

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

SUBJECT: Regional Growth Management Strategy

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: See attached Initial Study

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: The San Diego County region (San Diego County).

III. DETERMINATION:

The San Diego Association of Governments has conducted an Initial Study and determined that the proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment, and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report will not be required.

IV. DOCUMENTATION:

The attached Initial Study documents the reasons to support the above determination.

V. MITIGATION MEASURES:

Any projects that will result from the implementation of the Regional Growth Management Strategy will be subject to environmental review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

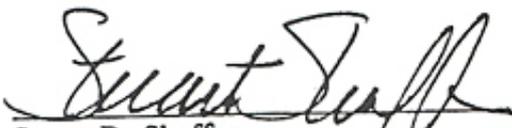
VI. PUBLIC REVIEW DISTRIBUTION:

Draft copies or notice of this Negative Declaration were distributed to the attached list of agencies and groups.

VII. RESULTS OF PUBLIC REVIEW:

To be added at the close of the review period.

Copies of the Draft Negative Declaration and any Initial Study material are available at the SANDAG offices, at the above address, for review, or for purchase for the cost of reproduction.


Stuart R. Shaffer
Deputy Executive Director

July 12, 1991
Date of Draft Report

ANALYST: Susan Baldwin

INITIAL STUDY

SUBJECT: Regional Growth Management Strategy

I. PURPOSE AND MAIN FEATURES:

In November, 1988, the voters of the San Diego region approved Proposition C which called for the establishment of a Regional Planning and Growth Management Review Board, and the preparation of a Regional Growth Management Strategy. SANDAG's Board of Directors now serves as the Regional Planning and Growth Management Review Board.

The Regional Growth Management Strategy contains policies and recommended actions to manage the adverse impacts of growth in the San Diego region. The Strategy takes a quality of life approach to managing growth. The actions contained in the Strategy are intended to preserve or improve the region's quality of life.

Eight Quality of Life Factors have been included in the Strategy: air quality, water, sewage treatment, sensitive lands preservation and open space protection, solid waste management, hazardous waste management, transportation system and demand management, and housing. These factors were chosen because they address issues that affect the whole San Diego region, not just individual jurisdictions.

Standards and objectives have been assigned to each Quality of Life factor. These standards and objectives are the goals of the Strategy. They are measurable so that we can monitor how well we are doing in meeting them each year, and their achievement will be the primary measure of the Strategy's success.

The Strategy contains recommended actions to achieve the quality of life standards and objectives. The plans and programs of several regional public agencies such as the Air Pollution Control District and the County Water Authority are included in the recommended actions.

In addition, the Strategy contains recommendations in two areas which relate to the achievement of the quality of life standards and objectives: (1) Regional Public Facilities Financing and Siting, and (2) Growth Rate, Phasing and Land Use Distribution. How we will pay for such things as transportation facilities and open space will be included in a Regional Public Facilities Financing Plan to be distributed at a later date. How we will site facilities like new landfills, and whether we should try and balance jobs and housing to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality, are discussed in the Strategy.

The Strategy also describes how we will monitor our progress in meeting the quality of life standards and objectives, and how local jurisdictions and regional agencies will certify the consistency of their plans, policies and regulations with the Strategy.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

The San Diego County region (San Diego County).

III. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The Initial Study Checklist is attached. The Checklist is designed to identify the potential for significant environmental impacts which could be associated with a project. Answers of "yes" and "maybe" indicate that there is a potential for significant environmental impacts, and these answers are discussed in Section IV.

IV. DISCUSSION:

The main purpose of the Regional Growth Management Strategy is to mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of growth in the San Diego region. The recommended actions in the Strategy will have, overall, a positive effect on the environment. While implementation of some of the recommended actions may have a significant effect on the environment, e.g. the construction of transportation, solid waste and other public facilities, these projects will be subject to environmental review at the project level before they are built.

"Yes" and "maybe" answers in the Initial Study Checklist indicate a potential for significant environmental impacts. These determinations are explained below.

G. 1, 2 and 3. Land Use - The Strategy makes recommendations regarding the protection of sensitive lands such as steep slopes, wetlands and floodplains. These recommendations may result in changes to land use designations, or the goals, objectives and recommendations contained in local land use plans. They may also be inconsistent with the adopted environmental plans for an area. Implementing the Strategy's recommendations in this case would, however, result in improvements to local plans and policies with respect to environmental issues.

J. Population - The Strategy could alter the planned location, distribution, density or growth rate of the population in the region. There are several recommendations included in the Strategy, or which may be included, which may result in changes of this type.

The sensitive lands and open space recommendations may cause population related changes as a result of changes to local plans and policies. These changes to local plans and policies would result from the protection of sensitive environmental resources, and would require environmental review at the time they are proposed.

There are several potential recommendations which may be included in the Strategy as it evolves which may also result in population related changes. These include potential recommendations to balance the location of jobs and housing, and increasing densities adjacent to transit stations and other access points to the transportation system. Although the Strategy does not include recommendations regarding these issues now, they are still being studied and recommendations may be added in the future. If changes like this are proposed they