SBCAG
santa barbara county association of governments

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September 20, 2010

Doug Ito, Manager
SIP Local Government Strategies
Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento CA 95812

Re: Establishment of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets for the SBCAG MPO Region

Dear Mr. Ito:

SBCAG has previously provided staff of the Air Resources Board pertinent information related to establishing Greenhouse Gas reduction targets for our region. SBCAG would like to express its support for the collaborative approach taken by ARB staff during the draft target setting process. It is evident in the draft targets released by staff on August 9 that consideration has been given to some of the unique factors and challenges in the SBCAG region including those identified in our May 24 letter to you.

Specifically, SBCAG supports the ARB's recognition of the different opportunities and constraints that exist among the MPO's and the overall approach of categorizing MPO's into three groups based on the size of the region, severity of existing air quality problems, relative contribution to statewide greenhouse gas emissions, limitations on resources and expected future growth. However, SBCAG believes we can do better than a 6% per capita GHG increase by 2020 and a 4% increase by 2035. On September 20th the SBCAG Board voted to request that CARB set our target at zero net increase in per capita GHG emissions [for 2020 and 2035] contingent on future modeling by SBCAG to assess if SBCAG is able to meet the zero net increase. This balances our enthusiasm for doing better with uncertainty of our new modeling tools to identify and test new Greenhouse Gas reduction strategies.

As we address the challenge of improving our air quality, the SBCAG board requests the continuing support of the ARB in reducing the contribution of GHG emissions from major state institutions, such as UCSB, that are beyond SBCAG's direct influence.

SBCAG appreciates the cooperative spirit between ARB staff and the MPOs throughout the first target setting process. SBCAG staff will be available to respond to any questions raised by your staff. Feel free to contact our Executive Director, Jim Kemp, if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal
First District Supervisor and
SBCAG Chair