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Wednesday, May 29, 2013

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE
PROPOSED**

**2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES STRATEGY**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) has developed a 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to guide future transportation projects and to facilitate a land use scenario for the region that is consistent with the requirements of SB 375.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site encompasses the entire SBCAG region, which coincides with the boundary of Santa Barbara County.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT: SBCAG is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the analysis and proposed mitigation measures described in the Draft 2040 RTP-SCS Environmental Impact Report (EIR). You may comment by providing testimony at the public comment meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2013 at 6:00 PM at the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission Hearing Room at 105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara. You may also comment at this meeting remotely from Santa Maria. Further details are below. You may also submit written or oral comments to SBCAG prior to the close of public comment on Friday, July 12, 2013 at 5:00 PM. Following the close of the public comment period, the SBCAG Board will consider the findings of the Draft EIR and comments received at public meetings on Thursday, July 18, 2013, in the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Hearing Room at 511 East Lakeside Parkway in Santa Maria, and on Thursday, August 15, 2013, in the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Hearing Room at 105 East Anapamu Street in Santa Barbara. You may also comment at both of these meetings remotely.

PROJECT DETAILS: The proposed 2040 RTP-SCS will guide the development of the Regional and Federal Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIP and FTIP) as well as other transportation programming documents and plans throughout Santa Barbara County. Specifically, the project is intended to develop the region's goals and policies for meeting current and future mobility needs and identify programs, actions, and a plan of projects intended to address these needs consistent with adopted goals and policies. The 2040 RTP-SCS includes a newly required element called the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) pursuant to the requirements of SB 375. Under SB 375, SBCAG is required to develop an SCS as part of the RTP to reduce, as feasible, greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles to meet a specified target for 2020 and 2035. The California Air Resources Board (ARB) issued SBCAG a regional GHG target of no increase in per capita GHG emissions for the planning years 2020 and 2035, as compared to baseline per capita emissions levels in 2005. The transportation component of the SCS will include the road and transit networks, non-motorized transportation and transportation policies. Furthermore, SB 375 requires that the SCS identify general land uses, residential densities, and building intensities as well as areas to house future residents. Accordingly, the 2040 RTP-SCS identifies transportation improvement projects and a land use scenario that would effectively meet the requirements of SB 375. The 2040 RTP-

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SCS envisions a land use scenario that emphasizes transit-oriented development (TOD) and infill development.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: SBCAG has prepared a Draft Program EIR pursuant to requirements of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. SBCAG has prepared an EIR for the proposed 2040 RTP-SCS due to the potential for unavoidable, significant adverse effects as a result of implementation. The EIR prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and monitoring requirements. Significant potential effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Geology and Soils
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use
- Noise
- Transportation and Circulation

If the project description changes, SBCAG will require a re-evaluation of the EIR to consider the changes. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed project.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: If a copy of the EIR is not attached, the EIR may be obtained and all documents referenced in the EIR may be reviewed in the SBCAG offices located at 260 North San Antonio Road, Suite B, Santa Barbara, CA, 93110. Draft documents are also available for review at the a public library in each of the eight cities in Santa Barbara County, as well as at the UCSB Library. In addition, the EIR is available online at <http://www.sbcag.org/planning/2040RTP.html>.

HOW TO COMMENT: Please provide comments to Peter Imhof, Deputy Director, at 260 North San Antonio Road, Suite B, Santa Barbara, CA, 93110, or call (805) 961-8900 or fax to (805) 961-8901, prior to the close of public comment on Friday, July 12, 2013 at 5 p.m. or provide testimony at the public hearing on the date and time specified below. Please limit comments to environmental issues such as traffic, biology, noise, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public hearings to consider project approval or denial.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this hearing, please contact us at (805) 961-8900. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the hearing will enable Hearing Support Staff to make reasonable arrangements.

A public comment meeting will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2013 at 6:00 PM at the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission Hearing Room at 105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara. Remote testimony will be available from: Santa Barbara County Planning & Development, 624 West Foster Road, Suite C, Santa Maria. Comments related to an environmental issue received at this hearing will be responded to in writing as part of the Final EIR. In addition, following the close of the public comment period, the SBCAG Board will consider the findings of the Draft EIR and comments received at public meetings on Thursday, July 18, 2013, in the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Hearing Room at 511 East Lakeside Parkway in Santa Maria, and on Thursday, August 15, 2013, in the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Hearing Room at 105 East Anapamu Street in Santa Barbara. For the July 18th meeting, remote testimony will be available from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Hearing Room at 105 East Anapamu Street in Santa Barbara. For the August 15th meeting, remote testimony will be available from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Hearing Room at 511 East Lakeside Parkway in Santa Maria.