

**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
February 5, 2025
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 November 6, 2024.

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 22nd, 2025, two jurisdictions in the Kern region, Shafter and Wasco have received an “in compliance” letter from HCD.

Action: Information.

V. GENERALIZED LAND USE LAYER – LAND USE MODEL (Davisson)

Comment: The generalized land use map layer is being developed to update land use model assumptions in preparation of developing the 2026 RTP/SCS.

Action: Information.

VI. 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.

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Napier)

Comment: The Regional Planning Advisory Committee needs to select a Chairman and a Vice Chairman.

Action: Select a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for the Regional Planning Advisory Committee.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

IX. MEMBER ITEMS

X. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2025.

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION MODELING COMMITTEE

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

WEDNESDAY
November 6, 2024
1:30 P.M.

Chairman Staples called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL:

RPAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mark Staples	Taft
	Isabella Pacheco	Arvin
	Christine Chavez	Delano
	Jay Schlosser	Tehachapi
	Keri Cobb	Wasco
	Paul Saldana	McFarland
	Lorena Mendibles	Caltrans
KERN COG STAFF:	Ben Raymond	Rob Ball
	Rochelle Invina-Jayasiri	Cesar Valle
	Victoria Romero Valdivia	
OTHERS:	Chip Powell	Caltrans
	Brianna DeLeon	McFarland

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 July 31, 2024

Committee Member Schlosser made a motion to approve the minutes of July 31, 2024; seconded by Committee Member Saldana, unanimously approved by voice vote.

IV. 2023 BASE SOCIOECONOMIC DATA – TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS ZONES
(Raymond)

Comment: Ben Raymond presented the 2023 Base Socioeconomic Data sharing how to access and view the maps of the data online and answered questions.

Action: Information. (Comments due November 22, 2024).

V. UPDATE: SB 743 (2013) COMPLIANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION (Davisson)

Comment: Ben Raymond shared an update on SB 743 compliance related to vehicle miles traveled. Kern COG staff continues to monitor developments related to SB 743 implementation.

Action: Information.

VI. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY SUCCESS STORIES UPDATE (Valle)

Comment: Ceaser Valle requested member agencies to submit success stories that support the Sustainable Communities Strategy and shared the template and previous success stories.

Action: Member agencies/stakeholders please submit edits, comments and/or new success stories by Friday, December 20, 2024.

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

Comment: Ben Raymond provided an update on public outreach events that have taken place to support the development of the 2026 RTP and communications with the Air Resource Board.

Action: Information.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- January Agenda – Selection of Chairman and Vice Chairman – Ben Raymond shared that Chairman and Vice Chairman selection are scheduled to take place in January, if dark in January then February.
- January Agenda – Selection of RPAC Community Members

IX. MEMBER ITEMS

Lorena Mendibles shared information about an upcoming Grant Workshop taking place on November 7, 2024.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the RPAC is December 4, 2024 (may be dark).



IV. RPAC

February 5, 2025

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee
FROM: Ahron Hakimi, Executive Director
By: Karl Davisson, Regional Planner
SUBJECT: REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM: IV.
Housing Element Progress Report Update

DESCRIPTION:

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 22nd, 2025, two jurisdictions in the Kern region, Shafter and Wasco have received an “in compliance” letter from HCD.

DISCUSSION:

Housing Element 6th Cycle

The 6th cycle Planning Cycle for the Kern Region began on December 31st, 2023, and runs through December 31st, 2031. As stated above, by operation of law the Housing Element updates are due to Housing and Community Development (HCD) within 18 months of the RTP adoption, that date being December 31st, 2023. Assembly Bill 1398 (Chapter 358, Statutes 2021) requires that if a local government adopts a Housing Element more than 120 days after the statutory deadline, that date being June 1, 2024, said jurisdiction must complete any required general plan amendments or zone changes before HCD is allowed to issue an “in compliance” letter to the local government. The attached table provides a status of the submissions of Housing Elements in Kern.

Per HCD, draft housing elements should have been submitted 90 days prior to the December 31st deadline.

