

# **BUTTE COUNTY**

## **2016 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN / SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY**

### **2016 - 2040**

**Adopted:  
December 8, 2016**

**Prepared by  
Butte County Association of Governments**

**326 Huss Drive, Suite 150  
Chico CA 95928  
530-809-4616  
www.bcag.org  
www.blinetransit.com**



**BCAG**  
BUTTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION  
OF GOVERNMENTS



BUTTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS



## RESOLUTION NO 2016/2017 - #14

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### RESOLUTION OF THE BUTTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS CERTIFYING THE FINAL PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE 2016 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN, ADOPTING A MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM, AND APPROVING THE 2016 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

**WHEREAS**, the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) comprised of five member agencies: Butte County, the cities of Biggs, Chico, Gridley, Oroville or Paradise; and

**WHEREAS**, BCAG is the agency responsible for maintaining a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process which will result in a Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 134(a) and (g), 49 U.S.C. §5303(f); 23 C.F.R. §450, and 49 C.F.R. §613; and

**WHEREAS**, BCAG is the Lead Agency in preparing the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy and is required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 21000 et seq.]; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(f), an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is the public document used by a governmental agency to analyze the significant environmental effects of a proposed project, to identify alternatives, and to disclose possible ways to reduce or avoid the potential environmental damage; and

**WHEREAS**, CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(a) specifies that a Program EIR (PEIR) 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 a 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; and

**WHEREAS**, BCAG has determined that a Program EIR is appropriate to assess the environmental impact of the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS); and

**WHEREAS**, the Program EIR is a regional planning level analysis which analyzes environmental impacts of the 2016 RTP-SCS on a broad planning level, while presenting as much detailed information about the individual RTP projects that is available at this time; and

**WHEREAS**, project-specific impacts of the individual RTP project should be analyzed in detail by the implementing agencies as the individual projects are designed, engineered, and considered for approval at a later date; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15086, BCAG consulted with and requested comments on the Draft Program EIR from responsible agencies, trustee agencies with resources affected by the project; and other state, federal, and local agencies which exercise authority over resources which may be affected by the RTP; and

**WHEREAS**, BCAG circulated a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR for the proposed project on September 15, 2015, to trustee and responsible agencies, the State Clearinghouse, and the public; and

**WHEREAS**, a scoping meeting was held on September 29, 2015, at 4:00 PM in the in the BCAG Conference Room in the City of Chico and a second scoping meeting was held on September 30, 2015 at 3:00 PM in the Oroville City Hall Conference Room to solicit concerns and issues relative to the RTP; and

**WHEREAS**, concerns raised in response to the NOP were considered during preparation of the Draft Program EIR; and

**WHEREAS**, BCAG published a public notice of availability (NOA) for the Draft Program EIR on August 19, 2016, inviting comments from the general public, agencies, organizations, and other interested parties; and

**WHEREAS**, the Draft Program EIR was available for public review from August 19 through October 18, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(a), BCAG, as the Lead Agency, must evaluate comments on significant environmental issues received from persons who review the Draft Program EIR and must prepare a written response thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, BCAG received three comment letters, all from public agencies, regarding the Draft Program EIR; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15088, the Final Program EIR responds to the written comments received, and

**WHEREAS**, the Final Program EIR document and the Draft Program EIR, as amended by the Final Program EIR, constitute the Final Program EIR; and

**WHEREAS**, when making the findings pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1), the agency must also adopt a program for reporting on or monitoring the changes which have been either required in the project or made a condition of approval to avoid or substantially lessen significant effects, and which are fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures, as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(d); and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with the requirements of the CEQA Guidelines, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been prepared to outline the procedures for implementing all mitigation measures identified in the EIR; and

**WHEREAS**, according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15093(b), where the decision of the public agency allows the occurrence of significant effects which are identified in the Final Program EIR but are not avoided or substantially lessened, the agency must issue a Statement of Overriding Considerations setting forth the specific reasons to support its actions based on the Final Program EIR or other information in the record; and

**WHEREAS**, CEQA Guidelines Section 15093(c) provides that if an agency makes a statement of overriding considerations, the statement should be included in the record of the project approval and should be mentioned in the Notice of Determination.

