

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: December 10, 2014

Reference No.: 4.3  
Action

From: ANDRE BOUTROS  
Executive Director

Subject: **DRAFT UPDATES TO THE CEQA GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTING SB 743**

## **ISSUE:**

Should the Commission provide comments to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) on the Preliminary Discussion Draft of Updates to the CEQA Guidelines Implementing Senate Bill 743?

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Commission direct staff to transmit a comment letter to OPR recommending continued collaboration with the regional transportation agencies in resolving issues raised during the Preliminary Discussion Draft comment period.

## **BACKGROUND:**

SB 743 created a process to change the way that transportation impacts are analyzed under CEQA. Specifically, SB 743 requires the OPR to amend the CEQA Guidelines to provide an alternative to LOS for evaluating transportation impacts, particularly within areas served by transit, also known as transit priority areas. Pursuant to law these alternative criteria must "promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the development of multimodal transportation networks, and a diversity of land uses." The transportation impact measurements to be considered may include "vehicle miles traveled, vehicle miles traveled per capita, automobile trip generation rates, or automobile trips generated." SB 743 also gave OPR the discretion to develop alternative criteria for areas that are not served by transit, if appropriate.

On August 8, 2014, OPR released its "Updating Transportation Impacts Analysis in the CEQA Guidelines – Preliminary Discussion Draft of Updates to the CEQA Guidelines Implementing Senate Bill 743 (Steinberg, 2013)" for review and comment (Attachment B). OPR extended the initial comment period to November 21, 2014.

At the Commission's October 2014 meeting OPR presented an overview of the Preliminary Discussion Draft of Updates to the CEQA Guidelines Implementing Senate Bill 743. Additionally the Commission received presentations and comments on the Preliminary Discussion Draft from a variety of entities representing implementing agencies.