

APPENDIX A

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND
RESPONSES TO NOTICE OF PREPARATION**



ASSOCIATION OF MONTEREY BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

May 28, 2004

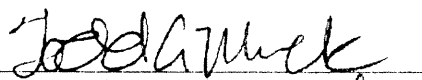
**NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) of a
DRAFT PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
for the
2005 Monterey Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan,
2005 Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan,
and
2005 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan**

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties. The Monterey Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is the metropolitan long-range transportation plan for Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties. The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) are the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) for Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, respectively. The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), prepared by each RTPA, is the respective county-level long-range transportation plan.

In partnership with SCCRTC and TAMC, AMBAG will be the lead agency for the preparation of one Environmental Impact Report (EIR) covering the three, aforementioned 2005 plans. AMBAG, SCCRTC and TAMC are collectively responsible agencies under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). AMBAG, SCCRTC and TAMC hereby request your comments on the scope and content of the environmental information and assessment proposed in connection with the project, as described in the attached summary. As the three agencies have already agreed to prepare an EIR, an Initial Study is not attached.

EIR scoping meetings will be held June 22 and 24 in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, respectively. Your response to this Notice of Preparation is requested at the earliest possible date but no later than 30 days after the receipt of this notice, or Tuesday, July 6, 2004. Please send your written response to Kathy Urlie at the address above or deliver your comments to AMBAG between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Please include the contact person in your agency regarding this EIR.

Signature: _____


Kathy Urlie, Principal Planner *for*

Date: _____

5/28/04

2005
Monterey Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan,
Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan,
and
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan

The proposed actions are updates to the: a) federally-required Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) covering the counties of Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz; b) the state-required Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); and c) the state-required Santa Cruz County RTP. These updates will be conducted in consultation with the following partner agencies:

- ▶ Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG – Federal Metropolitan Planning Organization)
- ▶ California Air Resources Board (CARB)
- ▶ Caltrans, District 5
- ▶ Council of San Benito County Governments (SBtCOG – State RTPA)
- ▶ Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX (EPA)
- ▶ Federal Highway Administration, California Division (FHWA)
- ▶ Federal Transit Administration, Region IX (FTA)
- ▶ Local Jurisdictions
- ▶ Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD)
- ▶ Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST)
- ▶ Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC – State RTPA)
- ▶ Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD)
- ▶ Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC – State RTPA)

The federally-required Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a planning document that establishes the general goals, policies and strategies governing the conduct of a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation program in effect for the three counties. In general, the MTP is a multimodal, financially constrained metropolitan transportation plan outlining the Monterey Bay region transportation direction for at least a twenty year-period. The purpose of the plan is to coordinate and facilitate the programming and budgeting of all transportation facilities and services within the three-county Monterey Bay region in accordance with Federal regulations. The MTP, upon adoption by the AMBAG Board of Directors, will become the basis for the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), the transportation projects financial programming document, for the three-county region.

The transportation projects enfolded into the MTP constrained and unconstrained elements are solicited, prioritized and selected by the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) for their county-level, state-required RTPs. AMBAG receives the project lists from them and develops the MTP based on this collective list of constrained and unconstrained projects. For this environmental review, AMBAG and the Monterey and Santa Cruz County RTPAs (TAMC and SCCRTC, respectively) have elected to conduct one environmental document to cover their three long-range transportation plans.

The MTP and RTPs do not provide project designs or a construction schedule, and adoption of the MTP and RTPs does not represent an approval action for any of the individual transportation programs and projects listed in the financially constrained Action Element. Detailed site-specific alignment, location, design and scheduling of the improvement projects which are identified in the MTP and RTPs are not fixed by the MTP and RTPs, and these individual projects may be modified substantially from their initial description in the MTP and RTPs at the time at which they are implemented. The last environmental reviews for the MTP and RTPs were conducted as “program” ones.

As both SCCRTC and TAMC conducted substantive updates to their RTPs in 2001 and 2002, respectively, both agencies have indicated that their 2005 updates will be minor ones. We are experiencing delay in the timeframe of the implementation of various transportation projects in the region as originally projected in the 2001 and 2002 RTPs due to the State of California’s unparalleled budget crisis. Consequently, much of the transportation revenue projected within the region has been either suspended or is no longer available in the earlier years of the former plans, making a shift to outlying years inevitable.

Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties are also considering the submittal of local transportation sales tax measures to their constituents at the November 2004 Presidential and General Elections. The measures are accompanied by an Expenditure Plan for the use of the revenue for specific projects if the measures are passed. Both Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties are currently undergoing, consistent with their Legal Counsels’ opinions, environmental review specific to each of their Expenditure Plan project lists. The Expenditure Plans’ projects become a subset of projects within each RTP and the MTP.

