

State of California  
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

EXECUTIVE ORDER G-12-039

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)  
ARB Acceptance of GHG Quantification Determination

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 ((Chap. 728, Stats. 2008) Senate Bill 375, or SB 375, as amended) requires each California Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), as part of its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) planning process, to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) or an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) that meets regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets (targets) set by the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board);

WHEREAS, SB 375 also recognizes ARB's target-setting responsibility as a recurring process, requiring ARB to update the targets every eight years and permitting target updates every four years;

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2010, the Board set 2020 and 2035 GHG targets for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region of 8 percent per capita reduction and 13 percent per capita reduction, respectively;

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2011, SCAG published a draft 2012-2035 RTP containing a draft SCS that stated it would meet or exceed the region's GHG targets with an 8 percent per capita reduction by 2020 and a 16 percent per capita reduction by 2035;

WHEREAS, ARB staff performed a technical evaluation of the draft SCS based on ARB's technical methodology for evaluating an SCS (published in July 2011);

WHEREAS, ARB staff's evaluation showed that SCAG used technical methodologies that would accurately quantify GHG reductions from the draft SCS;

WHEREAS, ARB staff evaluated key performance indicators that support SCAG's determination that the draft SCS would meet or exceed the region's GHG targets;

WHEREAS, ARB staff's evaluation showed that SCAG's draft SCS, if implemented, would meet the GHG targets that the Board established for the region for 2020 and 2035;

WHEREAS, ARB staff presented an informational item on SCAG's draft SCS to the Board at its March 22, 2012 public meeting;

WHEREAS, during the public discussion of this item at its March meeting, the Board identified environmental justice as an important consideration in the regional planning process;

WHEREAS, SCAG's draft 2012-2035 RTP/SCS included a detailed analysis of potential environmental justice impacts and a recommendation to monitor the potential effects of plan implementation, including gentrification;

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledged the need for additional metrics to assess the social equity impacts of RTPs/SCSs, and directed ARB staff to pursue development of improved modeling tools and other technical tools that can assist MPOs and local governments to strengthen their analysis of social equity impacts;

WHEREAS, in response to comments from the public, stakeholders, and the Regional Council, SCAG staff made minor modifications to the draft SCS which resulted in additional GHG reductions projected by 2020 (these proposed changes had been presented to the SCAG Regional Council at a public meeting on March 21, 2012);

WHEREAS, the SCAG Regional Council adopted the final 2012-2035 RTP/SCS as revised at its public meeting on April 4, 2012;

WHEREAS, SCAG submitted the adopted 2012-2035 RTP/SCS to ARB on April 11, 2012, with its GHG quantification determination of a nine percent per capita reduction by 2020 and a 16 percent per capita reduction by 2035, as required by California Government Code section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii);

WHEREAS, ARB staff reviewed both the draft SCS and subsequent modifications contained in the adopted the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS;

WHEREAS, the adopted 2012-2035 RTP/SCS further supports the ability of the SCS to meet the regional GHG targets because the reductions in per capita GHG emissions in 2020 would be slightly greater than demonstrated by the draft SCS, and the reduction in

per capita GHG emissions in 2035 would be the same as demonstrated by the draft SCS;

WHEREAS, ARB staff's technical review of SCAG's GHG reduction quantification is contained in Attachment A, "Technical Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Quantification for SCAG's SCS," dated May 1, 2012;

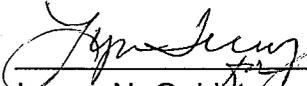
WHEREAS, section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii) of the California Government Code calls for the ARB to accept or reject the MPO's determination that the strategy submitted would, if implemented, achieve the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets established by the Board;

WHEREAS, the California Health and Safety Code sections 39515 and 39516 delegate to the Board's Executive Officer the authority to act on behalf of the Board in this manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii) of the California Government Code, the Executive Officer hereby accepts SCAG's quantification of GHG emission reductions from the SCS adopted by the SCAG Regional Council on April 4, 2012, and the MPO's determination that the SCS would, if implemented, achieve the 2020 and 2035 GHG emission reduction targets established by ARB.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that ARB staff is directed to forward this executive order to the SCAG Regional Council and Executive Director.

Executed at Sacramento, California, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012.

  
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James N. Goldstone  
Executive Officer

Attachment A:

"Technical Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Quantification for SCAG's SCS", May, 2012.