

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 PURPOSE OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

This Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR; State Clearinghouse [SCH] No. 202306099) has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed City of Newport Beach General Plan Housing Implementation Program (proposed Project or Project). This Program EIR has been prepared in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines. The EIR has also been prepared in accordance with Newport Beach City Council Policy K-3, “Implementation Procedures for the California Environmental Quality Act.”

The City of Newport Beach (City) is the “public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving the project” and, as such, is the “Lead Agency” for this Project under CEQA (Title 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] §15367). CEQA requires the Lead Agency to consider the information contained in an EIR prior to taking any discretionary action. This Program EIR is intended to provide information to the Lead Agency and other public agencies, the public, and decision-makers regarding the potential environmental impacts associated with future housing development as set forth in the 6th Cycle General Plan Housing Element for 2021-2029 (referred herein as the “2021-2029 Housing Element”). Therefore, this Program EIR includes analysis of governmental approvals to be taken by the City to implement the Housing Element. The City, as the Lead Agency, will review and consider this Program EIR in its decision to approve, revise, or deny the Project.

Pursuant to CEQA, “[t]he purpose of the environmental impact report is to identify the significant effects on the environment of a project, to identify alternatives to the proposed project, and to indicate the manner in which significant environmental effects can be mitigated or avoided” (Public Resources Code [PRC] §21002.1[a]). An EIR is the most comprehensive form of environmental documentation identified in CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, and provides the information needed to assess the environmental consequences of a project to the extent feasible. EIRs are intended to provide an objective, factually supported, full-disclosure analysis of the environmental consequences associated with a project that may have the potential to result in significant adverse environmental impacts.

2.2 PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

This Program EIR analyzes the potential environmental impacts related to the proposed Project, which is described in **Section 3.0: Project Description**. In accordance with Section 15168 of the State CEQA Guidelines:

A Program EIR is an EIR which may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related either:

- (1) Geographically;
- (2) As logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions;
- (3) In connection with issuance of rules, regulations, plans, or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program; or
- (4) As individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority and having generally similar environmental effects which can be mitigated in similar ways.

The 2021–2029 Housing Element was adopted by the City Council on September 13, 2022, as part of the 6th Cycle Housing Element process and was subsequently found to be in compliance with State housing law (certified) by the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on October 5, 2022. This Program EIR evaluates the potential environmental effects of the implementing actions associated with the 2021–2029 Housing Element. To fulfill its share of regional housing needs and facilitate the future development of housing on identified housing sites, the Project requires amendments to the General Plan, Municipal Code, and Local Coastal Program.

Because the Project includes policies and actions that will apply to future development proposals and this Program EIR includes a mitigation framework that would be implemented by future development projects, a programmatic approach to environmental review is deemed appropriate.

In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c), this Program EIR may serve as the environmental document for later activities or implementing actions, including implementation of the housing projects, provided it contemplates and adequately analyzes the potential environmental impacts of those subsequent activities. No new environmental document is required where the future activity is within the scope of the project covered by the Program EIR, and no new environmental document would be required unless otherwise required by Section 21166 of the CEQA Statutes and Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Whether a later activity is within the scope of a Program EIR is a factual question that the lead agency determines based on substantial evidence in the record.

Section 21166 of the CEQA Statutes states:

When an environmental impact report has been prepared for a project pursuant to this division, no subsequent or supplemental environmental impact report shall be required by the lead agency or by any responsible agency, unless one or more of the following events occurs:

- (a) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the environmental impact report;
- (b) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is being undertaken which will require major revisions in the environmental impact report; and/or
- (c) New information, which was not known and could not have been known at the time the environmental impact report was certified as complete, becomes available.

Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines states that:

- (a) When an EIR has been certified or a negative declaration adopted for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:
 - (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;

- (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:
 - (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;
 - (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
 - (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
 - (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.
- (b) If changes to a project or its circumstances occur or new information becomes available after adoption of a negative declaration, the lead agency shall prepare a subsequent EIR if required under subdivision (a). Otherwise the lead agency shall determine whether to prepare a subsequent negative declaration, an addendum, or no further documentation.
- (c) Once a project has been approved, the lead agency's role in project approval is completed, unless further discretionary approval on that project is required. Information appearing after an approval does not require reopening of that approval. If after the project is approved, any of the conditions described in subdivision (a) occurs, a subsequent EIR or negative declaration shall only be prepared by the public agency which grants the next discretionary approval for the project, if any. In this situation no other responsible agency shall grant an approval for the project until the subsequent EIR has been certified or subsequent negative declaration adopted.

If additional analysis is required, it can be streamlined by tiering from this Program EIR pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15152, 15153, 15168, and 15183 (e.g., through preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration, Addendum, or Supplemental or Subsequent EIR).

2.3 STANDARDS OF ADEQUACY UNDER CEQA

While Sections 15120 to 15132 of the State CEQA Guidelines generally describe the content of an EIR, CEQA does not contain specific, detailed, quantified standards for the content of environmental documents. Section 15151 of the State CEQA Guidelines states:

An EIR should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision makers with information that enables them to make a decision that intelligently takes account of environmental consequences. An evaluation of the environmental effects of a proposed project need not be exhaustive, but the sufficiency of an EIR is to be reviewed in light of what is reasonably feasible. Disagreement among experts does not make an EIR inadequate, but the EIR should summarize the main points of disagreement among the experts. The courts have not looked for perfection but for adequacy, and a good faith effort at full disclosure.

The intent of this Program EIR is to address any potential impacts associated with implementation of the Project using available information known at the time of its preparation. The candidate housing sites inventory and proposed policies of the 2021-2029 Housing Element were evaluated at a programmatic level based on information available to the City where reasonably foreseeable direct and indirect physical changes in the environment could be considered. As is typical of Program EIRs, site-specific analysis was not conducted for certain environmental topics (e.g., air quality construction emissions) where information was not available or would be too speculative on which to base an analysis of potential impacts. As such, potential changes beyond those that were analyzed are considered speculative.

2.4 PUBLIC OUTREACH AND SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM EIR

In compliance with the State CEQA Guidelines, the City has taken steps to maximize opportunities for the public and other public agencies to participate in the environmental review process. The scope of this Program EIR includes issues identified in consultation with the City during the Notice of Preparation (NOP) comment period; EIR scoping meeting; and environmental issues raised by agencies and the public in response to the scoping process.

2.4.1 Notice of Preparation (NOP)

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063 provides that if a lead agency determines that an EIR will clearly be required for a project, an Initial Study is not required. Therefore, pursuant to Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City prepared and circulated a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to affected agencies and interested parties for a 30-day public review period beginning on June 27, 2023, and ending on July 27, 2023.

The NOP and written responses received on the NOP are included in Appendix A of this Program EIR. **Table 2-1: Summary of Written Comments on the Notice of Preparation** summarizes the comments received from agencies/persons during the NOP process and provides a reference, as applicable, to the section(s) of this Program EIR where the issues are addressed. This table identifies areas of controversy/unresolved issues and issues to be addressed in the EIR.

