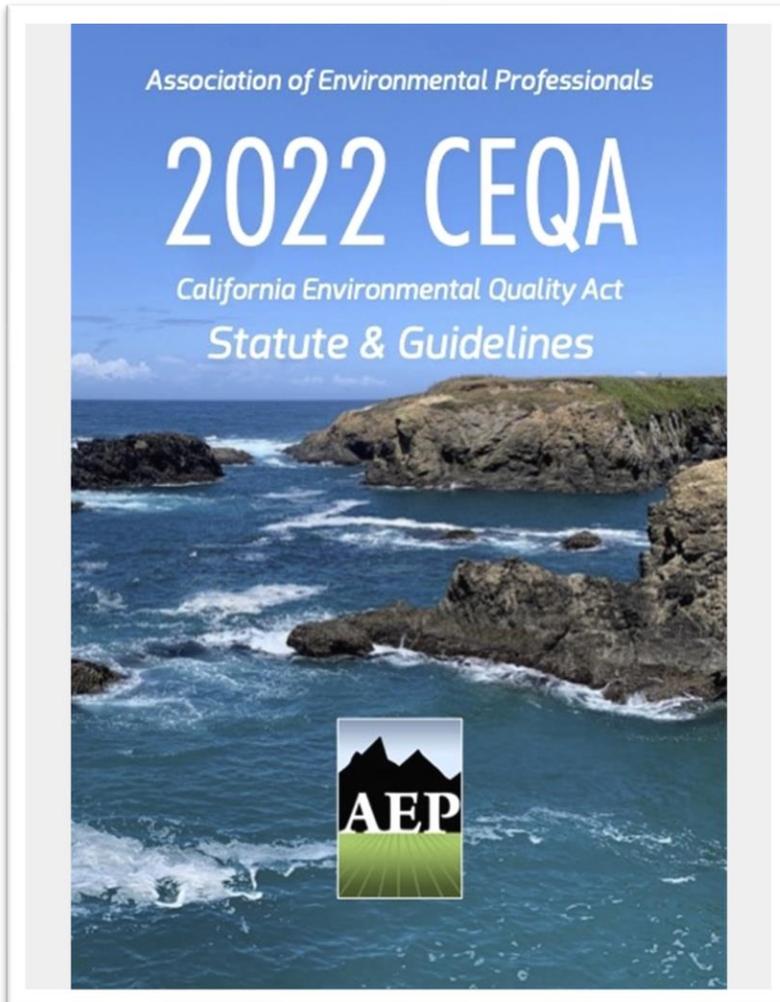
CEQA Process

- Good-faith effort at full disclosure
- Meaningful public participation and informed decision making
- One fundamental CEQA policy is integration of CEQA requirements with other environmental review and consulting requirements (CEQA Guidelines Section 15006(i))
- Special consultation requirements (e.g., with CEQA responsible agencies, tribal governments pursuant to AB 52 requirements, federal agencies when NEPA is triggered)
- Public review and duration differ

Statute of Limitations

- CEQA provides a 30-day window for anyone to challenge the CEQA review, if the NOD is filed properly. If not, 180 days are triggered.
 - ✓ Examples of reasons for lawsuit
 - Did not adequately address comments
 - Failed to consider important aspect of a project
 - Failed to follow CEQA guidelines (noticing or commenting period)
 - Failed to analyze/disclose all environmental impacts of project
 - Procedural defects
- For an NOE that is filed properly, CEQA provides a 35-day window; otherwise, 180 days.

CEQA Checklist: Appendix G (Excerpts)



**APPENDIX G:
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM**

NOTE: The following is a sample form that may be tailored to satisfy individual agencies' needs and project circumstances. It may be used to meet the requirements for an initial study when the criteria set forth in CEQA Guidelines have been met. Substantial evidence of potential impacts that are not listed on this form must also be considered. The sample questions in this form are intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of impacts, and do not necessarily represent thresholds of significance.

