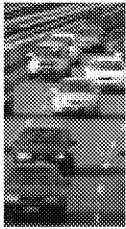



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Sustainable Communities

This page last updated March 9, 2018



The Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (Sustainable Communities Act, SB 375, Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008) supports the State's climate action goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through coordinated transportation and land use planning with the goal of more sustainable communities.

Under the Sustainable Communities Act, ARB sets regional targets for GHG emissions reductions from passenger vehicle use. In 2010, ARB established these targets for 2020 and 2035 for each region covered by one of the State's metropolitan planning organizations (MPO). ARB will periodically review and update the targets, as needed.

Each of California's MPOs must prepare a "sustainable communities strategy" (SCS) as an integral part of its regional transportation plan (RTP). The SCS contains land use, housing, and transportation strategies that, if implemented, would allow the region to meet its GHG emission reduction targets. Once adopted by the MPO, the RTP/SCS guides the transportation policies and investments for the region. ARB must review the adopted SCS to confirm and accept the MPO's determination that the SCS, if implemented, would meet the regional GHG targets. If the combination of measures in the SCS would not meet the regional targets, the MPO must prepare a separate "alternative planning strategy" (APS) to meet the targets. The APS is not a part of the RTP.

The Sustainable Communities Act also establishes incentives to encourage local governments and developers to implement the SCS or the APS. Developers can get relief from certain environmental review requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) if their new residential and mixed-use projects are consistent with a regional SCS (or APS) that meets the targets (see Cal. Public Resources Code §§ 21155, 21155.1, 21155.2, 21159.28.).

What's New

- [March 2018 Board Meeting Notice](#) NEW
- [February 2018 Updated Final Staff Report Proposed Update to the SB 375 GHG Emission Reduction Targets](#) NEW
- [January-February 2018 Public Workshops and Presentation](#)

SB 375 Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target Update Activities

March 2018 Board Meeting

- [Notice](#) NEW
- [Updated Final Staff Report: Proposed Update to the SB 375 GHG Emissions Reduction Targets](#) NEW
 - [Appendix A: MPO Target Recommendations and CARB Staff Recommendations](#)
 - [Appendix B: MPO Scenario and Data Submittals](#)
 - [Appendix C: Rebound Analysis](#)
 - [Appendix D: MPO RTP Update Schedule](#)
 - [Appendix E: SB 375 Program Background](#)
 - [Appendix F: Final Environmental Analysis](#)
 - [Responses to Comments on the Draft Environmental Analysis](#)

Archived Events

January-February 2018 Public Workshops

- [Notice](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [Sacramento February 6 - Workshop Audio Recording](#)

December 2017 Board Meeting

- [California Air Resources Board Meeting Agenda: Proposed Update to SB 375 Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets \(Informational Item\)](#)

October 2017 Staff Report

- [Staff Report on Proposed Update to the SB 375 Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets](#)
 - [Appendix B: MPO Scenario and Data Submittals](#)
- [Draft Environmental Analysis \(June 2017\)](#)
- [Public Board Meeting Second Notice of Postponement and original Meeting Notice](#)

June 2017 Public Workshops

- [View submitted comments here](#)
- [June 2017 Workshops Notice](#)
- [Bakersfield June 20 - Workshop Presentation and Workshop Audio Recording](#)
- [Los Angeles June 21 - Workshop Presentation and Workshop Audio Recording](#)
- [San Francisco June 28 - Workshop Presentation and Workshop Audio Recording](#)

March 2017 Public Meetings

- [March 23, 2017 ARB Board Hearing on SB 375 Target Update Process](#)
- [March 2017 Workshops Notice](#)
- [Los Angeles March 7 - Workshop Presentation](#)
- [Sacramento March 9 - Workshop Presentation and Workshop Audio Recording](#)
- [Fresno March 14 - Workshop Presentation and Workshop Audio Recording](#)

2014 Target Update Activities

- [Staff Report on SB 375 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target Update Process for the October 24, 2014 Board meeting \(Oct. 2014\)](#)
- [Comments submitted to ARB staff in response to September 2014 target update process workshops \(Oct. 2014\)](#)
- [Target Update Process Workshop presentation slides \(Sept. 2014\)](#)
- [Preliminary Draft Staff Report on SB 375 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target Update Process \(Aug. 2014\)](#)

Sustainable Communities Strategies Review

Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)

2016 MTP/SCS

- [ARB Executive Order accepting the Sacramento Area Council of Governments' \(SACOG\) determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets \(Sept. 2016\)](#)
- [ARB staff's technical evaluation of the SACOG Final Sustainable Communities Strategy \(Sept. 2016\)](#)
- [2036 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted Feb. 2016](#)

- SACOG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Oct. 2015)

