



*June 6, 2024*

# **Santa Barbara County Last-Mile Broadband Program**

**Environmental Impact Report  
Public Scoping Meeting**



# Santa Barbara County Last-Mile Broadband Program

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## Environmental Impact Report Public Scoping Meeting

### Meeting Facilitators/Agency Representatives:

- **Fred Luna**, Director of Project Delivery and Construction, SBCAG
- **Lauren Bianchi Klemann**, Government Affairs/Public Information Manager, SBCAG
- **Jasmine McGinty**, Principal Analyst – County Executive Office, County of Santa Barbara
- **David Crook**, AICP, Principal Planner – Environmental Science Associates (Consultant)

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## Why we are here

### Purpose:

- CEQA requires a scoping meeting as part of the Notice of Preparation process

### Objectives:

- Provide Project Background, Project Location, and Project Description
- Discuss proposed scope of the PEIR for the Project
- Solicit input and refine scope of the environmental analysis

# Project Background

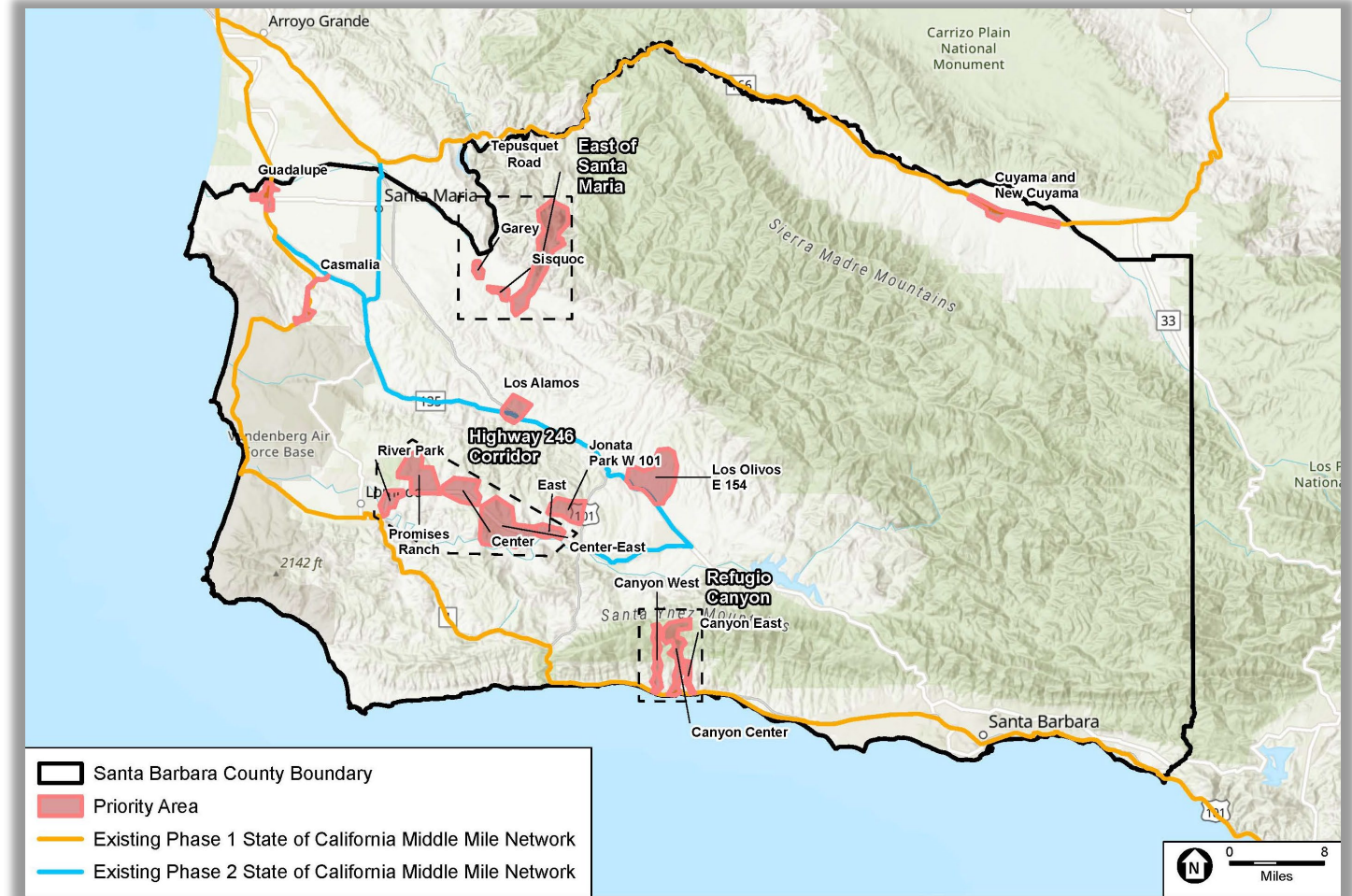
- **Broadband Strategic Plan**
  - Broadband Alliance prepared the countywide Broadband Strategic Plan
  - Goal to expand broadband internet access to unserved and underserved
- **Local Agency Technical Assistance Grant (LATA)**
  - Funds received by SBCAG and County of SB for implementation
  - Includes funding for a Program Environmental Impact Review (PEIR)
  - PEIR evaluated last mile installations across SB County
- SBCAG released the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a PEIR for a 30-day public review and comment period on **May 30, 2024, through July 1, 2024.**





# Project Location

- Across Santa Barbara County with focus on unserved/ underserved communities
- Priority Areas - 9 locations
  - Four near-term Priority Areas already designed
  - Five additional areas to be designed
- Additional Future project locations to be determined based on need and funding for projects



# Project Description

## New fiber optic installations

- Underground
- Adjacent to public or private roadways
- Limited installation under roadways
- Typically installed within previously disturbed and/or developed areas
- Avoids drainages and sensitive habitats.

