
Downtown/Natomas/Airport Corridor

in the City and County of Sacramento



DRAFT

Program Environmental Impact Report

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Sacramento Regional Transit District

Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

for the

Downtown/Natomas/Airport Corridor

in the City and County of Sacramento

Prepared in Accordance with the

California Environmental Quality Act, PRC 21000 *et seq.*; and the State of California CEQA Guidelines, California Administrative Code, 15000 *et seq.*

by the

SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APE	area of potential effects
APCD	Air Pollution Control District
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
ARB	Air Resources Board
BMP	Best Management Practice
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
BTU	British thermal unit
CAA	Federal Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEDD	California Employment Development Department
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CO	carbon monoxide
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CRP	Citizen Review Panel
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel

Acronyms and Abbreviations

DC	direct current
DEIR	Draft Environmental Impact Report
DNA	Downtown/Natomas/Airport
DU	dwelling units
EIR	Environmental Impact Report (required under CEQA)
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement (required under NEPA)
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
FY	fiscal year
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HOV	High-Occupancy Vehicle Lane
Hz	Hertz
I-5	Interstate 5
I-80	Interstate 80
IOD	irrevocable offers of dedication
kHz	kilohertz
kV	kilovolt
L_{dn}	day-night average sound level
$L_{eq}(h)$	hourly equivalent sound level
LAFCO	Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission
LARTF	Lower American River Task Force

LOS	Level of Service
LPA	Locally Preferred Alternative
LRT	Light Rail Transit
LRV	light rail vehicle
MOS	Minimum Operable Segment
MTP	Metropolitan Transportation Plan
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEMDC	Natomas East Main Drainage Canal
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OHSA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
ORNL	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 microns in equivalent diameter
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter
ppm	part per million
RCMP	River Corridor Management Plan
RD 1000	Reclamation District No. 1000
ROG	reactive organic gases

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ROW	right-of-way
RT	Sacramento Regional Transit District
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SACOG	Sacramento Area Council of Governments
SAFCA	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SMAQMD	Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SO _x	sulfur oxide
SOV	single occupancy vehicle
SR	State Route
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAZ	Transportation Analysis Zone
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
TMA	Transportation Management Association
TOD	transit-oriented development
TRP	Technical Review Panel
TSM	Transportation Systems Management
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
WAPA	Western Area Power Administration

GLOSSARY

Alignment – The ground plan, including grades, coordinates, bearings, and horizontal and vertical curves of a roadway, railroad, transit route, or other facility as it would appear in plan and profile.

Boarding – A transit passenger boarding refers to each time a passenger gets onto a bus or train.

Catenary – The hanger or hanger/auxiliary conductor/clamp component of an electric contact system that powers the train.

CEQA – The California Environmental Quality Act, California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq., is a state of California law that requires state and local agencies to prepare environmental impact analyses and make decisions based on the findings of the analysis. The basic purposes of CEQA are (1) to inform governmental decision-makers and the public about potential significant environmental effects of proposed activities; (2) identify ways to avoid or reduce impacts; (3) prevent significant avoidable impacts through alternatives or mitigation measures; and (4) disclose to the public why a government agency approved the project if significant environmental effects are involved.

Corridor – A linear tract of land with at least one main line for transportation (road, rail or canal).

EIR – An Environmental Impact Report is a detailed statement prepared under CEQA to describe and analyze the significant environmental effects of a project and discuss ways to mitigate or avoid those effects.

Headway - The time interval between the passing of the front ends of successive trains moving in the same direction along the same lane or track.

Irrevocable Offer of Dedication – Under California Government Code 7050, an irrevocable offer of dedication of real property can be made with the consent of the city and/or county for any public purpose, including, but not limited to, streets, highways, paths, alleys, drainage, open space, public utilities or other public easements, parks, or other public places. It is similar in execution, acknowledgment and recording to a conveyance of real property.

Level of Service –A set of characteristics that measure and describe the quality of service on transportation devices, or transportation infrastructure. Level of service is usually graded using letters A (best) through F (worst) and includes parameters such as travel time, wait time, and number of vehicles.

Linked Trip – A trip with both an origin and destination in the area under consideration is counted as one linked trip. One linked transit trip includes all segments of a one-way journey involving public transit from the starting point, or trip origin, to the final destination. A linked trip may involve multiple passenger boardings.

Mixed Flow – The operation of transit vehicles on rights-of-way also used by non-transit vehicles (e.g. lightrail and automobiles).

Right of Way – Land, property, or interest therein, usually in a strip, acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes. For transit, rights-of-way may be categorized by degree of their separation: A - fully controlled without grade crossings, known as *grade separated, exclusive, or private*; B - Longitudinally physically separated from other traffic (by curbs, barriers, grade separation, etc.) but with grade crossings; C - surface streets with mixed traffic, although transit may have preferential treatment.

SACMET – The Sacramento Metropolitan Travel Demand Model (SACMET) is the primary travel forecasting tool for the Sacramento region. SACMET is used by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), which has primary responsibility for the development and maintenance of travel forecasting methods and models for the region. The SACMET travel model is used for long range transportation planning for the Sacramento region. This travel model also has many other applications including vehicle activity input data for the region's air quality conformity analyses, support of a SACMET Technical Advisory Committee, and is provided to university analysts for use in transportation research projects.

Significant – Under CEQA, the word “significant” generally refers to significant effects on the environment. A significant effect on the environment is a substantial adverse change in the physical conditions which exist in the area affected by the proposed project.

TAZ – Traffic analysis zones, or TAZs, are areas or data subsets used in travel analysis, modeling and forecasting. TAZ can be based on parameters such as household density and job density. The SACMET model includes a regional system of TAZs that cover Sacramento, Placer, Yolo, and El Dorado Counties (except the Lake Tahoe basin) plus South Sutter County. The SACMET TAZs generally correspond to U.S. Census tracts.