- Project title: [Click here to enter text.](#)
- Lead agency name and address: [Click here to enter text.](#)
- Contact person and phone number: [Click here to enter text.](#)
- Project location: [Click here to enter text.](#)
- Project sponsor's name and address: [Click here to enter text.](#)
- General plan designation: [Click here to enter text.](#)
- Zoning: [Click here to enter text.](#)
- Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)
[Click here to enter text.](#)
- Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:
[Click here to enter text.](#)
- Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.):
[Click here to enter text.](#)
- Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?
[Click here to enter text.](#)

NOTE: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
XVI. RECREATION.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.				
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

QUESTIONS?



POP QUIZ!

True or False: Every project in California requires CEQA review.

True

False

When would a project need to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act?

Only when an environmental impact report has to be prepared

If a project requires a discretionary determination from any public agency

If a project will have significant adverse environmental impacts

If a project is LEED certified

Which entity is primarily responsible for a project's environmental review if the project is subject to CEQA?

A state public agency

A local public agency

A developer

A lead agency (could be a state, regional, or local public agency, joint power authority, etc.)

Which of the following is not a CEQA document?

Notice of
exemption

Initial Study

Environmental
Impact Report

Local
ordinance

True or False: CEQA requires that a project's significant adverse environmental impacts must be fully reduced to less than significant or no impacts before the project can be approved or allowed to move forward.

True

False



INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW (IGR) PROGRAM

Clearinghouse Function

- Pursuant to Federal Executive Order No. 12372 (*The Presidential Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*), SCAG is designated as the Regional Clearinghouse
 - Function as a single point of contact
 - Responsible for the review of:
 - applications for federal grants and financial assistance programs
 - federally required state plans
 - federal development activities
 - federal environmental documents

Commenting Function

- Under CEQA Guidelines, lead agencies preparing environmental documents must send to affected state and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs)/regional agencies (i.e., SCAG) for review and comment
- SCAG comments on projects that are deemed **regionally significant** under CEQA Guidelines [[CEQA Guidelines Section 15206](#)]

IGR Database

- All projects submitted to SCAG are logged into the IGR Database

- Project information
- Lead Agency
- Contact
- Project Title
- Project Type
- State Clearinghouse Number
- Address/Location
- Description
- Development Intensity

