

**KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MEETING OF REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION MODELING COMMITTEE**

**KERN COG BOARD ROOM
1401 19TH STREET, THIRD FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA**

**WEDNESDAY
March 6, 2024
1:30 P.M.**

Dial +1 (312) 878-3080
Access Code: 586-617-702

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/586617702>

I. ROLL CALL:

- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Committee on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Committee. Committee members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification; make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Committee at a later meeting. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD PRIOR TO MAKING A PRESENTATION.**

Disabled individuals who need special assistance to attend or participate in a meeting of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee may request assistance at 1401 19th Street, Suite 300; Bakersfield CA 93301 or by calling (661) 635-2910. Every effort will be made to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in alternative formats. Requests for assistance should be made at least three (3) working days in advance whenever possible.

III. APPROVAL OF DISCUSSION SUMMARY

- A. Meeting of January 31, 2024.

IV. PUBLIC WORKSHOP/PUBLIC COMMENT 2024-2050 GROWTH FORECAST DRAFT REPORT (Davisson)

Comment: The 2024-2050 Growth Forecast Draft Report is available for review and public comment on Kern COG's webpage <https://www.kerncog.org/estimates-and-projections/>. The public workshop of the forecast is scheduled to be hosted at the Kern COG board meeting in March 2024.

Action: Information.

V. UPDATE: SB 375 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION FROM PASSENGER VEHICLES AND ADOPTION TIMELINE FOR THE 2026 RTP (Raymond)

Comment: The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is required to be updated every 4-years and contains a long range 24-year transportation expenditure portfolio fulfilling numerous policies and regulations including but not limited to public involvement, social equity, air quality conformity, congestion management, and Senate Bill (SB) 375 per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets. This standing item is regularly reviewed by the Regional Planning Advisory Committee.

Action: Information.

VI. REGIONAL EARLY ACTION PLANNING (REAP) UPDATE (Napier)

Comment: In August 2019, the Governor signed the \$1.7 billion housing "trailer bill" as part of the 2019 - 2020 budget. **The Local Government Planning Support Grants Program (AB 101)** was established for the purpose of providing regions and jurisdictions with one-time funding, including

grants for planning activities to enable jurisdictions to meet the sixth cycle of the regional housing need assessment, and to spur affordable housing production.

Action:

1. Recommend to the Kern COG Board that the unused funds be allocated equally to the remaining member agencies.
2. Do nothing.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- KARGO C-CAMS – Kick-off Meeting
- RHNA Annual Progress Reports by the Cities and Count are due to the State April 1, 2024.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled meeting will be April 3, 2024.

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION MODELING COMMITTEE

KERN COG CONFERENCE ROOM
1401 19TH STREET, THIRD FLOOR
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY
January 31, 2024
130 P.M.

Chairman Staples called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL:

RPAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mark Staples	Taft
	Paul Saldana	McFarland
	Chris Soriano	Arvin
	Bradon Duran	Caltrans
	Salvador Morales	Tehachapi
	Candi Asuncion	Tejon Tribe
KERN COG STAFF:	Becky Napier	Karl Davisson
	Ben Raymond	Irene Enriquez
	Rochelle Invina-Jayasiri	
OTHERS:	Brianna DeLeon	McFarland
	Rick Franz	Caltrans
	Gregg Strakaluse	Bakersfield
	Ryan Starbuck	Bakersfield
	Oscar Frates	Arvin
	Gary Hallen	Bakersfield

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Committee on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Committee. Committee members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification; make a referral to staff for information or request staff to report to the Committee at a later meeting. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD PRIOR TO MAKING A PRESENTATION.**

None.

III. **APPROVAL OF DISCUSSION SUMMARIES**

- RPAC Meeting of October 4, 2023

Committee Member Soriano made a motion to approve the minutes of October 4, 2023; seconded by Committee Member Saldana, unanimously approved by voice vote.

IV. **HOUSING ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT UPDATE (Davisson)**

Comment: Adopted Housing Elements (HE) for the jurisdictions with land use authority in the Kern region were due to be submitted to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on December 31st, 2023. As of January 16, 2024, no jurisdiction in the Kern region has yet received an “in compliance” letter from HCD.

Action: Information. Local jurisdictions work with HCD to get letters of compliance by December 31, 2024.

V. **GENERAL PLAN LAND USE AND CIRCULATION REQUEST (Davisson)**

Comment: In support of development of the Regional Transportation Plan and regional growth forecast, Kern COG staff requests digital copies of each jurisdiction's general plan land use circulation element maps.

