State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Acceptance of the Greenhouse Gas Quantification Determination for the Fresno Council of Governments' Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

Resolution 15-1

January 29, 2015

Agenda Item No.: 15-1-3

WHEREAS, SB 375 (Steinberg, Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008), also known as the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act, aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from passenger vehicle travel through improved transportation and land use planning at the regional scale;

WHEREAS, SB 375 requires each of the State's 18 federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), including the Council of Fresno County Governments (FCOG), to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), or an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) that meets the regional GHG emission reduction targets for passenger vehicles set by the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board);

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2010, the Board approved GHG reduction targets for 2020 and 2035, expressed as a per capita percentage reduction relative to 2005 levels, for each of the State's MPOs;

WHEREAS, the targets established for the Council of Fresno County Governments (FCOG) region are a five percent decrease in 2020 and a ten percent decrease in 2035 relative to 2005 levels;

WHEREAS, FCOG staff engaged the public by holding public workshops throughout three phases of public involvement between November 2012 and September 2013;

WHEREAS, in March 2014, FCOG published a draft Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) for 2014-2040 which was available for public review for 55 days;

WHEREAS, in June 2014, FCOG approved a Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) for 2014-2040 that stated it would achieve a 9 percent per capita reduction from 2005 levels in 2020 and an 11 percent per capita reduction from 2005 levels in 2035;

WHEREAS, ARB staff performed a technical evaluation of the 2014 SCS using ARB's methodology, published in July 2011 for review of GHG emission calculation procedures for SCS plans;

WHEREAS, ARB staff's evaluation found that FCOG used technical methodologies that would reasonably quantify GHG reductions from the draft SCS;

WHEREAS, as required by California Government Code section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii), FCOG submitted the final SCS to ARB on December 2, 2014, for review of its GHG quantification determination;

WHEREAS, section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii) of the California Government Code calls for ARB to accept or reject an MPO's determination that its submitted strategy would, if implemented, achieve the GHG emission reduction targets established by the Board;

WHEREAS, ARB staff's technical evaluation of FCOG's GHG reduction quantification is contained in Attachment A, "Technical Evaluation of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Quantification for the Council of Fresno County Governments' SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy," dated January 2015; and

WHEREAS, ARB staff's evaluation affirms that FCOG's adopted 2014-2040 SCS would, if implemented, achieve the GHG targets that the Board established for the region for 2020 and 2035.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii) of the California Government Code, the Board hereby accepts FCOG's quantification of the GHG emission reductions from the final SCS adopted by the FCOG Board of Directors on June 26, 2014, and accepts the MPO's determination that the SCS would, if implemented, achieve the region's GHG reduction targets.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that ARB staff forward this Resolution to the FCOG Board of Directors and Executive Director.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 15-1 as adopted by the Air Resources Board.

Tracy Jensen

Tracy Jensen, Clerk of the Board