2012 MTP/SCS

- Fact sheet on SACOG's Sustainable Communities Strategy (Oct. 2013)
- ARB Executive Order accepting SACOG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (June 2012)
- ARB staff's technical evaluation of the SACOG Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (May 2012)
- 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted Apr. 2012
- Informational update on the draft Sustainable Communities Strategies for the SACOG region (Mar. 2012)
- SACOG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Oct. 2010)

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

2016 RTP/SCS

- ARB Executive Order accepting the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (June 2016)
- ARB staff's technical evaluation of SCAG's Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (June 2016)
- 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted April 2016
- SCAG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Nov. 2015)

2012 RTP/SCS

- Fact sheet on SCAG's Sustainable Communities Strategy (Oct. 2013)
- ARB Executive Order accepting SCAG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (June 2012)
- ARB staff's technical evaluation of SCAG's Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (May 2012)
- Informational update on the draft Sustainable Communities Strategies for the SCAG region (Mar. 2012)
- Public Workshop Presentation on SCAG's Draft SCS (Feb. 2012)
- 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted April 2012
- SCAG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Apr. 2010)

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)

2015 RTP/SCS

- ARB staff's technical evaluation of the San Diego Association of Governments' (SANDAG) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (Dec. 2015)
- ARB Executive Order accepting SANDAG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (Dec. 2015)
- San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan, adopted on October 9, 2015
- SANDAG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (June 2013)

2011 RTP/SCS

- *Fact sheet on SANDAG's Sustainable Communities Strategy (Oct. 2013)*
- *ARB Executive Order accepting SANDAG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (Nov. 2011)*
- *ARB staff released its informational report on the San Diego Association of Government's Draft Sustainable Communities Strategy (Sept. 2011)*
- *2050 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted October 2011*
- *SANDAG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (May 2010)*

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)

- *Fact sheet on the Bay Area's Sustainable Communities Strategy (Aug. 2014)*
- *ARB Executive Order accepting ABAG/MTC's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (April 2014)*
- *ARB staff's technical evaluation of the ABAG/MTC Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (April 2014)*
- *Informational update on the Association of Bay Area Governments' and Metropolitan Transportation Commission's draft Sustainable Communities Strategy (June 2013)*
- *Plan Bay Area, adopted July 2013*
- *ABAG/MTC's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Nov. 2010)*

San Joaquin Valley (SJV)

- *ARB staff's update on SB 375 implementation in the Valley (July 2014)*
- *ARB staff's update on SB 375 implementation in the Valley (May 2014)*
- *ARB public meeting presentation reporting on SB 375 implementation status (Jan. 2014)*
- *ARB staff's update on SB 375 implementation in the Valley (Jan. 2013)*
- *Technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions for all eight SJV MPOs (Feb. 2014)*

Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)

- *ARB staff's technical evaluation of the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (Feb. 2018)*
- *2014-2040 Regional Transportation Plan & Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted July 23, 2014 and SCS Amendment, adopted June 21, 2017*
- *MCTC's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Feb. 2014)*
- *ARB Executive Order accepting MCTC's determination that the SCS Amendment would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (Feb. 2018)*

Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)

- *ARB staff's technical evaluation of the Tulare County Association of Governments' (TCAG) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (Oct. 2015)*
- *2014-2040 Regional Transportation Plan & Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted June 30, 2014*
- *KCAG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Feb. 2014)*
- *ARB Resolution accepting TCAG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (Oct. 2015)*

Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG)

- *ARB staff's technical evaluation of the Kings County Association of Governments'*

- (KCAG) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (Oct. 2015)*
- Kings County 2014 Regional Transportation Plan, adopted July 30, 2014*
- KCAG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Feb. 2014)*
- ARB Resolution accepting KCAG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (Oct. 2015)*

Kern Council of Governments (KernCOG)

- ARB staff's technical evaluation of the Kern Council of Governments' (KernCOG) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (July 2015)*
- ARB Resolution accepting KernCOG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (July 2015)*
- 2014 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted June 19, 2014*
- KernCOG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Feb. 2014)*

Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)

- ARB staff's technical evaluation of the Stanislaus Council of Governments' (StanCOG) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (June 2015)*
- ARB Resolution accepting StanCOG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (June 2015)*
- 2014 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted June 18, 2014*
- StanCOG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Feb. 2014)*

San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG)

- ARB staff's technical evaluation of the San Joaquin Council of Governments' (SJCOG) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (May 2015)*
- ARB Resolution accepting SJCOG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (May 2015)*
- 2014-2040 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted June 26, 2014*
- SJCOG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Feb. 2014)*

Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG)

- ARB staff's technical evaluation of the Fresno Council of Governments' (FCOG) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (Jan. 2015)*
- ARB Resolution accepting FCOG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (Jan. 2015)*
- 2014 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted June 26, 2014*
- FCOG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Sept. 2012)*
- FCOG's supplemental technical methodology for quantifying GHG emission (Feb. 2014)*