Although this project will include the assumption of passage of each County’s sales tax measure and the resultant Expenditure Plan projects into the financially constrained Action Element of each respective RTP and the 2005 MTP itself, this project is more broad in scope than the Expenditure Plans as it includes all potential transportation projects, both funded and unfunded, in its universe of projects for Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties through 2030.

AMBAG, SCCRTC and TAMC staff are projecting the need for a minimum four EIR alternatives (not in priority order): 1) no-build (no new projects); 2) financially constrained, including projects funded with sales tax measures funds; 3) financially constrained, not including sales tax measures funds; and 4) financially unconstrained (all projects, including those without an identified source of funding). The Recommended Plan (to be evaluated as the Project in the EIR) will be financially constrained to include projects funded with sales tax measures funds. The plan life is through the year 2030.

The 2002 MTP SEIR identified the following fifteen potential impacts, associated with the construction of several of the proposed transportation system improvement projects, which would not, or may not, be mitigated to a less than significant level:

- ▶ Substantial adverse effects on scenic vistas;
- ▶ Substantial damage to scenic resources;
- ▶ Substantial degradation of visual character;

- ▶ Conversion of prime farmland, unique farmland and farmland of statewide importance;
- ▶ Potential conflicts with Williamson Act Contracts;
- ▶ Fragmentation of agricultural lands and changes in land uses adjacent to agricultural lands;
- ▶ Modification of habitat;
- ▶ Modification of riparian areas/wetlands;
- ▶ Interference with wildlife movement;
- ▶ Conflicts with protective ordinances and policies;
- ▶ Increased impervious surface/storm water runoff;
- ▶ Increased noise related to increased traffic volumes;
- ▶ Increased noise levels along rail corridors;
- ▶ Indirect growth inducement; and
- ▶ Deterioration in traffic operations (due to the potential for increased localized congestion for several projects)

AMBAG refers the reviewer to the following documents as background for this proposed EIR if additional background information is required:

- ▶ *2002 Monterey Bay Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update*, May 8, 2002
- ▶ *Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Monterey Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update*, March 6, 2002
- ▶ *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (Responses to Comments) for the Monterey Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update*, May 8, 2002
- ▶ *2001 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan*, December 2001
- ▶ *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan (Santa Cruz County)*, June 2001
- ▶ *Final Environmental Impact Report for the Santa Cruz County 2001 Regional Transportation Plan*, October 2001
- ▶ *2002 Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan*, February 27, 2002
- ▶ *Draft Program EIR Draft 2002 Regional Transportation Plan (Monterey County)*, November 2001.
- ▶ *Final Program Environmental Impact Report Draft 2002 Regional Transportation Plan (Monterey County)*, February 8, 2002
- ▶ *San Benito County Regional Transportation Plan*, March 7, 2002
- ▶ *Draft Environmental Impact Report for the San Benito County 2001 Regional Transportation Plan*, December 2001
- ▶ *Final EIR for the San Benito County 2001 Regional Transportation Plan*, March 7, 2002

These aforementioned documents are available at the following respective agency offices:

AMBAG (for MTP and SEIR and others): 445 Reservation Road, Suite G, Marina 831/883-3750
 SBICOG (for San Benito County RTP and EIR): 3216 Southside Road, Hollister 831/637-7665
 SCCRTC (for Santa Cruz County RTP and EIR): 1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz 831/460-3200
 TAMC (for Monterey County RTP and EIR): 55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas 831/775-0903

JUN 2 2004



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Jan Boel
Acting Director

Notice of Preparation

June 2, 2004

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: 2005 Monterey Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan, 2005 Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan, and 2005 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation
SCH# 2004061613

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the 2005 Monterey Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan, 2005 Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan, and 2005 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

Kathy Urlie
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
445 Reservation Rd., Ste. G
P.O. Box 809
Marina, CA 93933-0809

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

for Jerry Roberts
for Scott Morgan
Senior Planner, State Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Lead Agency

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2004061013
Project Title 2005 Monterey Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan, 2005 Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan, and 2005 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

Type NOP Notice of Preparation
Description The proposed actions are updates to the: a) federally-required Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) covering the counties of Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz; b) the state-required Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); and c) the state-required Santa Cruz County RTP.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Kathy Urlie
Agency Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Phone 831 883-3750 **Fax** 831 883-3755
email
Address 445 Reservation Rd., Ste. G
P.O. Box 809
City Marina **State** CA **Zip** 93933-0809

Project Location

County Monterey, Santa Cruz
City
Region

Cross Streets

Parcel No.