Action: Information. Submit digital copies of local general plan, specific plan, and circulation element map files to Karl Davisson (661)635-2919 kdavisson@kerncog.org by April 3rd, 2024.

VI. 2024-2050 GROWTH FORECAST – TIMELINE (Davisson)

Comment: The Kern COG 2024-2050 Growth Forecast for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan.

Action: Information.

VII. REGIONAL EARLY ACTION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM (REAP) FUNDING (Napier)

Comment: In August 2019, the Governor signed the \$1.7 billion housing "trailer bill" as part of the 2019 - 2020 budget. The Local Government Planning Support Grants Program (AB 101) was established for the purpose of providing regions and jurisdictions with one-time funding, including grants for planning activities to enable jurisdictions to meet the sixth cycle of the regional housing need assessment, and to spur affordable housing production.

Ms. Napier informed the Committee of the following issues related to the REAP Funding:

- All funds must be spent by June 30, 2024 (products and reports are due to HCD beginning in August 2024).
- Several cities have not availed themselves of the funds and cities have had multiple reminders. How should the unspent funds be addressed?
- If funds are not spent by the deadline, it is required that the member agencies return unspent funds to Kern COG. Kern COG must then reimburse the funds to the Fiscal Agent, Fresno COG, and the unspent funds will be returned to the state.

Action: The consensus of the Committee was that if member agencies are not going to avail themselves of the funding the funds be reallocated to the remaining member agencies equally. Staff was asked to bring this item to the March 6 meeting with information related to the actual amount spent by the member agencies and what REAP eligible projects they would use the funds for if they were reallocated. Members were asked to supply this information to Ms. Napier by February 26, for the March Agenda.

V. UPDATE: SB 375 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION FROM PASSENGER VEHICLES AND ADOPTION TIMELINE FOR THE 2026 RTP (Ball)

Comment: The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is required to be updated every 4-years and contains a long range 24-year transportation expenditure portfolio fulfilling numerous policies and regulations including but not limited to public involvement, social equity, air quality conformity, congestion management, and Senate Bill (SB) 375 per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets. This standing item is regularly reviewed by the Regional Planning Advisory Committee.

Action: Information.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- KARGO C-CAMS – Award going to board in February 2024
- Regional Awards – March 7, 2024
- Housing Unit Survey - Davisson
- Monthly Community Bike Rides/Mock city outreach (attached)

VII. MEMBER ITEMS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at _____ p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the RPAC is March 6, 2024.



IV. RPAC

March 6, 2024

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: Ahron Hakimi,
Executive Director

By: Karl Davisson, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM: IV.
PUBLIC WORKSHOP/PUBLIC COMMENT – 2024-2050 GROWTH
FORECAST DRAFT REPORT

DESCRIPTION:

The 2024-2050 Growth Forecast Draft Report is available for review and public comment on Kern COG's webpage <https://www.kerncog.org/estimates-and-projections/>. The public workshop of the forecast is scheduled to be hosted at the Kern COG board meeting in March 2024.

DISCUSSION:

Background

The Regional Growth Forecast Defined - The Kern COG regional growth forecast is a long-range projection for the countywide total population. The population total is used to develop housing, employment, school enrollment, and income forecasts. The forecast is used for local transportation and air quality planning as well as by the member agencies for a variety of long-range planning activities. This forecast revision will serve as the growth assumption for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. The forecast is used as a control target by the modeling committee and RPAC for distribution of socio-economic data throughout the county sub areas. The forecast is based on Census Data and California Department of Finance (DOF) estimates for the base year. Per Government Code § 65584.01, if the growth forecast is more than 1.5% above DOF projections, Kern COG will need to provide a detailed explanation why the forecast differs and work with DOF to agree on the forecast methodology.

Review Requirements – The Kern COG Policy and Procedure Manual states:

“Socio-Economic Forecast Data – Countywide forecasts for households, employment and other socio-economic data shall be updated not less than 3 years from the time of the Socio-economic forecast. A minimum of three years between Countywide forecast revisions is needed to allow responsible state and federal agencies time to complete their review of large environmental documents without major changes to transportation circulation modeling results...”

The Kern COG adopted Public Policy and Procedure manual requires an advertised notice of public meetings/workshops regarding the regional growth forecast and 30-day public comment period. Additionally, extensive opportunities for public comment on the forecast will be provided as part of the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan adoption.

