WEST COVINA
Councilmember

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

July 20, 2010

California Air Resources Board (CARB)
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95813

Dear Chairwoman Nichols, Fellow Board Members, and CARB Staff:

I wish to register my strong support for CARB's ongoing efforts to implement SB 375. During my tenure on the Council, I have been a strong advocate for a more sustainable West Covina – for a community that focuses growth around transit, ensures that residents have a variety of transportation choices, and promotes environmental sustainability and equity in transportation and land use decisions and funding. I believe a more sustainable and equitable West Covina will also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Successful implementation of SB 375 is critical to ensuring that communities across this state can continue to lead the way in the effort to develop more sustainable communities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by transportation and land use.

I am troubled by recent efforts to roll back AB 32 and, by extension, SB 375. The initiative that recently qualified for the ballot that would suspend AB 32 could negatively impact a community's ability to continue to forge ahead with a new approach to planning. I am proud of SCAG's efforts to develop a regional Blueprint and I will work closely with SCAG and Metro to support more focused growth with enhanced transit connectivity, as well as, greatly improved walk-ability and bike-ability.

Opponents of AB 32 and SB 375 claim cities cannot afford to keep implementing these laws until the economy improves. It is my position that the cities cannot afford to not press ahead with implementation. I believe full implementation of SB 375 will not only save cities money by reducing a range of cost burdens (e.g., energy, water, infrastructure servicing) it will also allow the cities to directly attract more sustainable development, which will in turn lead to increased revenues and more stable long-term government services and financing.

California is poised to become a global leader in a reduced carbon world, and I do not believe cities turn their back on this objective. Please stay the course on SB 375 implementation.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Roger Hernández
Councilmember
City of West Covina

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