Township

Range

Section

Base

Proximity to:

Highways
Airports
Railways
Waterways
Schools
Land Use

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Wetland/Riparian; Water Quality

Reviewing Fish and Game Commission; California Coastal Commission; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of
Transportation Planning; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 5; Air Resources Board,
Transportation Projects; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 3

Date Received 06/02/2004 **Start of Review** 06/02/2004 **End of Review** 07/01/2004

Resources Agency

- Resources Agency
Nadell Gayou
- Dept. of Boating & Waterways
Suzi Betzler
- California Coastal Commission
Elizabeth A. Fuchs
- Colorado River Board
Gerald R. Zimmerman
- Dept. of Conservation
Roseanne Taylor
- California Energy Commission
Environmental Office
- Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection
Allen Robertson
- Office of Historic Preservation
Hans Kreuzberg
- Dept of Parks & Recreation
B. Noah Tlghman
Environmental Stewardship Section
- Reclamation Board
DeeDee Jones
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Paul Edelman
- S.F. Bay Conservation & Dev't. Comm.
Steve McAdam
- Dept. of Water Resources
Resources Agency
Nadell Gavou
- Fish and Game
- Dept. of Fish & Game
Scott Flint
Environmental Services Division
- Dept. of Fish & Game 1
Donald Koch
Region 1
- Dept. of Fish & Game 2
Banky Curtis
Region 2

- Dept. of Fish & Game
Robert Floerke
Region 3
- Dept. of Fish & Game
William Laudermilk
Region 4
- Dept. of Fish & Game
Don Chadwick
Region 5, Habitat Conservation Program
- Dept. of Fish & Game
Gabrina Gatchel
Region 6, Habitat Conservation Program
- Dept. of Fish & Game
Tammy Allen
Region 6, Inyo/Mono Conservation Program
- Dept. of Fish & Game
George Isaac
Marine Region
- Other Departments
- Food & Agriculture
Steve Shaifer
Dept. of Food and Agriculture
- Dept. of General Services
Robert Sleppy
Environmental Services
- Dept. of Health Services
Wayne Hubbard
Dept. of Health/Drinking Water
- Independent Commissions, Boards
- Delta Protection Commission
Debbly Eddy
- Office of Emergency Management
John Rowden, Manager
- Governor's Office of Planning & Research
State Clearinghouse
- Native American Heritage Commission
Debbie Treadway

- Public Utilities Commission
Ken Lewis
- State Lands Commission
Jean Sarino
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)
Cherry Jacques
- Business, Trans & Housing
- Caltrans - Division of Aeronautics
Sandy Hesnard
- Caltrans - Planning
Terri Pencovic
- California Highway Patrol
John Olejnik
Office of Special Projects
- Housing & Community Development
Cathy Creswell
Housing Policy Division
- Dept. of Transportation
- Dept. of Transportation 1
Mike Eagan
District 1
- Dept. of Transportation 2
Don Anderson
District 2
- Dept. of Transportation 3
Jeff Pulverman
District 3
- Dept. of Transportation 4
Tim Sable
District 4
- Dept. of Transportation 5
David Murray
District 5
- Dept. of Transportation 6
Marc Birbaum
District 6
- Dept. of Transportation 7
Cheryl J. Powell
District 7

- Dept. of Transportation 8
John Pagano
District 8
- Dept. of Transportation 9
Gayle Rosander
District 9
- Dept. of Transportation 10
Tom Dumas
District 10
- Dept. of Transportation 11
Mario Orso
District 11
- Dept. of Transportation 12
Bob Joseph
District 12
- CalEPA
- Air Resources Board
 - Airport Projects
Jim Lerner
 - Transportation Projects
Kurt Karperos
 - Industrial Projects
Mike Tollstrup
- California Integrated Waste Management Board
Sue O'Leary
- State Water Resources Control Board
 - Jim Hockenberry
Division of Financial Assistance
 - State Water Resources Control Board
 - Student Intern, 401 Water Quality Certification Unit
Division of Water Quality
 - State Water Resources Control Board
Steven Herrera
Division of Water Rights
- Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
CEQA Tracking Center

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

- RWQCB 1
Cathleen Hudson
North Coast Region (1)
- RWQCB 2
Environmental Document Coordinator
San Francisco Bay Region (2)
- RWQCB 3
Central Coast Region (3)
- RWQCB 4
Jonathan Bishop
Los Angeles Region (4)
- RWQCB 5S
Central Valley Region (5)
- RWQCB 5F
Central Valley Region (5)
Fresno Branch Office
- RWQCB 5R
Central Valley Region (5)
Redding Branch Office
- RWQCB 6
Lahontan Region (6)
- RWQCB 6V
Lahontan Region (6)
Victorville Branch Office
- RWQCB 7
Colorado River Basin Region (7)
- RWQCB 8
Santa Ana Region (8)
- RWQCB 9
San Diego Region (9)
- Other