Table 2-1: Summary of Written Comments on the Notice of Preparation	
Commenter	Summary of Comment and Where Addressed
Federal Agencies	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office (letters dated July 17, 2023 and April 26, 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Discourages the City from including Banning Ranch and Coyote Canyon as candidate sites. – Federally listed species could potentially be affected by residential development of the Banning Ranch property. – 385 acres of the Banning Ranch property have been acquired for permanent conservation purposes. – Coyote Canyon property is included within the Habitat Reserve created by 1996 Orange County Central and Coastal Subregions NCCP/HCP. <p>See Section 4.3: Biological Resources</p>
State Agencies	
Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) (letter dated June 30, 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Recommends consultation with California Native American tribes in compliance with AB 52 and SB 18. <p>See Section 4.4: Cultural Resources and Section 4.16: Tribal Cultural Resources</p>
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 12 (letter dated July 27, 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide discussion regarding City’s Multimodal mobility strategies and opportunities for local and regional transit services. – Identify existing transit service for local and regional bus services and connectivity to rail services from nearest train stations provided by Metrolink and Amtrack Pacific Surfliner. – Consider encouraging use of transit among future residents, visitors and workers (reduce congestion and VMT and improve air quality). – Provide adequate wayfinding signage to transit stops. <p>See Section 4.15: Transportation</p>
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (letter received July 26, 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Recommends providing a complete assessment and impact analysis of the native/naturalized vegetation communities, flora, and fauna within and adjacent to the Project area with an emphasis upon identifying endangered, threatened, sensitive, regionally, and locally unique species. – The PEIR should include provide a thorough discussion of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts expected to adversely affect biological resources, with specific measures to offset such impacts. – Recommends that measures be taken to avoid Project impacts to nesting birds. – Recommends that a range of feasible alternatives to the Project location and design features are fully considered and evaluated. – Recommends that the PEIR should include an analysis of the Project’s direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on hydrologic features, including impacts as they pertain to Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et seq. – Recommends the PEIR stipulate that no invasive plant material shall be used. – Requests that any special status species and natural communities detected during project surveys be reported to the CNDDDB. – Payment of the environmental document filing fee is required. <p>See Section 4.3: Biological Resources</p>
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) (letter dated July 26, 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Send environmental documentation to SCAG upon release and provide the full public comment period to review. – Provided 10 goals in Connect SoCal may be pertinent to the proposed Project.

Table 2-1: Summary of Written Comments on the Notice of Preparation	
Commenter	Summary of Comment and Where Addressed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Encourages a side-by-side comparison of SCAG goals with discussions of the consistency, non-consistency, or non-applicability of the goals and supportive analysis in a table format. – Provide information regarding jurisdictional level growth estimates for years 2020 through 2045. – Recommends that the City reviews the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (Final PEIR) for Connect SoCal for guidance, as appropriate, which includes a list of project-level performance standards-based mitigation measures that may be considered for adoption and implementation, as applicable and feasible. <p>See Section 4.10: Land Use and Planning</p>
Local Agencies, Special Districts	
South Coast Air Quality Management District (letter dated July 26, 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Send the Program EIR and all appendices, technical documents, and calculation and modeling files related to air quality analyses to SCAQMD upon its completion and public release. – Use SCAQMD’s CEQA Air Quality Handbook and website as Air Quality and GHG analysis guidance. – Use CalEEMod software for emissions analyses. – Quantify criteria pollutant emissions and compare the emissions to SCAQMD’s CEQA emissions thresholds. – Analyze potential adverse air quality impacts from all phases. – Refer to CARB’s <i>Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective</i>. – Refer to SCAQMD’s <i>Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning</i>. – Identify mitigation to minimize significant adverse air quality impacts. <p>See Section 4.2: Air Quality and Section 4.7: Greenhouse Gas Emissions</p>
Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (letter dated July 26, 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Recommends the City include the potential development and annexation of Banning Ranch to the City. – OC LAFCO identified the City of Newport Beach as the most logical service provider to Banning Ranch. – Request that OC LAFCO continue to be notified of activities related to the Project including all CEQA, public meetings, and hearing notices. <p>See Section 3.0: Project Description and Section 4.10: Land Use and Planning</p>
Airport Land Use Commission (letter dated August 9, 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Draft Housing Element raises potentially significant land use compatibility impact concerns related to the Airport Area. – There are potential noise impacts because the Draft Housing Element proposes 23 housing sites within the 60 dB CNEL to 65 dB CNEL contour and 28 sites within the 65 dB CNEL to 70 dB CNEL contour. – Address impacts related to incompatible development within these contours and address the California Airport Noise Regulations and Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) policies contained in the Airport Environs Land Use Plan (AELUP) for John Wayne Airport. – Recommends that residential units in the 60 dB CNEL be limited or excluded unless the sound attenuation is sufficient to comply with noise levels identified in the John Wayne Airport Master Plan and subsequent Settlement Agreement Amendments.