Committee Oversight – The Kern COG Transportation Modeling sub-committee and the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) will provide oversight during the growth forecast update. The committees currently meet together and are also responsible for sub-area distribution of the growth forecast following the adoption. The regional growth forecast will be presented to the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) concurrently, and then to the Transportation Planning Policy Committee/Kern COG Board for final adoption.

Draft Regional Growth Forecast Report – The Draft Report is available for public review on Kern COG’s website: <https://www.kerncog.org/estimates-and-projections/>. The primary forecasts of the regional growth forecast are for the number of households, population, housing units, and employment. The report also provides forecast data demographic characteristics including: age distribution, housing units by type, average household size, household income, race and ethnicity.

The draft report shows Kern’s total population reaching 925,000 by 2027 and by 2050 the population is expected to be not quite 975,000. The number of households are expected to increase to just over 348,000 by 2050 from 281,000 in 2022. Total employment is forecasted to grow from 347,299 in 2022 to 420,180 in 2050.

Notably, the draft report builds on data from the US Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census found that the average household size in the Kern region has fallen to 3.14 people per household in 2022. The household size of 3.14 data is substantially lower than earlier forecasts previously anticipated or projected.

The report compares the forecasts with other forecasts, projections, and trends. The total population forecast stays within 1.5% of the latest DOF projections. The graph below depicts how the forecast for total population compares to other forecasts and projections.

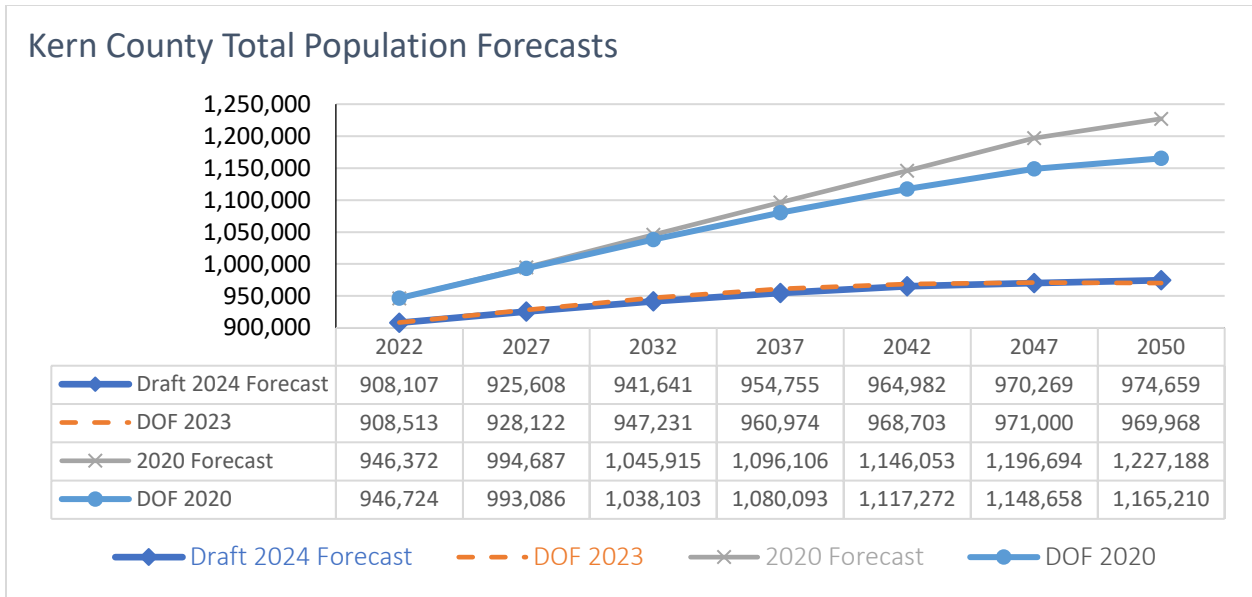


Figure 1. Above image compares latest projections with previous projections from California Department of Finance (DOF) and Kern COG.

Revised Growth Forecast Timeline – The following schedule is anticipated for forecast adoption:

- March 6th, 2024 - 30-day public comment period notification (flyers/draft report to be available at www.kerncog.org)
- March 6th, 2024 – Draft Report to RPAC & TTAC
- March 21st, 2024 - Public Workshop on Growth Forecast
- April 2024 - Kern COG Board reviews draft forecast for information and comments
- April 3rd, 2024 - RPAC review report and public comments received and make recommendation to Kern COG board.
- April 5th, 2024 - Close of 30-day public review period
- April 18th, 2024 - Kern COG Board considers adoption of the regional growth forecast. (could slip to May 23rd)

ACTION: Information.



