

A-8 San Diego Association of Governments

Comment Letter A-8



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File Number 3300300

Ms. Ashley Smith  
County of San Diego  
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 110  
San Diego, CA 92123

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Dear Ms. Smith:

SUBJECT: Newland Sierra Draft Environmental Impact Report

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the County of San Diego's Newland Sierra Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is submitting comments based on the policies included in San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan (Regional Plan). These policies will help provide people with more travel and housing choices, protect the environment, create healthy communities, and stimulate economic growth. SANDAG's comments are submitted from a regional perspective emphasizing the need for better land use and transportation coordination.

Smart Growth

Please continue to take into consideration consistency with guiding plans for the region. In 2011, SANDAG supported the vision and goals of the San Diego County General Plan Update, which shifted "20 percent of future growth from eastern backcountry areas to western communities...reflect[ing] the County's commitment to a sustainable growth model that facilitates efficient development near infrastructure and services, while respecting natural resources and protection of existing community character in its extensive rural and semi-rural communities."

SANDAG supports the goals and objectives that are currently laid out in the 2011 San Diego County General Plan, as it encourages smart, sustainable growth and reinforces principles set forth in SANDAG's Regional Plan. SANDAG also realizes that while General Plans are meant to be dynamic documents updated to reflect market forces and population growth and trends, SANDAG supports key land use principles that preserve natural resources and limit urban sprawl. SANDAG's *Smart Growth Toolbox* and *Smart Growth Design Guidelines* provide planning, visualization, and financial tools to show how smart growth principles can be put into practice. In evaluating the Newland Sierra project, please continue to consider consistency with the land use and transportation goals of both the San Diego County General Plan and the Regional Plan.

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**Long-Range Transportation**

SANDAG appreciates the Project's consideration of future coordination efforts between the Project team and SANDAG to "identify the necessary improvements to the regional transportation network and to support appropriate priority in the Regional Transportation Plan...." To that end, please consider referencing future *Rapid* Route 235 (Temecula [Peak Only] Extension of Escondido to Downtown *Rapid*) (formerly Route 610) within the Transportation and Traffic section of the Draft EIR.

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**Other Considerations**

SANDAG has a number of additional resources that can be used for additional information or clarification on smart growth and transportation demand management. These can be found on the SANDAG website at [sandag.org/igr](http://sandag.org/igr):

- Trip Generation for Smart Growth
- Parking Strategies for Smart Growth
- Designing for Smart Growth, Creating Great Places in San Diego

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When available, please send any additional environmental documents related to this Project to:

SANDAG  
Attention: Intergovernmental Review  
401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101

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We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the County's Newland Sierra Draft EIR. If you have any questions, please contact me at (619) 699-1943 or [seth.litchney@sandag.org](mailto:seth.litchney@sandag.org).

Sincerely,



SETH LITCHNEY  
Senior Regional Planner

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