

**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  
April 3, 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 March 6, 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 was hosted at the Kern COG board meeting in March 2024.

**Action:** Recommend the Transportation Planning Policy Committee adopt the countywide 2024-2050 Regional Growth Forecast for use in development of the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan. ROLL CALL VOTE.

**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.

**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**

**VIII. MEMBER ITEMS**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The next scheduled meeting will be May 4.

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION MODELING COMMITTEE

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

WEDNESDAY  
March 6, 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
	Chris Soriano	Arvin
	Bradon Duran	Caltrans
	Salvador Morales	Tehachapi
	Keri Cobb	Wasco
	Brianahi DeLeon	McFarland

KERN COG STAFF:	Becky Napier	Karl Davisson
	Ben Raymond	Rob Ball
	Rochelle Invina-Jayasiri	

OTHERS:	Rick Franz	Caltrans
	Dave Dmowhoski	Homebuilders Association
	Steve Gunnels	PlaceWorks

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 January 31, 2024

Committee Member Soriano made a motion to approve the minutes of January 31, 2024; seconded by Committee Member Morales, unanimously approved by voice vote.

VI. **PUBLIC WORKSHOP/PUBLIC COMMENT 2024-2050 GROWTH FORECAST – DRAFT REPORT** (Davisson)

**Comment:** Karl Davisson introduced consultant, Steve Gunnels, Placeworks who presented the Draft 2024-2050 Growth Forecast Report and answered questions. A workshop will be conducted during the Kern COG Board Meeting on March 21, 2024.

**Action:** Information.

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

**Comment:** During the last meeting Ms. Napier discussed this item. Since then, the City of Delano has hired an engineer and they will be using their funding. California City just hired a new City Manager who will begin work on Monday, March 11, 2024. Ms. Napier requested that she be given the opportunity to correspond with the new City Manager before a decision is made concerning funds that have been allocated to them.

**Action:** Information.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- KARGO C-CAMS – Kick Off Meeting
- RHNA Annual Progress Reports by the Cities and County are due to the State April 1, 2024
- Tejon Tribe Health Fair – March 23, 2024

**VIII. MEMBER ITEMS**

None

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the RPAC is April 3, 2024.



## IV. RPAC

April 3, 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 was 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.

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... “

**Review Requirements** – Additionally the manual requires a 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 jointly 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.

Due to changes to how the race and ethnicity questions were implemented with the 2020 census comparability has become problematic and therefore identifying trends has become dubious. The primary issue being that large numbers of Hispanic respondents to the 2020 Census reported “Some Other Race” that previously had been categorized as “White”.

The updated (March 18, 2024) draft report shows Kern’s total population reaching 930,000 in 2028 and by 2042 the population is expected to reach 1 million. The number of households are expected to increase to just over 350,000 by 2048 from just under 282,000 in 2022. Total employment is forecasted to grow from 347,300 in 2022 to 430,180 in 2050.

Notably, the draft report builds on data from the US Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census and 2022 American Community Survey 1-year data found that the average household size in the Kern region has fallen to 3.14 people per household. A household size of 3.14 data is substantially lower than earlier forecasts previously anticipated or projected. This model anticipates that household size will continue to shrink to levels more typical statewide and nationally. Likewise, the model also anticipates that the vacancy rate will continue to increase to more typical levels.

Kern COG staff anticipates adopting another future regional growth forecast within the next 5 years before adopting the 7<sup>th</sup> Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). As a function of the calendar and law this forecast will not be used to develop RHNA.

Therefore Government Code § 65584.01 and the 1.5% requirement within it do not apply to this forecast.

The report compares the forecasts with other forecasts, projections, and trends. The total population forecast stays within 1.5% of the latest DOF projections through 2031. The graph below depicts how the forecast for total population compares to other forecasts and projections.