Table 2-1: Summary of Written Comments on the Notice of Preparation	
Commenter	Summary of Comment and Where Addressed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Address noise impacts of airport operations on proposed sensitive land uses. – Locating residential uses within the 65 dB CNEL noise contour is contrary to the City’s current General Plan Land Use and Noise Element (specifically LU 6.15.3 Airport Compatibility and Policy N3.2 Residential Development). – Address the proposed focus areas that are in the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 77 Obstruction Imaginary Surfaces for John Wayne Airport and the AELUP Notification Area for the airport. – Address height restrictions for the John Wayne Airport Planning Area. – Address safety concerns related to proposing housing sites within the Safety Zones for John Wayne Airport. <p>See Section 4.8: Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Section 4.10: Land Use, and Section 4.11: Noise</p>
Interested Parties	
Phillip F. Bettencourt (letter dated July 10, 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Suggests analysis of permitted average daily trips in the existing General Plan for Newport Center property to establish a baseline for City charter constraint on new trips. – Analyze the number of new trips that could result from full build out of opportunity sites. – Analyze building block heights on potential new housing under the 60 foot height limitation used in the Housing Element opportunity sites forecast to address concerns about blockage of public views. <p>See Section 4.1: Aesthetics and Section 4.15: Transportation</p>
Patricia Martz, California Cultural Resource Preservation Alliance, Inc. (letter dated July 12, 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Newport Beach is culturally and archeologically sensitive. – Recommends advanced planning is done in order to avoid and preserve existing archeological sites that may be affected by the Project. – Structures constructed prior to 1907 have the potential for the presence of buried archeological resources. – Recommends a record search at the South Central Coastal Information Center at Cal State University, Fullerton, followed by monitoring during construction by a qualified archaeologist and culturally related Native American. – Suggests that areas of Open Space would require literature and records search and an archeological survey. – If human remains are discovered, compliance with Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code is required. <p>See Section 4.4: Cultural Resources and Section 4.16: Tribal Cultural Resources</p>
Jim Mosher (letter dated July 27, 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – EIR should identify mitigation measures and alternatives. – EIR should clearly state the goals of the Project in order to suggest alternatives. – EIR should explain why a different unit count, buffer count, and development capacity is being analyzed instead of what is in the Housing Element. – EIR should analyze housing overlays and explain how they work.

Commenter	Summary of Comment and Where Addressed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Suggested potential alternatives that the EIR could analyze including a smaller housing unit buffer, increased reliance on ADUs, and alternative ways to implement housing overlays. – Suggests the EIR should analyze applicability of Charter Section 423, conflicts with the Local Coastal Program, consistency with General Plan policies, consequences of housing not being built including impacts on City’s obligations in 7th RHNA Cycle, and the amount of unbuilt capacity allowed by current General Plan. <p>See Section 2.0: Introduction, Section 4.10: Land Use and Planning, and Section 6.0: Alternatives to the Proposed Project</p>
Irvine Company (letter dated July 27, 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Suggests analysis of policies allowing for planning principles relative to the implementation of housing allocations. <p>See Section 4.10: Land Use and Planning</p>

2.4.2 Scoping Meeting

Pursuant to Section 21083.9 of the CEQA Statute, the lead agency is required to conduct at least one scoping meeting for all projects of statewide, regional, or area-wide significance. A scoping meeting is for jurisdictional agencies and interested persons or groups to provide comments regarding, but not limited to, the range of actions, alternatives, and environmental effects to be analyzed. The City hosted a Scoping Meeting on July 10, 2023, at 5:00 PM, at the City of Newport Beach Central Library Friends Room, 1000 Avocado Avenue, Newport Beach, California 92660. **Table 2-2: Scoping Meeting Comment Summary** summarizes the issues identified at the Scoping Meeting, along with a reference to the section(s) of this Program EIR where the issues are addressed.

Meeting Attendees	Comment Topics and Where Addressed
Charles Klobe, Jim Mosher, Kathe Morgan, and Nancy Scarbrough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Housing Element focus areas – Subsequent environmental review – Transportation section scope – Airport Area map – Density for environmental analysis – Program EIR scope – State requirements – HCD Certification Process – Environmental thresholds – Transfer of development rights – RHNA – Alternatives analysis – ADUs <p>See sections including Section 3.0: Project Description, Section 4.0: Environmental Analysis, Section 4.12: Population and Housing, Section 4.15: Transportation, and Section 6.0: Alternatives to the Proposed Project</p>

2.4.3 Native American Tribal Consultation

Senate Bill (SB) 18 - Traditional Tribe Cultural Places Act requires cities and counties to contact and consult with California Native American tribes before adopting or amending general plans and specific plans. The

intent of SB 18 is to establish meaningful consultation between tribal governments and local governments at the earliest possible point in the planning process, to avoid potential conflicts, and to allow tribes to manage and act as caretakers of cultural places.