Information on Housing Elements can be found here: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/planning-and-community-development/housing-elements>

Kern 6th Cycle Housing Element Status Table:

Jurisdiction	Status Housing Element 6th Cycle*
Arvin	Pending Rezones
Bakersfield	Subsequent Draft

California City	Initial Draft
Delano	Initial Draft
Maricopa	Pending submittal
McFarland	Subsequent Draft
Ridgecrest	Subsequent Draft
Shafter	In Compliance
Taft	Initial Draft
Tehachapi	Subsequent Draft
Wasco	In Compliance
Kern County	Subsequent Draft

*Derived from the HCD Dashboard as of: 22 January 2025

Changes to HCDs Role and Posture

The changes in law and procedure from the previous cycles are dramatic. In writing, HCD has taken the position that:

1. Locally Adopted Housing Elements submitted to HCD are treated as drafts and as such may require revisions.
2. That jurisdictions cannot “self-certify”, and Housing Elements are only in compliance as of the date an “in compliance” letter is issued by HCD to a given jurisdiction.
3. HCD is authorized to review any action or failure to act by a local government that it determines is inconsistent with an adopted housing element or housing element law.

Recent litigation has favored HCD in these positions. See attached March 16, 2023, letter from HCD.

Consequences for Late Housing Elements

The consequences for failure to have an “in compliance” Housing Element are potentially serious. A jurisdictions General Plan can be determined to be inadequate for being out of compliance. A jurisdiction can have its permitting authority restricted by a court for being out of compliance. Jurisdictions that are not currently in compliance are also subject to the “Builder’s Remedy” under Government Code §65589.5.

Being “out of compliance” precludes access and eligibility to various state grant programs that can be used to help implement Kern COG’s 2022 Sustainable Communities Strategy, including:

- Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program
- Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
- Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant Program
- Infill Infrastructure Grant Program
- Local Housing Trust Fund Program
- Permanent Local Housing Allocation Program

Additionally, if a Housing Element is submitted late jurisdictions must complete any required rezoning within one year of the original due date. Meaning December 31st, 2024. Jurisdictions still out of compliance at this point may begin to suffer consequences.

Kern COG Assistance

Kern COG has wide variety Housing Element related resources available for member agency including:

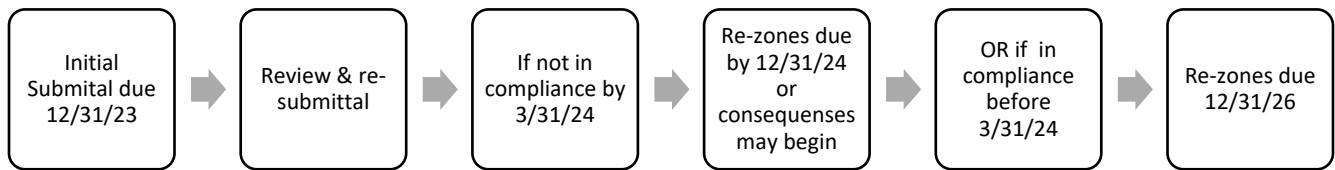
The Kern COG RHNA website at: <https://www.kerncog.org/regional-housing-needs/>

The Kern COG RHNA website includes the Kern COG Regional Housing Needs Online Mapping Tool – Staff and Rincon Consultants developed and are maintaining a publicly viewable online mapping application, which allows users to view the proposed RHNA unit allocations for each jurisdiction and to explore specific parcels to evaluate the potential number of units a parcel could support.

Additionally, via the San Joaquin Valley Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Program a Housing Need Water Supply Study was commissioned to evaluate the adequacy of water supply identified in water management plans to accommodate projected RHNA growth and as its relationship with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Notably this study found that, based on the findings in its groundwater sustainability plans at of the time of study’s publication, Kern County was determined to be the area of greatest concern for water supply availability. That study is available on the Kern COG website at https://www.kerncog.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/SJV_REAP_Water_Supply_2024011.pdf

Kern COG also has several Local Technical Assistance Grants available to assist with member jurisdictions Housing Element efforts.

Kern COG staff are available to assist member agencies. Please contact Karl Davisson by email at kdavisson@kerncog.org or phone (661) 635-2919



ACTION: Information.



V.
RPAC

February 5, 2025

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: Ahron Hakimi,
Executive Director
By: Karl Davisson, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM: V.
GENERALIZED LAND USE LAYER – LAND USE MODEL

DESCRIPTION:

The generalized land use map layer is being developed to update land use model assumptions in preparation of developing the 2026 RTP/SCS.

DISCUSSION:

Background

Consistent with the previous RTP/SCS cycles and to meet the requirements of SB 375, Kern COG is updating inputs for the land use model.

