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Notice of Availability and Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration

Project Title: SamTrans Zero Emission Bus Implementation Project

SEP 14 2022

Location: San Mateo County

Contact: Hilda Lafebre, Deputy Director, Capital Projects & Environmental Compliance, (650) 622-7842

Review Period: September 15, 2022, to October 6, 2022

Project Description: The San Mateo County Transit District (District) proposes the SamTrans Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Implementation Project at the SamTrans North Base in the City of South San Francisco and South Base in the City of San Carlos, in San Mateo County, California. The SamTrans ZEB Implementation Project entails re-purposing the existing bus maintenance-operations facilities at North Base and South Base from diesel fuel to battery electric buses (BEBs) or hydrogen fuel cell electric buses (FCEBs), both of which produce zero emissions.

Since early 2016, the District and other transit agencies across California have begun collaborative efforts with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to reduce emissions and pollutants from conventional bus fleets by purchasing electric buses. In late 2018, CARB mandated that California transit bus fleets must be zero emission by 2040, requiring that all bus purchases in 2029 and after must be BEBs or FCEBs. The District has identified an earlier target date of 2034 for a full transition to zero-emission buses.

The proposed project entails re-purposing the existing bus maintenance-operations facilities at North Base and South Base from diesel fuel to ZEBs. Key physical elements will include installing new electrical equipment, overhead canopies for BEB connection and power delivery, maintenance bay upgrades to support BEBs, and on-ground charges adjacent to maintenance shops to allow BEBs to be charged while under repair. The proposed project for FCEBs includes cryogenic fuel storage tanks; new portable fueling dispensers and electrical infrastructure upgrades; and maintenance facility upgrades, including new ventilation systems, hydrogen and flame detection systems, emergency shutoffs, and heating ventilation and air conditioning improvements. Both bases will also include modified parking layouts and travel lanes to accommodate the new charging and refueling infrastructure. For proper and safe operations and maintenance at North Base and South Base, SamTrans will develop a Bus Maintenance Electrical Safety Program to serve as a comprehensive training plan that addresses the operation, diagnosis, troubleshooting, repair, and preventative maintenance of zero-emission buses.

Negative Declaration: In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, the District prepared a Draft Initial Study / Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the proposed project. Based on the Initial Study, staff determined that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment as noted in the Draft IS/ND.

Public Comment Period: September 15, 2022, to October 6, 2022. Members of the public and agencies are hereby invited to review the Draft IS/ND and submit written comments. The Draft IS/ND can be accessed at: www.samtrans.com/zeb. Comments may be submitted during the period of September 15, 2022, to October 6, 2022 via e-mail at zebceqa@samtrans.com. Written comments on the Draft IS/ND can also be sent to Hilda Lafebre, SamTrans; 1250 San Carlos Avenue; San Carlos, CA 94070.