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 establishes that “A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment” (PRC §21084.2). AB 52 also establishes a formal consultation process for California tribes regarding those resources. Native American tribes to be included in the process are those that have requested notice of projects proposed within the jurisdiction of the Lead Agency.

Under SB 18 and AB 52, consultation may include discussing the type of environmental review necessary, the significance of tribal cultural resources, the significance of a project’s potential impacts on the tribal cultural resources, and alternatives and mitigation measures recommended by the tribe. The parties must consult in good faith, and consultation is deemed concluded when either the parties agree on measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect on a tribal cultural resource (if such a significant effect exists) or when a party concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. Please refer to **Section 4.16: Tribal Cultural Resources**, regarding the findings of the consultation process.

2.5 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Pertinent documents relating to this Program EIR are cited in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15148 or have been incorporated by reference in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15150, which encourages incorporation by reference as a means of reducing redundancy and the length of environmental reports. The following documents are hereby incorporated by reference into this Program EIR. Information contained within these documents is used for various sections of this Program EIR.

City of Newport Beach 2021-2029 Housing Element. The 2021-2029 Housing Element was adopted by the City Council on September 13, 2022. On October 5, 2022, the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) found the adopted Housing Element to be in full compliance with State Housing Element Law (Government Code Article 10.6). This document is available for viewing on the City’s website at:

- [Final Adopted and Certified 6th Cycle Housing Element | \(www.newportbeachca.gov\)](http://www.newportbeachca.gov)

City of Newport Beach General Plan 2006 Update. The City’s General Plan was adopted on July 25, 2006, and serves as the major framework for directing growth within the City. The General Plan presents a comprehensive plan to accommodate the City’s growing needs and includes goals and policies related to ten elements: Land Use, Harbor and Bay, Housing, Historical Resources, Circulation, Recreation, Arts and Cultural, Natural Resources, Safety, and Noise. Each element of the General Plan Update includes goals, policies, and policy actions that create a roadmap for new housing and job growth, provide guidance for decision makers on allocating resources, and describe the utilization, management, and conservation of natural resources, public services, and infrastructure. This document is available for viewing on the City’s website at:

- [General Plan | \(www.newportbeachca.gov\)](http://www.newportbeachca.gov)

Newport Beach Municipal Code. The Newport Beach Municipal Code regulates land use and activities within the City’s jurisdiction including through the Planning and Zoning Code (codified in Title 20). The

Planning and Zoning Code is the primary tool for implementing the City's General Plan policies. The Municipal Code is referenced in this Program EIR to establish the baseline requirements according to the City's Municipal Code regulations. The Newport Beach Municipal Code can be accessed online at:

- [Newport Beach Municipal Code \(codepublishing.com\)](https://www.newportbeachca.gov/codepublishing.com)

Newport Beach Local Coastal Program. The California Coastal Act mandates the creation of Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) which act as planning tools with which local governments can guide development in the coastal zones. LCPs contain development standards and regulations focused on protecting coastal resources. The flexibility of an LCP allows the local agency to seek out their own unique way of protecting their coastal lands. Once approved, a local agency assumes permitting authority over most new coastal developments while the California Coastal Commission (Coastal Commission) retains jurisdiction over the granting of permanent coastal permits for tidelands, submerged lands, and public trust lands. Any amendment to established, or certified, LCPs is required to be reviewed and certified by the Coastal Commission.

