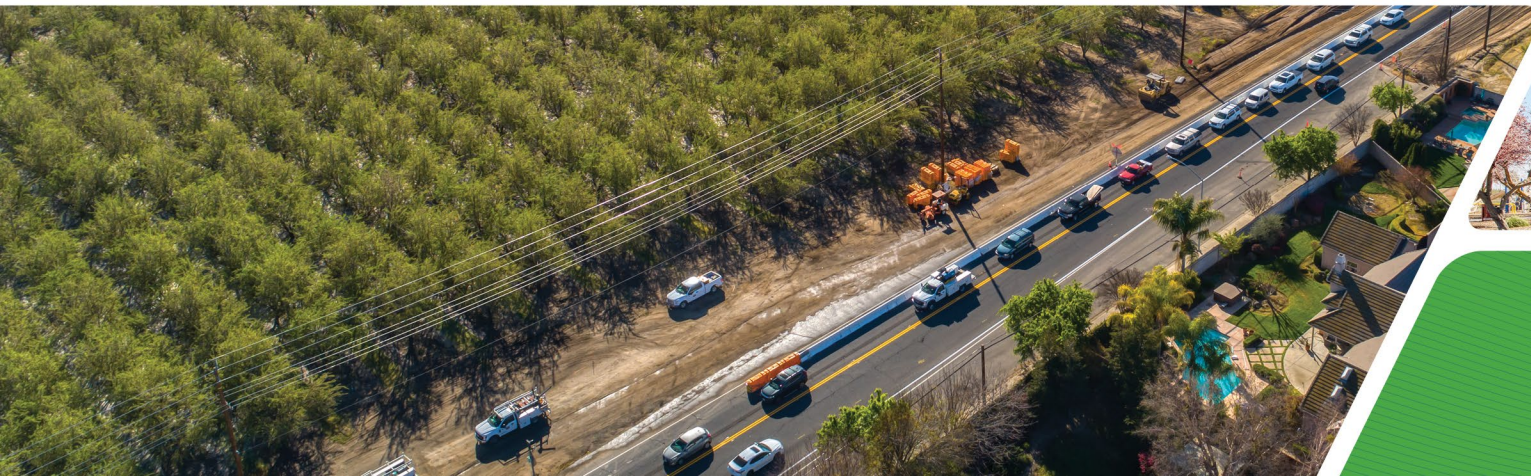**Stanislaus Council of Governments**
(StanCOG)

2026 *Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) & Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Environmental Impact report (EIR) Scoping Meeting*

April 30, 2025, 4 PM to 6PM

Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)

