



Fresno COG 2018 Regional Transportation Plan/
Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)
Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)
Scoping Meeting – April 26, 2017

Agenda Overview



- Welcome/Self Introductions
- Overview - Scoping Meeting
- Notice of Preparation
- Overview - Program EIR (PEIR)
- The 2018 RTP/SCS Planning Process
- The 2018 RTP/SCS PEIR Process
- PEIR Project Alternatives
- PEIR Schedule
- How You Can Stay Involved
- Comments & Questions

Overview - Scoping Meeting

It is:

- Narrowly defined in CEQA
- An opportunity to provide comments regarding the type & extent of environmental analysis to be undertaken
- The first opportunity for responsible/trustee agencies, & the public to discuss aspects of the proposed Project

It is not:

- A public hearing to determine whether the RTP/SCS should be approved or not



Notice of Preparation

- Fresno COG issued the Notice of Preparation (NOP) on April 1, 2017
- The NOP was mailed to over 100 responsible & trustee agencies & was posted to the Fresno COG website
- The 30-day mandatory NOP review & comment period formally ends in early May 2017
- This meeting provides another opportunity to receive input from you on what you believe the PEIR should discuss and analyze



Overview - Program EIR

- According to CEQA, a Program EIR is prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project & are related either:
 - Geographically
 - As logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions
 - In connection with issuance of rules, regulations, plans, or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program
 - As individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority, & having generally similar environmental effects, which can be mitigated in similar ways



The RTP/SCS Planning Process

- The RTP shall:
 - Be an internally consistent document regarding the “long-range” regional transportation system & include:
 - ✓ A policy element
 - ✓ ***A Sustainable Communities Strategy--SCS***
 - ✓ An Action Element
 - ✓ A Financial Element
 - Be integrated with the Congestion Management Program & Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)
 - Highlight the EIR & public outreach process
 - Include an Environmental Justice analysis process
 - Utilize the most recent planning assumptions, local general plans & other data



The RTP/SCS Planning Process

- The SCS shall:
 - Identify general location of uses, residential densities & building intensities within the region
 - Identify areas within the region sufficient to house all projected population growth
 - Identify areas within the region sufficient to house an eight-year projection of regional housing need for the region
 - Identify a transportation network to service the transportation needs of the region
 - Gather & consider the best practically available scientific information regarding resource areas & farmland in the region



The RTP/SCS Planning Process

- The SCS shall:
 - Consider State housing goals
 - Set forth a forecasted development pattern
 - When integrated with the transportation network & other transportation measures & policies, it will reduce GHG emissions
 - Allow the RTP to comply with Air Quality Conformity Rules



The PEIR Process

- The RTP/SCS PEIR:

- Is an informational document used to meet requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Will be used to inform decision makers, agencies & the public of the potential environmental consequences of approving the proposed RTP/SCS (Project)
- Will analyze the RTP projects & programs on a broad regional scale & include mitigation measures designed to help avoid or minimize significant environmental impacts
- Provides the basis for further project-level CEQA [and possibly National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)] compliance for implementation of future transportation projects



What does the RTP/SCS PEIR process involve?

- The RTP/SCS PEIR will:

- Address the following environmental issues:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ Aesthetics/Visual Resources | ✓ Noise |
| ✓ Agricultural Land | ✓ Population/Housing Balance |
| ✓ Air Quality | ✓ Public Services/Facilities |
| ✓ Biological Resources | ✓ Recreation/Parks |
| ✓ Cultural & Historic Resources | ✓ Schools/Universities |
| ✓ Drainage/Absorption | ✓ Soil Erosion, Compaction, Grading |
| ✓ Economic/Jobs | ✓ Toxic/Hazardous |
| ✓ Energy | ✓ Traffic/Circulation |
| ✓ Environmental Justice | ✓ Utilities & Service Systems |
| ✓ Fiscal | ✓ Vegetation |
| ✓ Flood Plain/Flooding | ✓ Water Quality |
| ✓ Forest Land/Fire Hazard | ✓ Water Supply/y/Groundwater |
| ✓ Geologic/Seismic | ✓ Wetland/Riparian |
| ✓ GHG Emissions/Climate Change | ✓ Growth Inducement |
| ✓ Hazards/Hazardous Materials | ✓ Cumulative Effects |
| ✓ Hydrology | ✓ Mandatory Findings of Significance |
| ✓ Land Use & Planning | |
| ✓ Mineral Resources | |