V.
RPAC

March 6, 2024

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: AHRON HAKIMI,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By: Rob Ball, Deputy Director/Planning Director
Ben Raymond, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM: V.
UPDATE: SB 375 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION FROM
PASSENGER VEHICLES AND ADOPTION TIMELINE FOR THE 2026 RTP

DESCRIPTION:

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is required to be updated every 4-years and contains a long range 24-year transportation expenditure portfolio fulfilling numerous policies and regulations including but not limited to public involvement, social equity, air quality conformity, congestion management, and Senate Bill (SB) 375 per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets. This standing item is regularly reviewed by the Regional Planning Advisory Committee.

DISCUSSION:

This discussion provides an update on the activity related to the RTP and the SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). The report is updated regularly with the most recent developments listed first.

February 20, 2024 – California Air Resources Board (ARB) provided another email re-confirming that they officially accept Kern COG's 2022 SCS, and provided a draft of 11 recommendations for the 2026 SCS. No estimate on when their final acceptance letter will be submitted.

January 9, 2024 and November 2, 2023 – ARB provided an email updates on the status of Kern COG's promised 2022 RTP/SCS acceptance letter. A key upper management review person is not available this month pushing the issuance of the final letter into 2024, 7-months after ARB indicated acceptance of Kern COG's SCS in their June 13th email.

August 10, 2023 - ARB staff announced at the quarterly San Joaquin Valley Inter-Agency Consultation meeting that Kern, Stanislaus, and Tulare COGs have received their approval and will receive official documentation in September. Fresno and San Joaquin COGs have completed their reviews and are in the process of making some required board actions before they can receive their official approval. Kings, Madera, and Merced are still under review by ARB staff.

July 26, 2023 – 2026 RTP/SCS Roundtable Meeting was held for environmental, equity, business & industry groups on the public outreach process at Kern COG and included 14 representatives from the Delores Huerta Foundation, Central California Asthma Collaborative, Sierra Club, Home Builders Association, Golden Empire Transit, Caltrans, County Public Works, and staff from the cities of McFarland, Taft, and Wasco.

July 13, 2023 - ARB staff emailed Kern COG and the California, the final acceptance letter is still working its way through upper management reviews and may not be issued till September due to staffing and vacation issues.

June 15, 2023 – Kern COG Board approved the 2023 Public Involvement Procedures document after a 45-day public review. The document is online at <https://www.kerncog.org/policies/> .

June 13, 2023 – ARB staff emailed Kern COG and the California Transportation Commission that “the SCS is officially approved.” However, the final acceptance letter is still working its way through upper management reviews and will take several weeks before it is issued.

May 19, 2023 – ARB staff acknowledged receipt of the requested transmittal letter signed by the Kern COG Chair, and associated TPPC staff report. ARB staff indicated they would provide a status update by May 31, and try to meet Kern COG’s request for an expedited review by June 8, but that they could not commit to any date earlier than June 27.

May 5, 2023 - Kern COG submitted a draft of a Kern COG TPPC staff report and transmittal letter to ARB with a request for the Kern COG Chair to sign. The item was approved by the Board on May 18, 2023, and signed by the Chair. The letter documents technical changes that do not affect the adopted RTP/SCS text or conclusions. The document contains updates from the November 2022 SCS technical data submittal to ARB consistent with ARB guidelines.

May 1, 2023 – Kern COG circulated the draft Public Involvement Procedure for 45-day public review period to be concluded on June 15. In addition, the Kern COG Executive Director and other COG directors from the San Joaquin Valley met with the SJV representative on the California Air Resources Board. At that meeting ARB staff indicated that Kern was close to receiving the acceptance finding for their SCS.

April 26, 2023 – Kern COG submitted to ARB a cover letter and revised technical methodology data submittal with all the requested updates since the November data submittal. ARB requested that the Kern COG’s chair’s signature be approved by the Kern COG Board,

April 17, 2023 – Kern COG web conferenced with ARB staff for the 14th time in 3 years to discuss the 2022 SCS technical methodology. One final methodology issue remains out of 27 identified in CARB’s January 20th memorandum. Additional adjustments were made to the elasticity used to adjust the hybrid NCST tool method used by Fresno COG. Documentation of the adjustment was submitted to ARB on April 18, 2023. ARB is required to provide their findings and recommendations 2 months after the submitted package from Nov. 29, 2023, is found complete.

February 17, March 29, April 7, April 14, 2023 – Kern COG web conferenced with ARB to further refine SCS modeling methodology..