Agenda

- *Project Overview*

- *Environmental Review Process Overview*

- *Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Scope*

- **Questions & Comments**
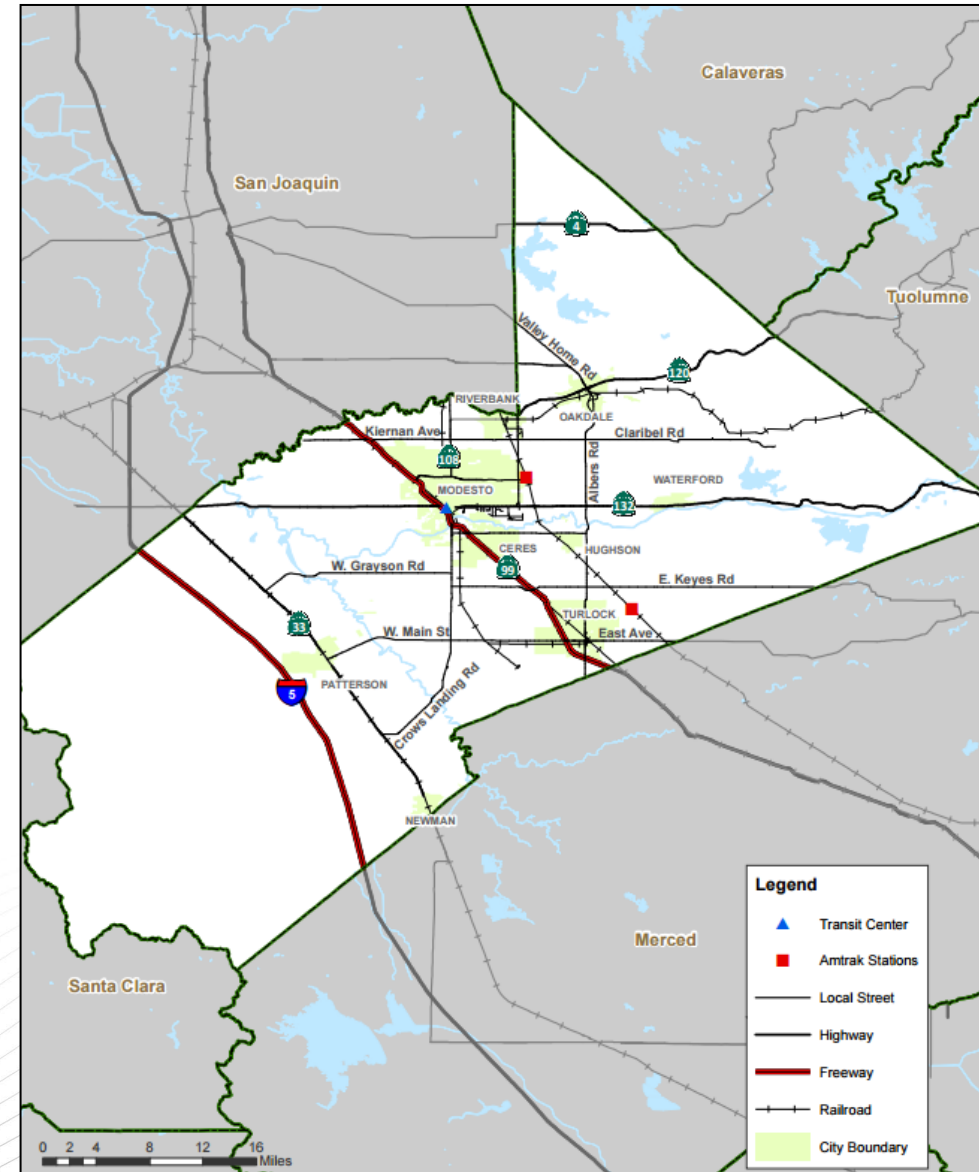
Meeting Purpose

- *Inform community and concerned agencies about the project*

- *Solicit input regarding Environmental Impact Report scope*

- *Flag future opportunities for input*

Project Overview

- *Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)*
  - Long-range transportation planning document for Stanislaus Region
  - Mandated by Federal law
  - Plan to meet the region's transportation goals regarding current and future mobility needs
  - Addresses all transportation modes
  - Guides transportation programming documents and plans
  - Covers a minimum 20-year planning horizon
  - Planning Horizon for 2026 Plan Update is 2049
  - Required to be updated every 4 years

Project Overview

- *Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)*
  - Mandated by Senate Bill 375 (SB 375)
  - Demonstrates how greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets can be met through integrated land use, housing, and transportation planning
    - Evaluates various land use planning scenarios
  - Identifies strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:
    - Alternative development patterns
    - Infrastructure
    - Additional transportation measures or policies that result in fewer and/or shorter automobile and light truck trips

California Environmental Quality Act Purpose

- *Environmental Impact Report (EIR) aims to inform the public and disclose environmental impacts and does not recommend approval or denial of the project*

- *The Stanislaus Council of Governments Policy Board will consider the information in the EIR among other factors in making a decision on the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)*
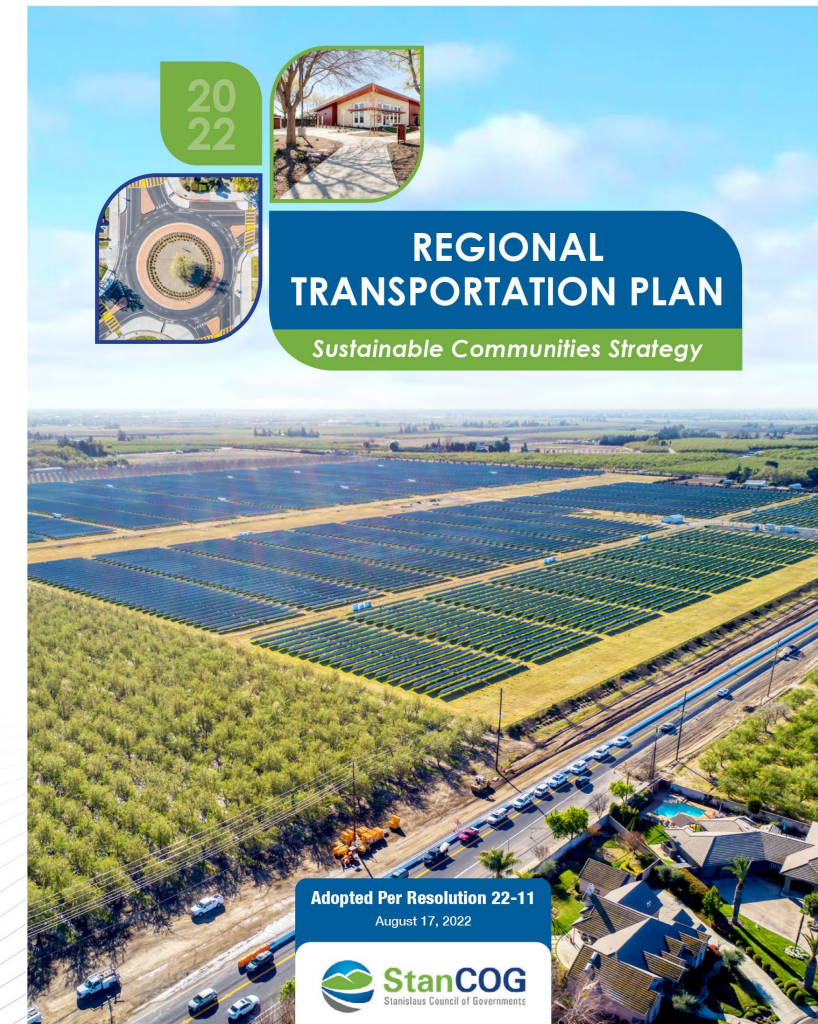
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CEQA Purpose

