

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

EXECUTIVE ORDER G-14-028

Association of Bay Area Governments' (ABAG) and
Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC)
Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)
ARB Acceptance of GHG Quantification Determination

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 ((Chap. 728, Stats. 2008) Senate Bill 375, or SB 375, as amended) requires each California Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), as part of its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) planning process, to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) or an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) that meets regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets (targets) set by the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board);

WHEREAS, SB 375 also recognizes ARB's target-setting responsibility as a recurring process, requiring ARB to update the targets every eight years and permitting target updates every four years;

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2010, the Board set targets for the ABAG/MTC region of 7 percent per capita reduction from 2005 by 2020, and 15 percent per capita reduction from 2005 by 2035;

WHEREAS, in March 2013, ABAG/MTC published a draft Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), known as Plan Bay Area, for 2040 that stated it would achieve the region's GHG targets with a 10 percent per capita reduction from 2005 by 2020 and a 16 percent per capita reduction from 2005 by 2035;

WHEREAS, ARB staff performed a technical evaluation of the SCS in the draft Plan Bay Area based on ARB's technical methodology for evaluating an SCS (published in July 2011);

WHEREAS, ARB staff's evaluation showed that ABAG/MTC used technical methodologies that would accurately quantify GHG reductions from the SCS in the draft Plan Bay Area;

WHEREAS, ARB staff evaluated key performance indicators that support ABAG/MTC's determination that the SCS in the draft Plan Bay Area would achieve the region's GHG targets;

WHEREAS, ARB staff's evaluation showed that ABAG/MTC's SCS in the draft Plan Bay Area, if implemented, would meet the GHG targets that the Board established for the region for 2020 and 2035;

WHEREAS, ARB staff presented an informational item on ABAG/MTC's SCS to the Board at its June 27, 2013 public meeting;

WHEREAS, during the public discussion of this item at its June 2013 meeting, the Board acknowledged that several of Plan Bay Area's Climate Policy Initiatives will provide useful data for future analysis;

WHEREAS, in response to comments from the public, stakeholders, ABAG Executive Board members, and MTC Commissioners, ABAG/MTC staff made minor modifications to the draft Plan Bay Area which did not significantly change the GHG emission reduction results;

WHEREAS, these proposed changes were presented at public meetings held by ABAG/MTC on June 14, 2013 and July 12, 2013;

WHEREAS, the ABAG Executive Board and MTC Commissioners adopted the final Plan Bay Area as revised at its public meeting on July 18, 2013;

WHEREAS, ABAG/MTC submitted the final Plan Bay Area containing the final SCS to ARB on January 6, 2014 and provided the final data table on February 18, 2014 in support of its GHG quantification determination of a 10 percent per capita reduction by 2020 and a 16 percent per capita reduction by 2035, as required by California Government Code section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii);

WHEREAS, ARB staff reviewed both the draft SCS and subsequent modifications to the SCS contained in the adopted 2013-2040 Plan Bay Area;

WHEREAS, the modifications adopted by the ABAG Executive Board and MTC Commissioners as part of the final Plan Bay Area are minor, and do not change the underlying technical land use and transportation assumptions of the SCS or its GHG quantification methodology, and does not significantly change the GHG reduction results demonstrated by the draft SCS for 2020 and 2035;

WHEREAS, ARB staff's technical review of ABAG/MTC's GHG reduction quantification is contained in Attachment A, "Technical Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Quantification for the Association of Bay Area Governments' and Metropolitan Transportation Commission's SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy" dated April 2014;

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

WHEREAS, the California Health and Safety Code sections 39515 and 39516 delegate to the Board's Executive Officer the authority to act on behalf of the Board in this manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii) of the California Government Code, the Executive Officer hereby accepts ABAG/MTC's quantification of GHG emissions reductions from the final SCS adopted by the ABAG Executive Board and MTC Commissioners on July 18, 2013, and the MPO's determination that the SCS would, if implemented, achieve the 2020 and 2035 GHG emission reduction targets established by ARB.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that ARB staff is directed to forward this executive order to the ABAG Executive Board, the MTC Commission, and the ABAG and MTC Executive Directors.

Executed at Sacramento, California, this 10th day of April 2014.


Richard W. Corey
Executive Officer

Attachment A:

"Technical Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Quantification for the Association of Bay Area Governments' and Metropolitan Transportation Commission's SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy" April 2014