The City of Newport Beach has a certified Local Coastal Program, which is divided into two components:

1. Coastal Land Use Plan
2. Local Implementation Program

The Coastal Land Use Plan includes a land use plan and goals and policies to be used by decision-makers when reviewing coastal related issues and proposed development within the Coastal Zone boundary. The Newport Beach LCP land use plan was initially certified by the CCC in 1982 and last comprehensively updated in 2004. Documents pertaining to the City's Coastal Land Use Plan are available for viewing at:

- [Coastal Land Use Plan | City of Newport Beach \(newportbeachca.gov\)](https://www.newportbeachca.gov/land-use-plan)

The Local Implementation Program (Newport Beach Municipal Code Title 21) is the primary tool used by the City to carry out the goals, objectives, and policies of the Coastal Land Use Plan. It is intended that all provisions of this Implementation Plan be consistent with the Coastal Land Use Plan and that any development, land use, or subdivision approved in compliance with these regulations will also be consistent with the Coastal Land Use Plan. Documents pertaining to the City's Local Coastal Program are available for viewing at:

- [Local Implementation Program | City of Newport Beach \(newportbeachca.gov\)](https://www.newportbeachca.gov/local-implementation-program)

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). As the metropolitan planning organization for the region's six counties and 191 cities, SCAG is mandated by law to develop a long-term regional transportation and sustainability plan every four years. On September 3, 2020, SCAG's Regional Council approved and fully adopted *Connect SoCal: 2020–2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (2020-2045 RTP/SCS)*. The Draft *Connect SoCal 2024* has not been adopted as of release of this Program EIR. The RTP/SCS is a long-range visioning plan that builds upon and expands land use and transportation strategies established over several planning cycles to increase mobility options and achieve a more sustainable growth pattern. It identifies ten goals that fall into four categories: economy, mobility, environment, and healthy/complete communities. The goals are as follows:

1. Encourage regional economic prosperity and global competitiveness;
2. Improve mobility, accessibility, reliability, and travel safety for people and goods;

3. Enhance the preservation, security, and resilience of the regional transportation system;
4. Increase person and goods movement and travel choices within the transportation system;
5. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality;
6. Support healthy and equitable communities;
7. Adapt to a changing climate and support an integrated regional development pattern and transportation network;
8. Leverage new transportation technologies and data-driven solutions that result in more efficient travel;
9. Encourage development of diverse housing types in areas that are supported by multiple transportation options; and
10. Promote conservation of natural and agricultural lands and restoration of habitats.

The 2020-2045 RTP/SCS can be accessed online at:

- [Adopted Final Connect SoCal 2020 | \(www.scag.ca.gov\)](http://www.scag.ca.gov)

2.6 PROJECT SPONSOR AND CONTACT PERSONS

The City of Newport Beach is the Lead Agency for preparation of this EIR. Inquiries regarding the EIR should be directed to the City.

Lead Agency: City of Newport Beach
Community Development Department
100 Civic Center Drive, Bay 1B
Newport Beach, California 92660
Contact: Benjamin Zdeba, AICP, Principal Planner
949-644-3253
bzdeba@newportbeachca.gov

2.7 AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT PROGRAM EIR

Notice of the availability of the Draft Program EIR has been provided to agencies, organizations, and interested groups and persons for comment during a 45-day review period in accordance with Section 15087 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Notice of Completion for the Draft EIR has also been distributed as required by CEQA. The Draft Program EIR including technical studies is available for review during normal business hours at the City of Newport Beach Community Development Department. Copies of the Draft Program EIR are available at the reference desk of the following libraries and is on the City's website.

Balboa Branch

100 East Balboa Boulevard
Newport Beach, CA 92661

Central Library

1000 Avocado Avenue
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Corona del Mar Branch

410 Marigold Avenue
Corona del Mar, CA 92625

Crean Mariners Branch

1300 Irvine Avenue
Newport Beach, CA 92660

The Draft Program EIR and technical appendices can also be accessed at the City's website: <http://www.newportbeachca.gov/CEQA>. The City will subsequently respond to environmental comments on the Draft Program EIR received in writing during the public review period through the preparation of a Responses to Comments document for the Final EIR. All persons who commented on the Draft Program EIR will be notified of the availability of the Final EIR and the dates of public hearings before the City of Newport Beach Planning Commission and City Council.