January 20, 2023 – ARB responded to Kern COGs SCS technical methodology submittal from November 29, 2022 with questions. A meeting was held on January 24, 2023, to clarify questions.

December 16, 2022 – The 2022 RTP/Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) short range transportation program air quality conformity was federally approved.

November 29, 2022 – Kern COG submitted the technical methodology data package to the ARB.

July 21, 2022 - the Kern COG Board adopted the 2022 RTP/SCS and associated documents. The documents are available on the Kern COG website at <https://www.kerncog.org/category/docs/rtp/> .

Table 1 – 2018 & 2022 SB 375 Targets for the Kern Region

Per Capita GHG Reduction Target/	2020	2035
2022 RTP/SCS demonstration (July 21, 2022) w/ required off-model adjustments (2020 is pre-COVID)	-10.9%	-15.1%
2018 RTP/SCS demonstration (August 15, 2018)	-12.5%	-12.7%
Targets for 2022 RTP/SCS (set March 22, 2018, by ARB, effective October 1, 2018)	- 9%	-15%

March 22, 2018 - ARB adopted new SB375 Targets for the third cycle RTP/SCS to be effective October 1, 2018. Next ARB target setting will be during the 2022-2026 window.

June 13, 2017 - ARB released proposed targets that were 2 percentage points higher than what Kern COG recommended for 2035. The related ARB documents are available online at <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/sb375/sb375.htm> . Kern COG’s April target recommendation letter is located on page B-143 of the ARB staff report at https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/sb375/appendix_b_mpo_scenario_and_data_submittals.pdf . Kern COG and the 8 San Joaquin Valley COG’s prepared individual letters and a joint comment letter. The letters document methodological changes that make it difficult to compare the 2014 RTP results with the latest modeling refinements.

Preliminary Timeline 2026 RTP/SCS

- ~~June 2023 – Update Public Involvement Procedure~~
- ~~July 2023 – Stakeholder roundtable process to vet outreach and performance measures~~
- Spring 2023 to Spring 2026 – Annual Statistically Valid Community Phone Surveys
- Spring 2023 to Spring 2026 – RTP/SCS Public Outreach Process
- February 2024 – Regional Growth Forecast Update
- September each year – Technical Assistance Requests to Kern COG Due
- October 17, 2023 – Comment Due on Early Draft 2026 Capital Improvement Program
- Spring 2024 – Adopt Regional Growth Forecast Update
- Fall 2023 to Fall 2025 – Fairs/Festivals/Farmer’s Market Outreach
- Fall 2024 to Fall 2025 – Mini-Grant Stakeholder Hosted Workshops
- Summer 2026 Adopt RTP/SCS, EIR and associated documents.

ACTION: Information.



VI. RPAC

March 6, 2024

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: AHRON HAKIMI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By: Becky Napier, Deputy Director - Administration

SUBJECT: REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM: VI.
REGIONAL EARLY ACTION PLANNING PROGRAM (REAP) UPDATE

DESCRIPTION:

In August 2019, the Governor signed the \$1.7 billion housing "trailer bill" as part of the 2019 - 2020 budget. **The Local Government Planning Support Grants Program (AB 101)** was established for the purpose of providing regions and jurisdictions with one-time funding, including grants for planning activities to enable jurisdictions to meet the sixth cycle of the regional housing need assessment, and to spur affordable housing production.

DISCUSSION:

This item was discussed at length during the January 31, 2024, RPAC meeting. The consensus of the Committee was that if member agencies are not going to avail themselves of the funding the funds be reallocated to the remaining member agencies equally. Staff was asked to bring this item to the March 6 meeting with information related to the actual amount spent by the member agencies and what REAP eligible projects they would use the funds for if they were reallocated. Members were asked to supply this information to Ms. Napier by February 26, for the March Agenda.

As of the writing of this staff report, all of the requested information is not available. Staff sent out a reminder notice on February 28. An updated spreadsheet will be available at the meeting.

Issues:

- All funds must be spent by June 30, 2024 (products and reports are due to HCD beginning in August 2024).
- There are several cities that have not availed themselves of the funds, how should this be addressed? Cities have had multiple reminders.
- If funds are not spent by the deadline, it is required that the member agencies return unspent funds to Kern COG. Kern COG must then reimburse the funds to the Fiscal Agent, Fresno COG. (The funds will be returned to the state).

ACTION:

1. Recommend to the Kern COG Board that the unused funds be allocated equally to the remaining member agencies.
2. Do nothing.