



City of Sanger, California

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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June 21, 2010

California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Implementation of SB 375

Honorable Chairwoman Mary Nichols, Board Members, and Staff:

As the city planner for the City of Sanger, I am writing with strong support for SB 375 implementation, because it promotes sustainable economic development, stronger downtowns, more efficient use of public resources, and healthier and more vibrant communities.

In our own small community, we have been making great strides toward these same goals. Our 2025 Sanger General Plan, adopted in November 2003, contains goals, policies and implementation measures that support smart growth concepts, downtown revitalization and mixed use/mixed density developments. In 2005 consistent with the general plan, we adopted the West Sanger Master Plan, a 233-acre mixed use/density planned development consisting of 1,200 residential units, 4-acres of neighborhood serving commercial, 17-acres for future shopping center expansion and 40±-acres of parklands/open space with neighborhood connecting paseos and walking trails.

We recently became a Healthy Eating Active Living city and will be preparing a Healthy Community Element for inclusion into our general plan. In 2009, we adopted Air Quality Goals and Policies in compliance with AB-170 that has been included into our general plan. Since 2003, we started down the path to create a community we feel is more consistent with the vision SB-375 represents and we will continue to work and build upon the small successes our community has achieved.

Building compact, walkable neighborhoods and connecting them with a variety of transportation choices can save cities and residents money. The Sacramento region estimates that compact growth will save \$16 billion in infrastructure expenses. SB 375 will spur the construction of quality homes that fit families' budgets and will encourage economic development and local employment through integrated regional development patterns, to create a good jobs-housing fit.

Focusing growth in healthy, active communities designed around transit, walking, and biking will allow people to incorporate physical activity into their daily routines, reducing heart disease, stress, and obesity. It will also help clean the air, reducing asthma attacks and other impacts of poor air quality. It could reduce travel costs and let people spend less time in traffic and more time with family and friends.

Our local efforts to meet these goals will have greater success when connected to the efforts of other cities and towns. As a small San Joaquin Valley community in Fresno County, we appreciate that our region can adapt to different towns' unique opportunities and challenges. We look forward to working with our neighboring cities to create a Sustainable Communities Strategy that makes our communities healthier and our regional economy stronger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Raffi', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ralph Raffi Kachadourian
City Planner