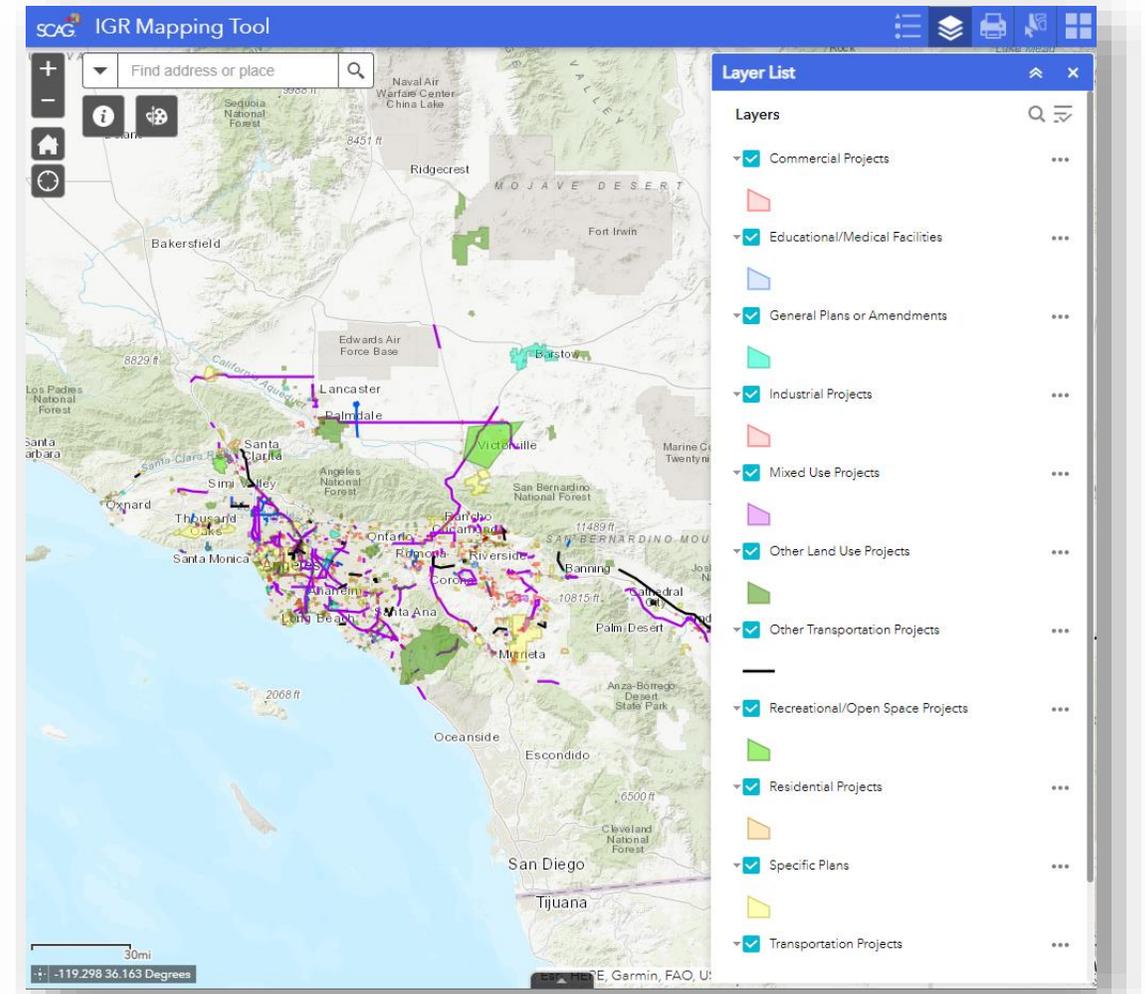
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW									
PROJECTS ADD PROJECT REPORTS GENERAL SETUP									
VIEW PROJECTS									
Project ID	Title	Address	City	Subregion	Project Type	Is Significant	Clearinghouse		
10701	Conditional Use Permit (CUP 22-009), Design Review Application (DRA 22-016), and Parcel Merger (PM 22-001)		Highland	San Bernardino	INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT	No			
10700	Wildomar Crossroads Mixed Use Project	24850-23980 Catt Road	Wildomar	Western Riverside	MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT	No	2022080339		
10699	U-Haul of North Oxnard	2420 North Oxnard Boulevard	Oxnard	Ventura	INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT	No			
10698	Chartwell Warehouse at Rider Street and Redlands Avenue		Perris	Western Riverside	INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT	No			
10697	Cottonwood & Edgemont, Plot Plan PEN21-0525	13576 Highway 215	Moreno Valley	Western Riverside	INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT	No			
10696	Anaheim/Ball Mixed Use	1200-1354 S. Anaheim Blvd, 200 E. Ball Road, and 1207 S. Claudina St.	Anaheim	Orange County	MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT	No	2022080265		
10695	Beazer Homes Residential Project PL21-0071		Chino	Western Riverside	RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	No			
10694	City of Rolling Hills 2021-2029 Housing Element Update		Rolling Hills	South Bay	HOUSING ELEMENT	Yes			
10693	Redlands General Plan Transit Villages District and Specific Plan Project		Redlands	San Bernardino	SPECIFIC PLAN	Yes	2021080622		
10692	The Grand Project		Redlands	San Bernardino	RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	No	2022070225		
10691	Ramona-Indian Warehouse Project		Perris	Western Riverside	INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT	No	2022070543		
10690	18868 Pacific Coast Highway	18868 Pacific Coast Highway	Malibu	Las Virgenes	RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	No			
10689	Orchard Logistics Center Project	38021 SR-60 Freeway	Beaumont	Western Riverside	INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT	No			
10688	LCP Amendment No LCP-5-UGB-21-0042-1 Streamlining, Fuel mod, wireless		Laguna Beach	Orange County	LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM	No			
10687	City of Malibu Local Coastal Program Amendment No LCP-4-MAL-20-0083-2 (Short Term Rentals)		Malibu	Las Virgenes	LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM	No			

