



Sandi Palumbo

10-6-6

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June 23, 2010

Chairman Mary Nichols and Members

California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Chairman Nichols and California Air Resources Board Members:

Thank you for your leadership in implementing SB 375, California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act. We are grateful for your, your staff's, and the MPO's extensive efforts to begin the process of shifting land use and transportation planning in California to adopt a more forward looking and sustainable approach.

We strongly support the need for state efforts to assist MPOs and local governments with financial resources and modeling tools to adopt more sustainable land use and transportation plans. Land use and transportation modeling has yet to fully develop the capacity to evaluate the health benefits of smart growth. We encourage CARB to support the development and implementation of models that can calculate the health benefits of varying land use and transportation scenarios to help clarify the public health benefits of more compact development that facilitates transportation alternatives.

To ensure that California moves in the right direction, CARB needs to propose regional targets that go beyond "business-as-usual" planning. California needs regional targets that will incentivize equitable community designs.

As medical experts, we are writing to urge CARB to adopt ambitious targets that reflect the full range of policy tools available to local governments to reduce vehicle dependence and related pollution emissions. We believe that ambitious regional targets are an important element in California's fight against global warming, air pollution, and chronic illness. We hope CARB will help to make the promise of SB 375 a reality – the development of healthier communities where Californians have more transportation and housing options that lead to better human and environmental health.

We look forward to working on a regional level to address local solutions when the time comes. We are hopeful that this new framework will give communities an opportunity to help find solutions that will better their communities and decrease air pollution as well as decrease obesity, improve safety in addition to other public health benefits.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandi Palumbo".

Sandi Palumbo, Executive Director
Fresno-Madera Medical Society

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Sandi Palumbo, Executive Director
Kern County Medical Society