## New Aerial Installations

- Not anticipated but could be undertaken in limited circumstances.



# Project Description (Cont.)

## Project components

- Broadband conduit with diameters between  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch and 2 inches
- Aboveground, prefabricated walk-in hut/shelters
- Small aboveground steel distribution cabinets/enclosures
- Distribution fiber, splice points, and drops; drop hubs; and small underground structures such as hand holes

## Operations and Maintenance

- Incidental maintenance
- Weed abatement
- Periodic accessing of hand holes and splice cases



# CEQA Process

- SBCAG - Lead Agency for PEIR to facilitate future broadband project implementation in the County
- PEIR is a “first-tier” CEQA document that may serve as a foundation for subsequent, site-specific environmental review documents
- PEIR
  - County-wide program level assessment with project-level analysis of Priority Areas
  - Includes program- and project-level mitigation measures
  - Includes a range of reasonable alternatives to the Project that would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives.



# PEIR Scope of Environmental Effects

## 20 Potential Environmental Factors

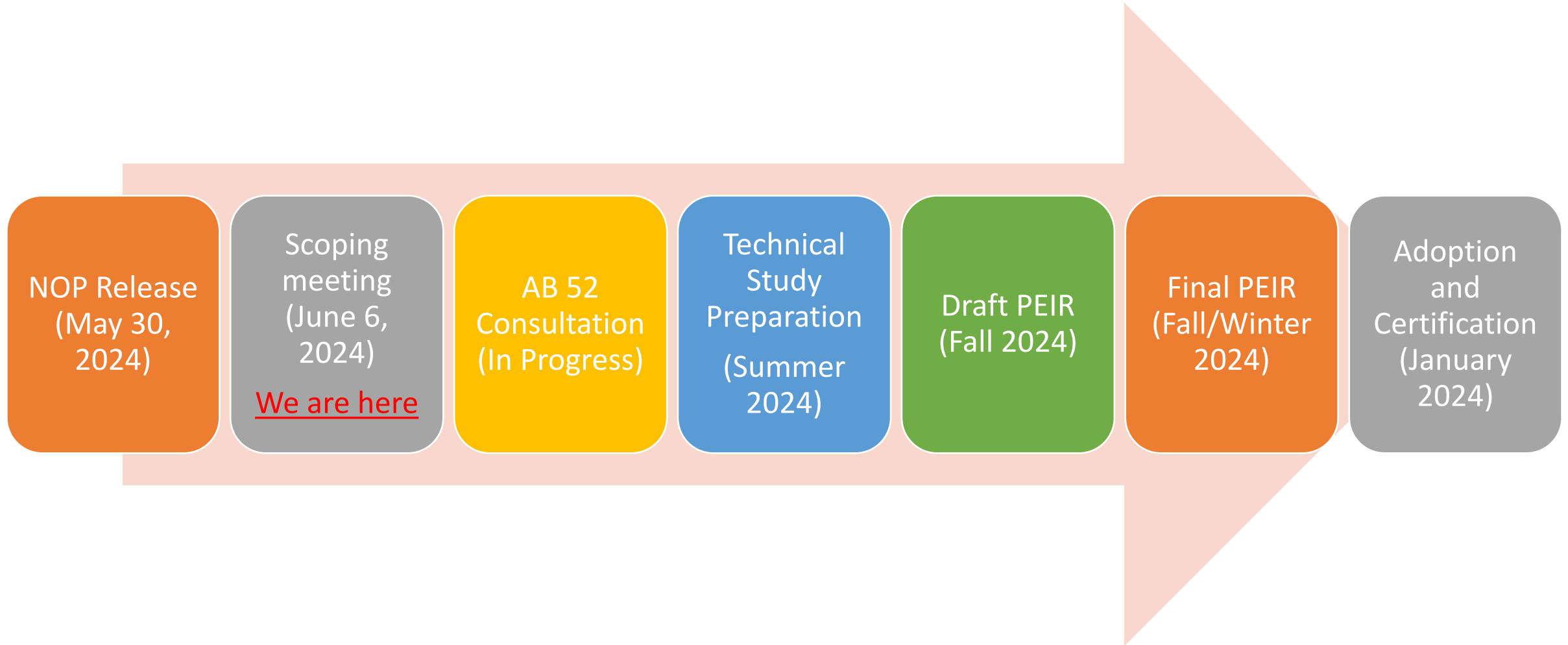
- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology, Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Resources
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

# PEIR Scope of Environmental Effects

## Issues Selected for PEIR Analysis

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources (including Paleontological Resources)
- Energy
- Geology, Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Resources
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

# Timeline/Next Steps



# Public Participation

Mail written comments to SBCAG by 5p.m., **July 1, 2024**, to the address below:

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments  
Attn: Fred Luna  
260 North San Antonio Road, Suite B  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

OR submit comment electronically to:

[info@sbcag.org](mailto:info@sbcag.org)

OR provide verbal comments TODAY







# *Thank You!*

*For more information and to review Project documents,  
Please scan the QR code or follow the link:*

*Website:*

[www.sbcag.org](http://www.sbcag.org)

*Webpage:*

<https://www.sbcag.org/last-mile-broadband-program-notice-of-preparation-for-environmental-impact-report/>



**All written, verbal, and electronic comments/questions received from the scoping meeting and staff responses will be available on the SBCAG website.**