

Environmental Compliance Process

Environmental Compliance

- ◆ Compliance with rules and regulations
- ◆ Gather Public Input
- ◆ Provide Decision Makers with Environmental Information



Compliance with Rules and Regulations

- ◆ CEQA -California Environmental Quality Act
- ◆ NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act
- ◆ Congressional Acts and Executive Orders
- ◆ Permitting Agencies



Potential Permitting Agencies

- PUC - Public Utilities Commission
- Army Corps of Engineers
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Reg'l Water Quality Control Board



Gather Public Input

- ◆ Scoping Meeting
- ◆ Notice of Preparation - NOP (County Clerk posting)
- ◆ Notice of Intent - NOI (Federal Register Circulation)
- ◆ Early Consultation and Coordination
- ◆ Draft Environmental Document



Gather Public Input

- ◆ Public Hearing
- ◆ Final Environmental Document -
Incorporates comments received
- ◆ Board of Directors Meeting
- ◆ Notice of Determination - NOD
(County Clerk posting)
- ◆ Record of Decision - ROD (Federal
Register Circulation)



Provide Decision Makers with Environmental Information

- ◆ Full Disclosure Document
- ◆ Environmental Information Prior to Decision



Decision Makers

- VTA Board of Directors
- FTA - Federal Transit Administration
- Permitting Agencies



Environmental Process

- ◆ Technical Studies
 - Traffic
 - Noise
 - Air Quality
 - Natural Environment
 - Historic & Archaeological Resources



Environmental Process

◆ EIS/EIR

- EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
- Federal compliance
- EIR - Environmental Impact Report
- State compliance

◆ Potential Permits/Approvals

- PUC - Public Utilities Commission
- Wetlands & Endangered Species



Environmental Compliance Process

Scoping

Scoping Defined

“The process of determining the focus and content (scope) of an EIR”



Scoping

- ◆ Initiates Environmental Document Preparation
- ◆ Gathers Public Input
- ◆ Ensure Important Impacts Not Overlooked
- ◆ Ensure Important Mitigation Measures Not Overlooked



Scoping Goals

- ◆ Not concerned with the ultimate decision
- ◆ Concentrate on important Impacts and Mitigation Measures (to reduce effects)
- ◆ Adequate and efficiently prepared Environmental Document



Environmental Compliance Process

Environmental Issues

Important Environmental Issues

- ◆ Traffic and Parking
- ◆ Noise and Vibration
- ◆ Visual Quality
- ◆ Economic Impacts



Traffic and Parking

- ◆ Changes in Traffic Volumes & Patterns at Stations
- ◆ Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety
- ◆ Impacts at Key Intersections
- ◆ Loss of On-street Parking
- ◆ Detours/Lane Closures During Construction



Noise and Vibration

- ◆ Train Bells and Horns
- ◆ Squeal from Train Wheels
- ◆ Vibration Effects
- ◆ Construction-related Noise



Visual Quality

- ◆ Visual Effects of Stations and Overhead Catenary System
- ◆ Visual Effects of Possible Grade Separations
- ◆ Visual Effects of Possible Tree Removal



Economic Issues

- ◆ Access to Businesses During Construction
- ◆ Access to Parking During Construction
- ◆ Loss of Parking Due to Operation of Light Rail Trains
- ◆ Potential Right-of-Way Impacts



Additional Environmental Issues

- ◆ Air Quality
- ◆ Water Quality Effects
- ◆ Potential Impacts to Coyote Creek and Silver Creek
- ◆ Reid Hillview Airport
- ◆ Transmission Towers



Preliminary EIS/EIR Schedule

- ◆ Scoping Meeting - September 26, 2001
- ◆ Circulation of Draft EIS/EIR - Summer 2002
- ◆ Final EIS/EIR - Spring 2003
- ◆ Record of Decision / Notice of Determination - Summer 2003