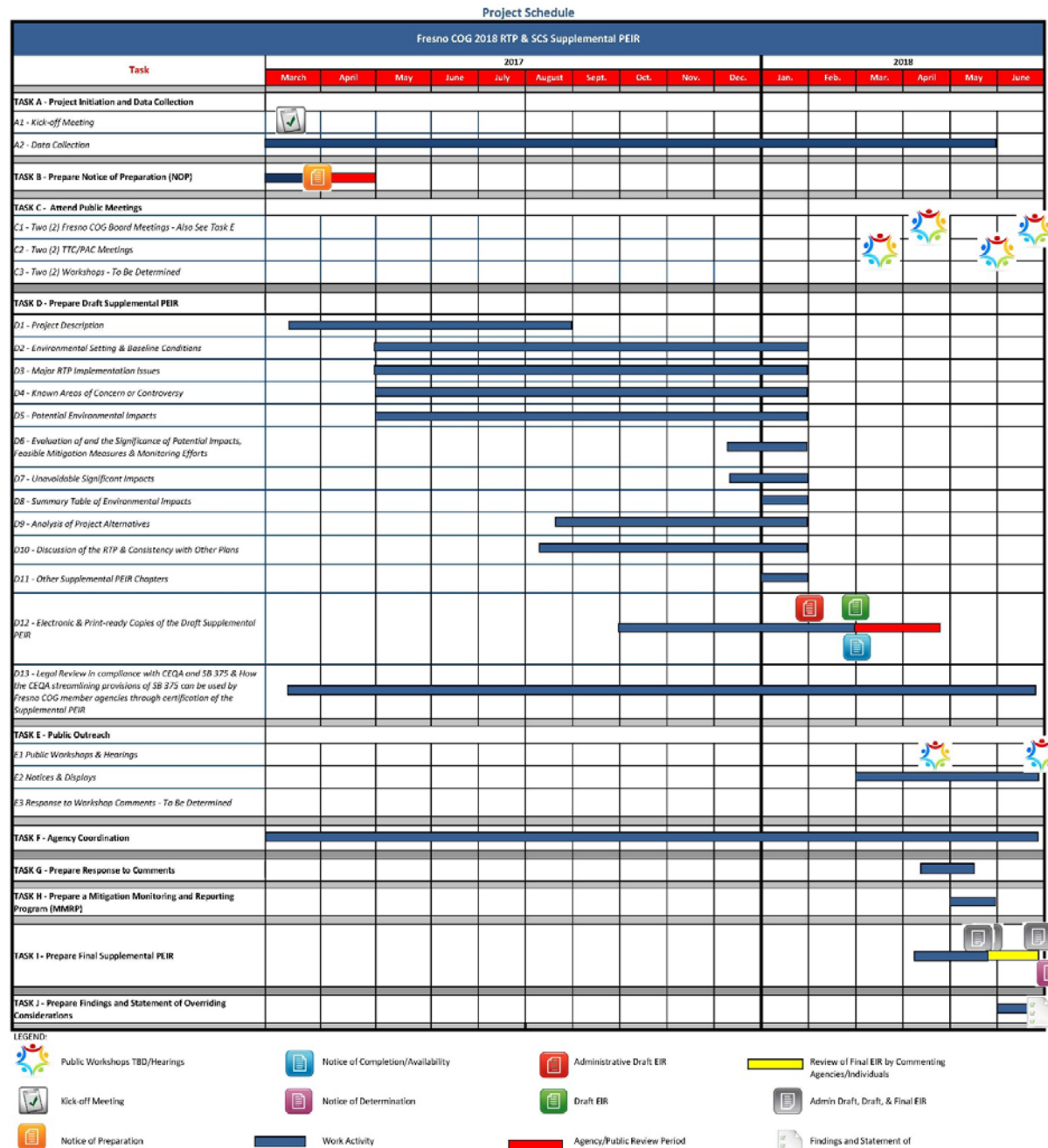


PEIR Project Alternatives

- The following preliminary 2018 RTP/SCS project alternatives will be addressed in the 2018 PEIR:
 - No Project
 - Programmed Projects and Preferred SCS Scenario
 - Planned Multimodal Projects
 - An Alternative SCS Scenario



PEIR Schedule



How You Can Stay Involved

Visit the Fresno COG website for
RTP, SCS, & PEIR activities at:
www.fresnocog.org/rtp

Request notification regarding the
Draft PEIR expected to be released
in February 2018
(sign-up sheet is provided
at the sign-in table)



Comments & Questions



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!