**WHEREAS**, Butte County, in accordance with the Transportation Conformity Rule requirements applicable to Butte County (§51.464 and §51.436 – 51.440), has satisfied the “no-greater-than-2011” test for the 2008 8-hour federal ozone NAAQS, the “budget test” for carbon monoxide for the 80-tons-per-day budget, and the “no-greater-than-2008” test for federal 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS. Based on this analysis, the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2017 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) conforms to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) and all applicable sections of the EPA’s Transportation Conformity Rule.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:**

1. The Butte County Association of Governments finds as follows:
  - (a) The Final Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) was completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and
  - (b) The Final Program EIR was presented to BCAG's decision making body, the BCAG Board; and
  - (c) The BCAG Board has reviewed and considered information contained in the Final Program EIR; and
  - (d) The Final Program EIR reflects BCAG's independent judgment and analysis; and
  - (e) The Final Program EIR consists of the Draft Program EIR and the Final Program EIR, which includes a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; and
2. Based on and incorporating all of the foregoing recitals and findings supported by substantial evidence in the record and set forth in the "Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations," attached hereto and incorporated by reference, BCAG hereby certifies the Final Program EIR for the 2016 RTP and adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; and
3. BCAG hereby approves the Butte County 2016 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy and Air Quality Conformity Determination.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the BCAG BOARD of Directors finds that the RTP/SCS achieves the regional greenhouse gas targets established by the California Air Resources Board and meets the requirements of SB 375;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the BCAG Board of Directors authorizes its staff to make any necessary changes to the RTP/SCS document to ensure the timely delivery and approval of the RTP/SCS to the appropriate state and federal agencies;

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Butte County Association of Governments on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016 by the following vote:

AYES:

Connelly, Kirk, Teeter, Busch, Fillmer, Jones

NOES:

None

ABSENT:

Lambert, Wahl, Borges, Dahlmeier

ABSTAIN:

None

APPROVED:



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BILL CONNELLY, CHAIR  
BUTTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

ATTEST:



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JON A. CLARK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BUTTE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS



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“The work upon which the Sustainable Communities Strategy portion of this report was funded in whole or in part through a grant awarded by the Strategic Growth Council”

## ACRONYMS FOR BCAG

ACRONYM	MEANING
AB	Assembly Bill
ACOE	Army Corps of Engineers
AFR	Accident Frequency Ratio
APS	Alternative Planning Strategy
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
ARB	Air Resource Board
AVL	Automatic Vehicle Location
BCAG	Butte County Association of Governments
CALCOG	California Association Council of Governments
CARB	California Air Resource Board
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality
CON	Construction
CTC	California Transportation Commission
CTIPS	California Transportation Improvement Program System
DFG	California Department of Fish and Game
DOT	Department of Transportation
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EMFAC	Emissions Factors
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
FTIP	Federal Transportation Improvement Program
FY	Fiscal Year
GARVEE	Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle Program
GhG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
GIC	Geographical Information Center
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GPS	Global Positional Satellite
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
IIP	Interregional Improvement Program
IPG	Intermodal Planning Group
ITIP	Interregional Transportation Improvement Program
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems
JPA	Joint Powers Agreement
LAFCO	Local Agency Formation Commission
LTF	Local Transportation Fund
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
NAAQS	National Air Quality Standards
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service (Also NOAA Fisheries)

ACRONYM	MEANING
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (Also NMFS)
OWP	Overall Work Program
PA&ED	Project Approval & Environmental Document
PDT	Project Development Team
PEER	Permit Engineering Evaluation Report
PL	Federal Planning Funds
PPH	Passengers Per Revenue Hour
PLH	Public Lands Highway
PPM	Planning Programming & Monitoring
PPNO	Project Programming Number
PS&E	Plans, Specifications & Estimates
PSR	Project Study Report
PTMISEA	Public Transportation Modernization Improvement and Service Enhancement Account
PUC	Public Utilities Code
R/W	Right of Way
RFP	Request for Proposals
RHNA	Regional Housing Needs Allocation
RHNP	Regional Housing Needs Plan
RIP	Regional Improvement Program
RTAC	Regional Target Advisory Committee
RTIP	Regional Transportation Improvement Program
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RTPA	Regional Transportation Planning Agency
SACOG	Sacramento Area Council of Governments
SAFETEA-LU	Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
SCEA	Sustainable Community Environmental Assessment
SCS	Sustainable Community Strategy
SDP	Strategic Deployment Plan
SHOPP	State Highway Operation Protection Program
SSTAC	Social Services Transportation Advisory Council
STA	State Transit Assistance
STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program
TAC	Transportation Advisory Committee
TAOC	Transit Administrative Oversight Committee
TCRP	Transportation Congestion Relief Program
TDA	Transportation Development Act
TE	Transportation Enhancements
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
TPP	Transit Priority Project
TSGP	Transit Security Grant Program
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
UTN	Unmet Transit Needs
WE	Work Element



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