- *Disclose the significant environmental effects of proposed actions*

- *Identify ways to avoid or reduce environmental impacts*

- *Consider feasible alternatives to proposed actions*

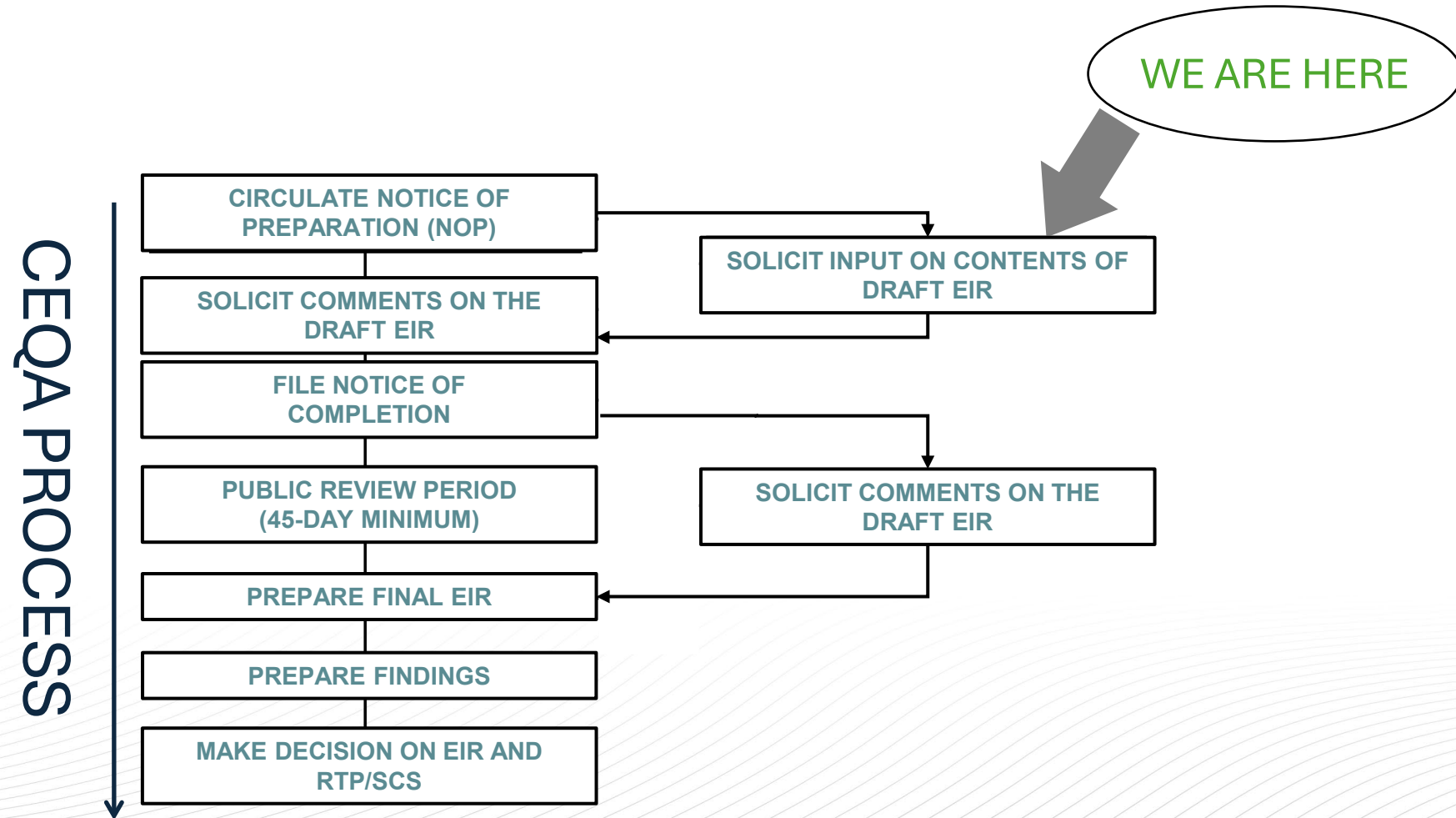- *Enhance public participation in the planning process*

Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

- *Programmatic EIR – a broad, comprehensive evaluation that covers many actions, long-range plans*

- *Baseline for modeling and analysis established with data available at the time Notice of Preparation is released*

- *Many transportation projects are not yet fully designed and will require additional project level environmental analysis/review prior to approval and implementation*

CEQA Environmental Review Process

Issues to be Analyzed (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G)

- *Aesthetics (Visual Resources)*
- *Agricultural and Forestry Resources*
- *Air Quality*
- *Biological Resources*
- *Cultural Resources*
- *Energy (consumption)*
- *Environmental Justice*
- *Geology/Soils*
- *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*
- *Hazards/Hazardous Materials*

- *Hydrology/Water Quality*
- *Land Use/Planning*
- *Mineral Resources*
- *Noise*
- *Population/Housing*
- *Public Services*
- *Recreation*
- *Transportation*
- *Tribal Cultural Resources*
- *Utilities/Service Systems*
- *Wildfire*

Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

- *Identifies Potential Environmental impacts form RTP/SCS*

- *Includes evaluation of alternatives to the RTP/SCS*

Alternatives Comparison (2022 RTP/SCS)

Environmental Issue Area	Alternative A: Stay the Course (No Project)	Alternative B: City Retrofit	Alternative C: Complete Communities	Alternative D: Preferred Scenario/ Neighborhood Infill
Aesthetics	=	+	-	=
Agriculture	+	+	-	-
Air Quality	-	+	+/-	+/-
Biological Resources	+	+	-	-
Cultural Resources	=	=	+/-	+/-
Energy	+	+	-	-
Environmental Justice	+	+	-	+/-
Geology and Soils	+	+	-	-

- impacts would be less than the 2022 RTP/SCS

= impacts would be similar to the 2022 RTP/SCS

+ Impacts would be greater than the 2022 RTP/SCS

Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

- *Identifies Potential Environmental impacts form RTP/SCS*

- *Includes evaluation of alternatives to the RTP/SCS*

Alternatives Comparison (2022 RTP/SCS)

Environmental Issue Area	Alternative A: Stay the Course (No Project)	Alternative B: City Retrofit	Alternative C: Complete Communities	Alternative D: Preferred Scenario/ Neighborhood Infill
Greenhouse Gases Emissions	+	+	-	-
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	+	+	-	-
Hydrology and Water Quality	+	+	=	=
Land Use, Population, and Housing	+	+	+/-	+/-
Noise	=	=	+/-	+/-
Transportation and Circulation	=	+	=	=
Tribal Cultural Resources	+	+	=	=
Overall	=	+	-	=

- impacts would be less than the 2022 RTP/SCS

= impacts would be similar to the 2022 RTP/SCS

+ Impacts would be greater than the 2022 RTP/SCS

Projected Schedule

- *April 15, 2025 – Release of Notice of Preparation. Initiated a 30-day public review and officially started the California Environmental Quality Act process*

- *May 15, 2025 – Last day to submit comments on Environmental Impact Report scope*

- *January/February 2026 – Release of Draft Environmental Impact Report for public comment; 45-day public review period*

- *Spring 2026 – Public hearings on the Final Environmental Impact Report and Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy*

Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)

We Welcome Your Comments

By May 15, 2025 at 5 p.m., please provide comments to:

Elisabeth Hahn
ehahn@stancog.org

- *For more information, visit:*

http://www.valleyvision2049.com/

StanCOG Office: (209) 525-4600

Thank you for participating!