



Air Resources Board



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Mary D. Nichols, Chair
1001 I Street • P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812 • www.arb.ca.gov

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

August 5, 2015

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**KERN COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

Mr. Ahron Hakimi
Executive Director
Kern Council of Governments
1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Mr. Hakimi:

Congratulations on the Kern Council of Governments' (KernCOG) adoption of the region's first Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). The Air Resources Board (ARB) recognizes that this SCS represents many years of effort. We appreciate KernCOG's work to advance the sustainability of transportation and land use planning in Kern County. We would also like to thank you for joining us at the July 23, 2015 ARB Board meeting to discuss the SCS.

In accordance with the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, please find the enclosed Board Resolution Number 15-38. This Board Resolution accepts the determination by KernCOG that its 2014 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) would, if implemented, meet the 2020 and 2035 regional greenhouse gas reduction targets established by ARB.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Ms. Amy Volz, Air Pollution Specialist, at (626) 450-6195, or by email at amy.volz@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,


Richard W. Corey
Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: See next page

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Ahron Hakimi
August 5, 2015
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cc: The Honorable Jennifer Wood, Chair
Kern Council of Governments Board of Directors
1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, California 93301

Ms. Karen Magliano, Chief
Air Quality Planning and Science Division

Ms. Amy Volz
Air Quality Planning and Science Division

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE GREENHOUSE GAS QUANTIFICATION DETERMINATION
FOR THE KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PLAN/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY**

Resolution 15-38

July 23, 2015

Agenda Item No.: 15-6-5

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 Kern Council of Governments (KernCOG), 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 KernCOG region are a 5 percent decrease in 2020 and a 10 percent decrease in 2035 relative to 2005 levels;

WHEREAS, KernCOG staff engaged the public by holding public workshops and community meetings between March 2012 and October 2013;

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

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2014, the KernCOG Board of Directors approved the final RTP/SCS for 2014-2040 and the KernCOG 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), KernCOG submitted the final SCS to ARB on June 4, 2015, for review of its GHG emissions quantification determination;

WHEREAS, the California Government Code section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii) 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 approved 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 KernCOG used technical methodologies that would reasonably quantify GHG emissions reductions from the adopted SCS;

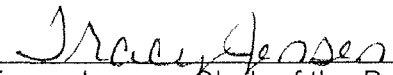
WHEREAS, ARB staff's technical evaluation of KernCOG's GHG emissions reduction quantification is contained in Attachment A, "Technical Evaluation of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Quantification for the Kern Council of Governments' SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy," dated July 2015; and

WHEREAS, ARB staff's evaluation affirms that KernCOG'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 California Government Code section 65080(b) (2) (J) (ii), the Board hereby accepts KernCOG's quantification of the GHG emission reductions from the final SCS adopted by the KernCOG Board of Directors on June 19, 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 KernCOG Board of Directors and Executive Director.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 15-38 as adopted by the Air Resources Board.


Tracy Jensen, Clerk of the Board

Resolution 15-38

July 23, 2015

Identification of Attachments to the Board Resolution

Attachment A: Technical Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Quantification for the Kern Council of Governments' SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy, July 2015.