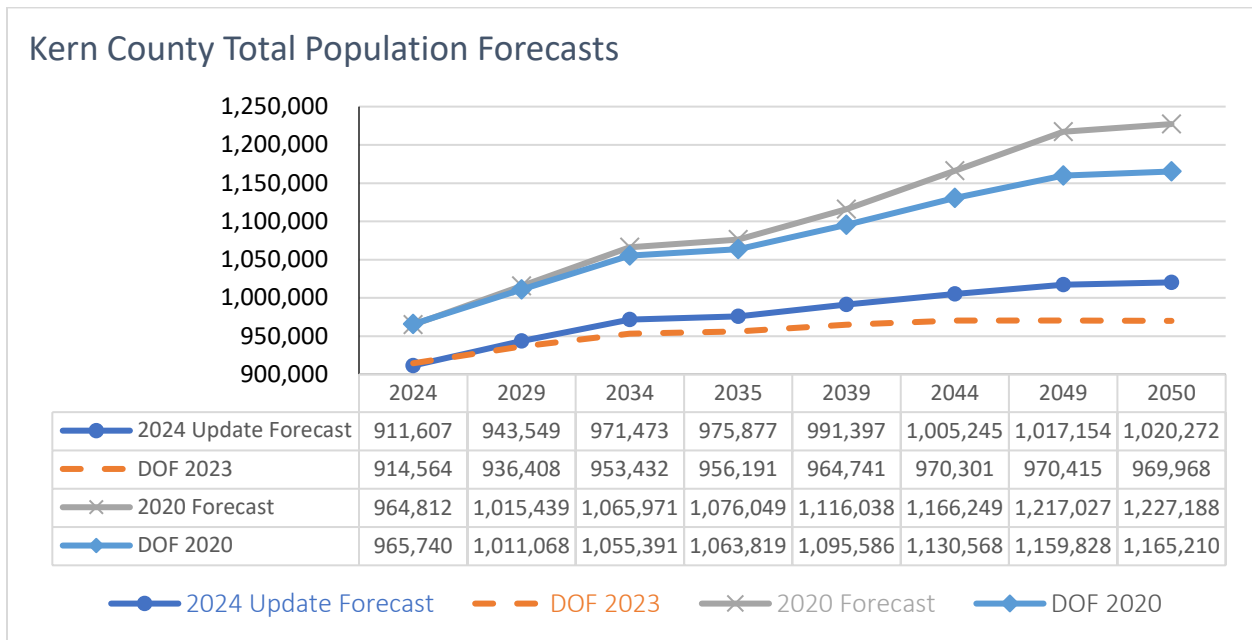


Figure 1. Above image compares latest projections with previous projections from California Department of Finance (DOF) and Kern COG.

**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](http://www.kerncog.org))~~
- ~~March 6th, 2024 – Draft Report to RPAC & TTAC~~
- ~~March 21st, 2024 – Public Workshop on Growth Forecast/Kern COG Board reviews draft forecast report~~
- 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.

**ACTION:** Recommend the Transportation Planning Policy Committee adopt the countywide 2024-2050 Regional Growth Forecast for use in development of the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan. ROLL CALL VOTE.



V.  
RPAC

April 3, 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.

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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.kerncoq.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 14<sup>th</sup> time in 3 years to discuss the 2022 SCS technical methodology. One final methodology issue remains out of 27 identified in CARB’s January 20<sup>th</sup> 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%
<b>Targets for 2022 RTP/SCS (set March 22, 2018, by ARB, effective October 1, 2018)</b>	<b>- 9%</b>	<b>-15%</b>

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](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~~
- ~~October 17, 2023 – Comment Due on Early Draft 2026 Capital Improvement Program~~
- Spring 2023 to Spring 2026 – Annual Statistically Valid Community Phone Surveys
- Spring 2023 to Spring 2026 – RTP/SCS Public Outreach Process
- April 2024 – Regional Growth Forecast Update
- September each year – Technical Assistance Requests to Kern COG Due
- 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

April 3, 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 for the April Agenda.

As of the writing of this staff report, a meeting with California City has been scheduled for Thursday, March 28. An update on the status will be available at the RPAC meeting.

### Issues:

- All funds must be spent by June 30, 2024 (products and reports are due to HCD beginning in August 2024).
- There is one city that has not availed itself of the funds, how should this 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. (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.