Uplan Growth Model (land use model) – The Uplan model allocates growth based on latest land use and planning assumptions. This tool allows Kern COG to develop and present the public with scenarios as required for the development of Kern's SCS. One of the base layers for the land use model is a generalized land use map layer.

Generalized Land Use Layer - In July and again in December, Kern COG contacted each member agency to collect the latest land use maps for each jurisdiction. Kern COG has begun working to load all the land use maps into GIS and fill in areas missing data, such as roads.

Land use categories from the multiple jurisdictions are aggregated into thirteen categories to be used by UPlan. Residential types are divided into six categories based upon dwelling units per gross acre and employment is generalized into three tranches based upon usage. The remaining four categories represent two types of publicly owned land, resource areas (agriculture, mining, etc.), and mixed-use areas. Areas currently classified as mixed use will be manually divided into residential and employment categories based upon jurisdiction input.

An interactive version of the map available online at: <http://kerncog.maps.arcgis.com/> with additional areas added.

Please review your jurisdiction's area and provide comments to Karl Davisson at kdavisson@kerncog.org.

ACTION: Information.



VI. RPAC

February 5, 2025

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: VI.
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.

January 2025 – Kern COG Annual Statistically Valid Community Survey began collecting responses January 13th and will run through the end of January. Survey results will be compiled and shared with the Kern COG board this Spring.

September 18th – 29th, 2024 – Kern COG collected input for 2026 RTP/SCS and collected input on transportation issues in the community at the Kern COG booth during the Kern County Fair.

July 24th – August 2nd, 2024 – Kern COG hosted four community workshops collecting input on the KARGO Community Prosperity/Protection Study and Freight related projects for the RTP/SCS. Workshops were held in Greater Arvin area (at the Tejon Indian Tribe Community Center), Delano, Rosamond, and Tehachapi.

June 28, 2024 – Kern COG submitted to the California Air Resources Board (ARB) the Kern COG 2026 SCS Technical Methodology and responses to their draft comments on the 2022 SCS. ARB

staff responded that their final comments on the 2022 SCS are moving up their management reviews. As of July 22, the final comments have yet to be provided.

May 20, 2024 – Kern COG hosted an outreach roundtable as part of the Kern Area Regional Goods-movement Operations (KARGO) Study. The latest KARGO Study will feed into the 2026 RTP and host series of outreach events to collect input of the study in coordination with the 2026 RTP development. At the roundtable meeting attendees from community based organizations, and local/state agencies provided feedback on the outreach plan.

May 3, 2024 – Golden Empire Transit (GET) hosted a workshop on the Metro Bakersfield Moves – Long-Range Transit Plan (LRTP). The LRTP is a key input in the development of the 2026 RTP. During the outreach process for the LRTP, survey collected public input for both the LRTP and the RTP.

April 18, 2024 – The Kern COG Board adopted the 2024-2050 Regional Growth Forecast. The Regional Growth Forecast establishes population forecasts for the horizon of the 2026 RTP.

February 20, 2024 – 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 and in February provided draft comments on the 2022 SCS.

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
- ~~October 17, 2023~~ Comment Due on Early Draft 2026 Capital Improvement Program
- ~~April 2024~~ Regional Growth Forecast Update
- ~~June 11, 2024, Friday, 7-10am~~ **Bakersfield Downtown Transit Ctr.** Long-Range Transit Plan Update walk-up event
- ~~June 11, 2024, Friday, 2-5pm~~ **Bakersfield SW Transit Ctr. at Valley Plaza** Long-Range Transit Plan walk-up event
- ~~July-August 2024~~ KARGO Community Prosperity/Protection Study RTP/SCS Freight Outreach Events
- Spring 2023 to Spring 2026 – Annual Statistically Valid Community Phone Surveys
- Spring 2023 to Spring 2026 – RTP/SCS Public Outreach Process
- September each year – Technical Assistance Requests to Kern COG Due
- 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.



VII. RPAC

February , 2025

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: Ahron Hakimi,
Executive Director

By: Becky Napier
Deputy Director - Administration

SUBJECT: REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM: VII.
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

DESCRIPTION:

The Regional Planning Advisory Committee needs to select a Chairman and a Vice Chairman.

DISCUSSION:

The Secretary will take nominations for the position of Chairman. Each member of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee is eligible to be nominated as Chairman or Vice Chairman. After selection of a Chairman, the gavel will be transferred to the new Chairman who will take nominations for Vice-Chairman.

ACTION

Select a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for the Regional Planning Advisory Committee.