1 - 15 of 10648 items

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IGR Database: Mapping Tool

- Projects resulting in physical changes are mapped in the IGR Mapping Tool
- Publicly Available at: <https://maps.scag.ca.gov/IGR/>
- Includes project information from IGR Database



IGR Reports

- Bi-Monthly Clearinghouse Reports
 - Includes a detailed list of projects with project descriptions
 - Posted on IGR webpage: <http://www.scag.ca.gov/programs/Pages/IGR.aspx>
- Annual Clearinghouse Report
 - Report with summary statistics for all projects received
 - For Caltrans review

IGR BI-MONTHLY REPORT

The Intergovernmental Review Bi-Monthly Report summarizes the federal grant applications, environmental documents and other information received by SCAG's Intergovernmental Review (IGR) Section. The Bi-Monthly Report consists of two types of entries: Federal Grants and Environmental Documentation.

The Federal Grant entries are provided to inform your organization of all grant applications for federal assistance from our region in accordance with Executive Order 12372. The entries include state sponsored plans and project types such as Housing and Community Development, Urban Mass Transit, and Human Services. The Environmental Documentation entries describe regionally significant and non regionally significant facilities (e.g., transportation, wastewater treatment), residential, commercial, and industrial projects which have been voluntarily submitted for review by local governments. Environmental documents received include Notices of Preparation, Environmental Impact Reports, Environmental Impact Statements, Negative Declarations and Mitigated Negative Declarations.

A SCAG Project Identification Number organizes project descriptions for both the Federal Grant and Environmental Documentation entries. To include the interest of your jurisdiction or comment on proposed comprehensive planning, areawide coordination or environmental impacts please contact the IGR Section.

See below for IGR Bi-Monthly Report, both recent reports and report archives.

Recent & Archived Reports

Search		All Categories	APPLY
Title	Date	Category	Available Files
Bi-Monthly Report July - August 2022	09/23/2022	Report	Downloads 
Bi-Monthly Report May - June 2022	07/01/2022	Report	Downloads 

Submit CEQA Notices to IGR!

- Helps SCAG develop regional growth forecasts
- Submit project notices via:
 - Online form: <https://scag.ca.gov/igr-submissions>
 - E-mail to igr@scag.ca.gov

IGR SUBMISSIONS

Name: *

Email: *

Subject: *

Message: *

Attachment:

Choose File

No file chosen

QUESTIONS?



PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR CONNECT SOCAL 2024

2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

Introduction

- SCAG is the Lead Agency for the proposed Connect SoCal 2024
- CEQA requires SCAG to evaluate potential environmental impacts and disclose the evaluation in a CEQA document
- Program EIR (PEIR) is the appropriate CEQA document
- PEIR includes a region-wide, first-tier, programmatic level environmental assessment

Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft PEIR for Connect SoCal 2024

- Staff received authorization of the public release of NOP from SCAG's Energy & Environment Committee on 10/6/2022
- SCAG released the NOP for public review and comments on 10/17/2022
- A CEQA required 30-day public review and comment period
- **Review Period: 10/17/2022 – 11/16/2022**
- Seek feedback on the scope and contents of environmental information to be considered in the Draft PEIR



NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for Connect SoCal 2024 (2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy) (State Clearinghouse No. TBD)

DATE: October 17, 2022

LEAD AGENCY: Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1700
Los Angeles, California 90017

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), as Lead Agency, is publishing this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to prepare a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed 2024-2050 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), referred to alternatively as "2024 RTP/SCS", "Connect SoCal 2024", "Plan", or "Project".

To ensure full consideration of environmental issues with potential significant adverse impacts when preparing the Draft PEIR, **all written comments on the NOP must be received within thirty (30) days of the start of the required 30-day public review and comment period, which begins October 17, 2022, and ends November 16, 2022 at 5:00 PM (PST).**

Two (2) virtual public scoping meetings for the NOP, each providing the same information, will be held on **Wednesday, November 9, 2022, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**, and **Thursday, November 10, 2022, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**. The meetings will be held in an online format using Zoom. You may join, view, and participate in the meetings by using the Zoom application, by your web browser, or by phone. Information for the webcast is provided below:

<https://scag.zoom.us/j/81023287939>
Dial by location: +1 669 900 6833 US Toll or +1 669 444 9171 US Toll
Meeting ID: 810 2328 7939

Please send your comments on the NOP to Ms. Karen Calderon, Senior Regional Planner, either electronically to: ConnectSoCalPEIR@scag.ca.gov or by mail to the address shown above. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive CEQA notices regarding the PEIR for the Plan, need additional information, or require special accommodations or translation services for a scoping meeting, please email Ms. Karen Calderon at least 72 hours prior to the scoping meeting or call (213) 236-1983 so that SCAG has sufficient time to make arrangements.

