

BEFORE THE  
FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
RESOLUTION 2014-19

In the Matter of )  
 )  
**CERTIFYING THE FINAL** )  
**PROGRAM ENVIRON-** )  
**MENTAL IMPACT REPORT** )  
**(PEIR) FOR THE 2014 RTP** )

RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE FINAL  
PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
REPORT (PEIR) FOR THE 2014 RTP/SCS

WHEREAS, the Council of Fresno County Governments is a Regional Transportation Planning Agency and a Metropolitan Planning Organization, pursuant to State and Federal designation; and

WHEREAS, federal planning regulations require Metropolitan Planning Organizations to prepare and adopt a long range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for their region; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 375 (Steinberg, 2008) requires that Metropolitan Planning Organizations prepare a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as part of the 2014 RTP that demonstrates how the region will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from automobiles and light trucks to achieve, if there is a feasible way to do so, the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets approved by the California Air Resources Board (ARB); and

WHEREAS, the Council of Fresno County Governments (Fresno COG) has prepared a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) relating to and assessing environmental effects related to the development of the 2014 RTP/SCS; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, a Notice of Completion of the Draft PEIR was filed and the Draft PEIR was routed to the State Clearinghouse, responsible agencies, other governmental and trustee agencies having discretionary approval or jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by the Project, the County of Fresno, affected transportation agencies, and other interested persons and agencies; and

WHEREAS, all comments on the PEIR concerning environmental issues that were received during the public review period were evaluated by Fresno COG Staff and a written response was prepared in accordance with the requirements of CEQA Guideline, section 15088. Both the comments and responses thereto are included in the Final PEIR; and

WHEREAS, the Final PEIR contains the elements required by CEQA, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Identification, description and discussion of all potential significant environmental effects of the proposed project, both direct and indirect, both short term and long term.
- (b) A description of mitigation measures proposed to minimize potentially significant environmental effects of the proposed project identified in the Final PEIR.
- (c) A description of those potentially significant environmental effects which cannot be avoided or which can be mitigated, but not reduced to a level of insignificance.
- (d) A description of a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project and evaluation of the comparative merits and potentially significant environmental effects of the alternatives, including the "no project" alternative.
- (e) A discussion of cumulative impacts, in accordance with the requirements of CEQA Guidelines section 15130.
- (f) A list of all Federal, State and local agencies or other organizations and private individuals consulted in preparing the PEIR, and the firm preparing the PEIR; and

WHEREAS, the mitigation measures contained in the Final PEIR have been incorporated into the Mitigation Monitoring Program designed to insure the implementation of measures imposed to alleviate or lessen significant environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the responses to comments were supplied to public agencies that had submitted comments on the draft PEIR; and

WHEREAS, the Fresno COG has heard, been presented with and is familiar with the information in the administrative record, has reviewed and considered the information in the PEIR for completeness and compliance with CEQA; and

WHEREAS, the Fresno COG held a public hearing on April 24, 2014 to consider the 2014 RTP/SCS PEIR and the 2014 RTP/SCS; and

WHEREAS, all public comments received during the review period of the PEIR have been addressed, and are contained within the Final PEIR.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Fresno COG, based on the foregoing facts and circumstances as follows:

1. The Fresno COG finds that the Findings and Statement of Overriding Consideration, included as Appendix A in the Final PEIR and incorporated herein by reference, accurately summarized the project addressed in the PEIR, its impacts and benefits to the community.
2. The Fresno COG finds that the Mitigation Monitoring Program, included as Appendix B in the Final PEIR, as and incorporated herein by reference, is an adequate Mitigation Monitoring Program pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081.6. The Fresno COG hereby adopts the Mitigation Monitoring Program set forth in Exhibit 2 with respect to those mitigation measures imposed on the project pursuant to the conditions.
3. The Final PEIR reflects the independent judgment of the Fresno COG Policy Board, has been completed and processed in compliance with the requirements of CEQA.
4. The Final PEIR has been completed and processed in compliance with CEQA.
5. The 2014 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy Final Program EIR is thus certified.
6. The Policy Board further directs Fresno COG staff to file a Notice of Determination with the California State Clearinghouse, as required by CEQA.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was passed and adopted by the Fresno Council of Governments this 26th day of June, 2014.

AYES: Clovis, Coalinga, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Selma and Fresno County

NOES: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Firebaugh, San Joaquin

ATTEST:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution of the Fresno Council of Governments duly adopted at a regular meeting thereof held on the 26th day of June, 2014.

Signed: Tony Boren  
Tony Boren, Executive Director

Signed: Amarpreet Dhaliwal  
Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Chairman