State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

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

Resolution 15-11

June 25, 2015

Agenda Item No.: 15-5-1

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 Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG), to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), or an Alternative Planning Strategy 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 set 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 set for the StanCOG region are a 5 percent decrease in 2020 and a 10 percent decrease in 2035 relative to 2005 levels;

WHEREAS, StanCOG staff engaged the public by holding public workshops and community meetings between February 2013 and August 2013;

WHEREAS, in March 2014, StanCOG published a draft Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) for 2014-2040 which was available for public review for 60 days;

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2014, the StanCOG Board of Directors approved the final RTP/SCS for 2014-2040 and the StanCOG Board resolution of adoption stated the SCS, if implemented, would meet the targets of 5 percent per capita reduction from 2005 levels in 2020 and 10 percent per capita reduction from 2005 levels in 2035;

WHEREAS, as required by California Government Code section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii), StanCOG submitted the final SCS to ARB on April 10, 2015, for review of its GHG emissions 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 emissions reduction targets established by the Board;

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

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

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

WHEREAS, ARB staff's evaluation affirms that StanCOG's adopted 2014-2040 SCS would, if implemented, achieve the GHG emissions reduction 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 StanCOG's quantification of the GHG emission reductions from the final SCS adopted by the StanCOG Board of Directors on June 18, 2014, and accepts the MPO's determination that the SCS would, if implemented, achieve the region's GHG emissions reduction targets.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that ARB staff forward this Resolution to the StanCOG Policy Board and Executive Director.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 15-11 as adopted by the Air Resources Board.

Tracy Jensen

Tracy Jensen, Clerk of the Board

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June 25, 2015

Attachment A: Technical Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Quantification for the Stanislaus Council of Governments' SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy" dated June 2015