Preliminary Contents Based on Previous Connect SoCal PEIR

Draft PEIR:

- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1.0 – Introduction
- Chapter 2.0 – Project Description
- Chapter 3.0 – Environmental Impact Analysis
- Chapter 4.0 – Alternatives
- Chapter 5.0 – Other CEQA Considerations
- Chapter 6.0 – Persons and Sources Consulted
- Chapter 7.0 – Glossary

Final PEIR:

- Chapter 8.0 – Introduction to the Final PEIR
- Chapter 9.0 – Response to Comments
- Chapter 10.0 – Clarifications and Revisions
- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program*
- Findings of Fact*
- Statement of Overriding Considerations*

* Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, Findings of Fact, and Statement of Overriding Considerations are exhibits to resolution for the Final PEIR

Environmental Issues and Topics

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

Example: Aesthetics Based on CEQA Guidelines Appendix G

I. AESTHETICS

Would the project:

- i. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?
- ii. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?
- iii. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?
- iv. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Level of Significance

- No Impact
- Less than Significant Impact
- Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated
- Potentially Significant Impact



Mitigation Measures

- CEQA Requirements
- SCAG has no authority or jurisdiction to implement project-level mitigation
- SCAG Mitigation Measures
 - Implemented by SCAG
- Project-Level Mitigation Measures
 - Implemented by local agencies or developers, as applicable
 - Useful for tiering



Preliminary Consideration of Alternatives

- CEQA Requirements:
 - No Project Alternative
 - A range of reasonable alternatives
 - Meet most of the basic project objectives (Plan Goals and Objectives)
 - At least one needs to be environmentally superior
- Preliminary Consideration:
 - Left Bookend: No Project Alternative (CEQA required)
 - Right Bookend: Intensified Land Use Alternative



Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR Development and Timeline



Public Release of
NOP
(Oct 17, 2022)

30-Day Public
Comment Period
(Oct 17, 2022 - Nov 16, 2022)

Public Release of
Draft PEIR
(Within 30 days after
Draft Connect SoCal 2024
release)

Draft PEIR Public
Comment Period
(Anticipated in Fall/Winter
2023)

Preparation of Final
PEIR
(Spring 2024)

Public and Stakeholders Outreach and Consultation: Ongoing

Join Us!

SCAG will be hosting two virtual public scoping meetings

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Wednesday, November 9, 2022,
from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

10

Thursday, November 10, 2022,
from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Join on Zoom at:

<https://scag.zoom.us/j/81023287939>

Dial by location: +1 669 900 6833 US Toll or
+1 669 444 9171 US Toll

Meeting ID: 810 2328 7939

Submit comments on the NOP:

- At the public scoping meetings
- By e-mail:
ConnectSoCalPEIR@scag.ca.gov
- By mail:

Attn: Ms. Karen Calderon
Southern California Association
of Governments

900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700
Los Angeles, California 90017

QUESTIONS?

Questions? Contact Us!

CEQA Basics

Lijin Sun

(213) 236-1804

sunl@scag.ca.gov

Intergovernmental Review

Annaleigh Ekman

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ekman@scag.ca.gov

General Questions

Karen Calderon

(213) 236-1983

calderon@scag.ca.gov

Please send specific questions on Connect SoCal 2024 PEIR to:
ConnectSoCalPEIR@scag.ca.gov

Submit CEQA Notices to IGR: IGR@scag.ca.gov

Tell us how we did!

Take a quick 2-minute survey to help us improve future Toolbox Tuesdays!



SCAN ME