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) 2017 RTP/SCS

- ARB staff's technical evaluation of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' (SBCAG) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (Jan. 2018)*
- ARB Executive Order accepting SBCAG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (Feb. 2018)*

- 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted Aug. 2017
- SBCAG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Jun. 2016)

2013 RTP/SCS

- ARB Resolution accepting SBCAG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (Nov. 2013)
- 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted Aug. 2013
- SBCAG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Oct. 2011)

Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG)

2016 RTP/SCS

- ARB staff's technical evaluation of the Butte County Association of Governments' (BCAG) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (May 2017)
- ARB Resolution accepting BCAG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (May 2017)
- Regional Transportation Plan, adopted Dec. 2016
- BCAG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Apr. 2016)

2012 MTP/SCS

- ARB staff's technical evaluation of the Butte County Association of Governments' (BCAG) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (Apr. 2013)
- ARB Resolution accepting BCAG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (Apr. 2013)
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan, adopted Dec. 2012
- BCAG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Sept. 2012)

Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA)

- ARB staff's technical evaluation of the Shasta Regional Transportation Agency's (SRTA) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (Oct. 2015)
- 2015 Regional Transportation Plan for Shasta County (adopted June 30, 2015)
- SRTA's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Feb. 2014)
- ARB Resolution accepting SRTA's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (Oct. 2015)

San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG)

- ARB staff's technical evaluation of the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments' (SLOCOG) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (June 2015)
- ARB Resolution accepting SLOCOG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (June 2015)
- 2014 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted April 1, 2015
- SLOCOG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (June 2014)

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)

- ARB staff's technical evaluation of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments' (AMBAG) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (Nov. 2014)
- ARB Resolution accepting AMBAG's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (Nov. 2014)
- 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, adopted June 11, 2014
- AMBAG's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emission (June 2013)

Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO) and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)

- ARB staff's technical evaluation of the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization's (TMPO)/Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's (TRPA) Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (Apr. 2013)
- ARB Resolution accepting TMPO/TRPA's determination that the Final SCS would meet the region's GHG emissions reduction targets (Apr. 2013)
- Mobility 2035, adopted Dec. 2012
- TMPO/TRPA's technical methodology for quantifying GHG emissions (Oct. 2011)

Key SB 375-Related Documents

- Off-Model Strategies Adopted by California MPOs In Sustainable Communities Strategies (May 2016)
- ARB's technical methodology for reviewing greenhouse gas reductions for an SCS (July 2011)
- Final regional GHG emission reduction targets adopted by ARB (Attachment to Executive Order G-11-024) (Feb. 2011)
- Text of SB 375
- Text of companion legislation to SB 375: SB 575
- California Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines (2010)

Sustainable Communities Initial Target-Setting Activities

- ARB Executive Order (see Attachments here) and Notice of Decision filed approving the final targets (Feb. 2011)
- Final targets (Feb. 2011)
- ARB staff's responses to the CEQA functional equivalent document (Feb. 2011)
- ARB staff report on targets and CEQA functional equivalent document (Aug. 2010)
- ARB staff's documentation for the calculations of the MPOs' carbon dioxide emissions reductions (Aug. 2010)
- ARB staff release of draft targets (June 2010)
- ARB public meeting to report on target setting efforts
- ARB-MPO collaboration on technical information and data to support target-setting
- ARB appointment of the Regional Targets Advisory Committee (RTAC), as required under the Sustainable Communities Act, on January 23, 2009. The RTAC's charge was to advise ARB on the factors to be considered and methodologies to be used for establishing regional targets. The RTAC provided its recommendation to ARB on September 29, 2009.
- Staff Presentation to the Board on RTAC Recommendations - Methodologies for Setting Targets (Nov. 2009)
- ARB's Press Release on Board action to adopt the regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. (Sept. 2010)

ARB Research to Support Sustainable Communities Strategies


Implementation

- ARB supports regional and local implementation of SB 375 through research. ARB's research program includes investigation of the impacts of land use and transportation strategies on travel behavior, GHG emissions, air pollution exposure, equity, and health.
- ARB research on policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles to support implementation of the Sustainable Communities Act.
- Susan Handy, Ph.D., UC Davis, discussed the research on this set of policies at an October 7, 2014 ARB research seminar. Video of the seminar, the presentation slides, and other related materials are available [here](#).

Related Information

- [Additional information and resources on Sustainable Communities implementation activities.](#)

If you would like more information on ARB activities related to Sustainable Communities:

- [Get involved, sign up with our email list](#)
- [View Comments](#) 

For questions, please contact:

SustainableCommunities@arb.ca.gov



CONTACT US

(800) 242-4400 | helpdesk@arb.ca.gov
 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
 P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812



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