

May 19, 2014

Chairman Mary Nichols

California Air Resources Board

1001 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Public Health Comments on San Joaquin Valley SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategies**

Dear Chairman Nichols:

On behalf of the American Lung Association in California and the Health Professionals for Clean Air network, we submit the attached letters to inform the California Air Resources Board of our views on the development of several of the San Joaquin Valley Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) under Senate Bill 375 (SB 375, Steinberg, 2008).

Health organizations have followed the implementation of SB 375 throughout the state and have worked closely with the staff of the Councils of Governments (COGs) in the San Joaquin Valley over the past several years as these plans have been developed. We are committed to the success of SB 375 because of the need to act swiftly to combat climate change, but also to quickly and effectively address the air quality, public health and health equity impacts exacerbated by communities designed almost exclusively for driving. As we found in our Public Health Crossroads reports for [San Joaquin](http://www.lung.org/associations/states/california/assets/pdfs/advocacy/sjv-public-health-crossroads/san-joaquin-county-public.pdf), [Fresno](http://www.lung.org/associations/states/california/assets/pdfs/advocacy/sjv-public-health-crossroads/fresno-public-health.pdf), and [Kern](http://www.lung.org/associations/states/california/assets/pdfs/advocacy/sjv-public-health-crossroads/kern-public-health-crossroads.pdf) counties, healthier planning decisions in these three counties could avoid $269 million annually in health costs in 2035. Throughout the San Joaquin Valley, smart growth patterns could save residents at least $416 million.

The attached letters were submitted to San Joaquin Valley COGs in the spirit of building healthier communities and advancing progress toward California’s life-saving clean air policy goals. We look forward to working with the California Air Resources Board, Valley COGs and other stakeholders to ensure that all Californians can benefit from healthier, more sustainable communities as envisioned by SB 375.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Holmes-Gen

Senior Director, Policy and Advocacy

American Lung Association in California