

# ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

Representing City and County Governments of the San Francisco Bay Area



November 21, 2008

Mary Nichols, Chairman  
California Air Resources Board  
Headquarters Building  
1001 "I" Street  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Comments on Proposed Scoping Plan – Association of Bay Area Governments

Dear Chair Nichols:

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) commends you and the staff of the California Air Resources Board for responsiveness to our concerns and the spirit of partnership in preparing the Proposed Scoping Plan. ABAG, as a co-proponent of the regional Blueprint planning process for the San Francisco Bay Area with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and as a participant in the Joint Policy Committee, with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the Bay Conservation and Development District (BCDC) and MTC, is committed to ensuring that the region has a coordinated and collaborative land use and transportation strategy to address climate change.

ABAG respectfully submits the following comments on the Proposed Scoping Plan:

## **SB 375 –**

This landmark legislation provides a flexible framework for local governments, regional agencies, stakeholders and the public to come together and forge a sustainable communities strategy to meet regional targets for GHG emissions reductions and to advance regional planning goals for housing, transportation investments, protection of regional resources and the environment, and economic development. The Proposed Scoping Plan acknowledges the critical role SB 375 has in the region's effort to reach the Plan's Regional Transportation-Related Greenhouse Gas Targets. In the San Francisco Bay Area, ABAG anticipates a robust SB 375 process that builds on the Bay Area's regional Blueprint plan – FOCUS.

## **Targets**

ABAG appreciates the Proposed Scoping Plan separating GHG emission reduction targets for local governments' direct actions from those for their exercise of land use authority. We also note the adoption of a 5 MMT 'aspirational' target for the transportation/land use component of the plan.

ORIGINAL: Board Clerk  
Copies: Executive Officer  
Chair

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## Incentives

Given the enactment of SB 375 and the adoption of a statewide aspirational goal for transportation/land use component of the Proposed Scoping Plan, ABAG wishes to remind the State that the local governments of the San Francisco Bay Area are participating in, or supporting, FOCUS: the region's existing strategy for a sustainable transit-oriented development pattern. The region is ready to make significant strides towards actual implementation of the FOCUS (and the Sustainable Communities Strategy/Alternative Planning Strategy when adopted). The catalyst to change is incentives to support local governments' implementation efforts. With current economic conditions and the State's budget problems, we do not expect new revenue sources in the short term. We, and our sister regional agencies, will work to ensure that some incentives be provided from existing resources within our authority. We urge the State to ensure that existing dedicated resources be made available as incentives to support FOCUS, the SB 375 planning effort, and ultimately, the Sustainable Communities Strategy/Alternative Planning Strategy. As conditions change and new resources become available, we will remind the State of the need for incentives to carry out the strategies we adopt.

ABAG, our member cities and counties, our sister regional agencies and the extensive network of stakeholders, advocates and engaged citizenry that has participated thus far in FOCUS are hopeful that work done to date and work to be done under SB 375 will shape the San Francisco Bay Area into a world class model for sustainable development. We look forward to the support of the State and its agencies in achieving this goal.

Sincerely,



Henry L. Gardner  
Executive Director

cc: Bruce Riordan