City of
Santa Rosa
California

Mary Nichols
Chair, Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
PO Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

November 18, 2009

Re: Comments on the RTAC Final Report

Dear Chair Nichols and Members of the Board,

The City of Santa Rosa appreciates the hard work that has gone into the Regional Targets Advisory Committee Report. Thank you for allowing us to participate in the commentary process. The following are comments and suggestions on the RTAC Final Report:

1. Creation of the BMP list should involve transit operators and municipal jurisdictions that have related experience. The BMP list should utilize technical/scientific information. A high level of public involvement throughout the process is essential to the success of the legislation.
2. The current economic crisis should be taken into account. Funding priority could be an incentive to remain in good standing in relation to transit infrastructure and land use development. Appropriate, up-to-date transit infrastructure is key in facilitating GHG goal attainment. Transit operators in good standing in relation to infrastructure should be given priority for future revenue considerations. Another incentive may be considered for jurisdictions implementing infill, higher density and urban growth practices.
3. Flexibility should be written into the report in order for different regions to address the land use/job housing balance in creative ways. What works for Los Angeles won't necessarily work for Santa Rosa. (For example, it may be useful for Santa Rosa to use corridor level GHG reduction analysis in different parts of town.)
4. In concert with the economic crisis comments, the ARB should give direction on what funding exists to help with the high cost of land use planning, related environmental documents, transit and redevelopment. It is unclear what the effects are of funds that have already been cut but that are necessary to implement SB 375. The City of Santa Rosa supports the RTAC report and the League of California Cities in stating the ARB should provide these funding mechanisms for the items necessary to implement the prescribed strategies and goals.
5. Support of performance indicators would be a feasible option when the State is assessing effective implementation of SB 375. This would be a clear, concise way for the State to determine if implementation has occurred using an empirical process.

Thank you again for allowing our participation throughout the process. Please feel free to contact Gillian Hayes, City Planner, (707) 543-4348 with any questions. We look forward to coordinating with the ARB throughout the SB375 implementation process and we thank you for any tools created to help in this collective effort to reduce GHGs.

Sincerely,

Charles Regalia
City of Santa Rosa
Director of Community Development