BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

September 22, 2010

Mary Nichols, Chairman
California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Proposed regional greenhouse gas targets for SB 375

Dear Chairman Nichols and California Air Resources Board Members:

As you know well, in 2008 the California legislature and Governor Schwarzenegger took a major step toward fighting climate change by making SB 375 the law in California. This critical bill gives California's cities, counties, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations a golden chance to no longer do business as usual and instead work together to improve our communities and cut air pollution—including greenhouse gas emissions.

I understand that SB 375 is not a perfect bill, and I know that there are many, including those in southern California, who are concerned about some of its unintended consequences. However, our efforts to fight global warming and combat sprawling development in our sensitive natural areas will only be as strong as the greenhouse gas reduction targets that the Air Resources Board adopts this coming Thursday. Further, weakening SB 375 is not the way to address the legitimate concerns about SB 375.

Therefore, as the first, target-setting phase of SB 375 implementation comes to a close, I encourage the Board to finalize the draft greenhouse gas (GHG) targets for SCAG proposed in the August 9, 2010 ARB staff report (8 percent for 2020 and 13 percent for 2035), and also to make commitments that will ensure that SB 375 implementation achieves its full range of potential benefits.

Like many of my colleagues in this region, I also strongly urge ARB to identify resources for implementing SB 375. Local governments and transportation agencies are key partners in SB 375 implementation, and both face unprecedented financial challenges in the current economic and fiscal climate. The California Air Resources Board should work to identify and secure resources for these needs at every opportunity.

Thank you for your important work to date to achieve cleaner air for all Californians and I look forward to a continuation of your efforts to make California a global leader in the effort to fight climate change.

Sincerely,

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Supervisor, Third District

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