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Notice of Preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) is the lead agency for the preparation and review of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCB). Pursuant to Section 15082 of the California Environmental Cuality Act (ECA), BCAG is soliciting views from your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. BCAG will accept written comments concerning the scope and content of the SEIR from interested persons and organizations concerned with the project. State and federal law require that the RTP-SCS be updated every four years and the proposed 2024 RTP-SCS is an update of the current 2020 RTP-SCS. The 2020 RTP-SCS and SEIR were approved by the BCAG Board of Directors following a public hearing on December 10, 2020.

The SEIR for the 2024 RTP-SCS will be a supplement to the 2016 RTP-SCS Program EIR and 2020 RTP-SCS SEIR (State Clearinghouse # 2015002038). This is the appropriate level of environmental documentation for the 2024 RTP-SCS because changes to existing conditions (including regulatory updates), the transportation project list, and land use scenario evaluated in the 2024 RTP-SCS are expected to be minor relative to the 2016 RTP-SCS and 2020 RTP-SCS and would not substantially increase the severity of impacts previously identified. As stated in the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15163(b), the supplement to the EIR need only contain information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project, as revised. In addition, a more detailed or project-level environmental review (if required) of the projects included in the RTP-SCS will be conducted by the responsible agencies, including Caltrans, Butte County, and the cities within the County, before each project is approved for construction and implementation.

BCAG will host one EIR Scoping Meeting for the 2024 RTP-SCS. The purpose of the Scoping meeting is to solicit input on the scope and content of the environmental analysis that will be included in the Draft SEIR for the 2024 RTP-SCS. The Scoping Meeting will be made virtual for those unable to attend inperson. The date, time and location of the meeting is as follows:

November 16, 2024 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. 326 Huss Drive, BCAG Conference Room Suite 150 Chico, CA 95928

Zoom (https://zoom.us/join) Meeting ID: 819 6179 6722 Passcode: 376593

Future public workshops will be held to discuss development of the draft 2024 RTP-SCS.

Because of the time-sensitive nature of the regional transportation planning process, we request your response at the earliest possible date. Please mail comments to Iván García at BCAG, 326 Huss Drive, Chico, CA 95928 or e-mail comments to igarcía@bcag.org no later than 5:00 p.m. or December 11, 2023. Please identify the name, phone number, and email address of a contact person at your agency. Comments from the public must also include name, phone number, and email or postal address.

For more information, visit http://www.bcag.org/Planning/RTP--SCS/2024-RTPSCS-Update/index.html or call 530-809-4616.

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Butte County Association of Governments