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	Ceasar 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).

Kern Council of Governments

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, Statues 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

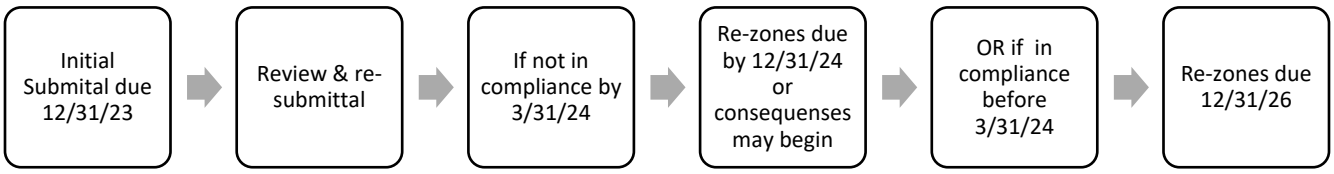
Kern COG has wide variety Housing Element related resources available for member agency including:

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_202401l.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.

Kern Council of Governments

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.

Kern Council of Governments

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-RangeTransit 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.

Kern Council of Governments

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.

Kern Council of Governments

February 26, 2025

TO: **REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

FROM: AHRON HAKIMI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: MARCH 5, 2025, MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE

The meeting of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2025, has been cancelled.

The Cancellation Notice can be found on the Kern COG website:

https://www.kerncog.org/rpac-meetings/

The next regularly scheduled meeting is April 2, 2025.

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

KERN COG BOARD ROOM **WEDNESDAY**
1401 19TH STREET, THIRD FLOOR **April 2, 2025**
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA **1:30 P.M.**

Dial +1 (312) 878-3080 https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/586617702
Access Code: 586-617-702

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 6, February 6, 2025.

IV. REGIONAL GROWTH ALLOCATION (Raymond)

Comment: Draft distribution of the Kern Regional Growth Forecast at the transportation analysis zone (TAZ) level.

Action: Information. Member agency comments due April 16, 2025.

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. COMMUNITY AT LARGE VOTING MEMBERS (Naper)

Comment: Staff recruited for three (3) Community at Large Voting Members for the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC.

Action: Information.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, 2025 (May meeting)..

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION MODELING COMMITTEE

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

WEDNESDAY
February 5, 2025
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
	Steve Esselman	Shafter
	Christine Chavez	Delano
	Keri Cobb	Wasco
	Brianna DeLeon	McFarland
	David Deels	Caltrans
KERN COG STAFF:	Becky Napier	Karl Davisson
	Rob Ball	Rochelle Invina-Jayasiri
OTHERS:	Andrea Nason	Caltrans

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 November 6, 2024

Committee Member Esselman made a motion to approve the minutes of November 6, 2024; seconded by Committee Member Cobb, unanimously approved by voice vote.

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

Comment: Karl Davisson presented the status of the California Department of Housing and Community Development approval of local jurisdiction Housing Elements.

Action: Information.

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

Comment: Karl Davisson discussed development of the generalized land use map layer 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 (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.

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Comment: The Regional Planning Advisory Committee needs to select a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. Committee Member Chavez made motion to nominate Mark Staples for Chairman, seconded by Committee Member Esselman, motion carried. Committee Member Staples made a motion to nominate Steve Esselman for Vice-Chairman, seconded by Committee Member Cobb, motion carried.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

IX. MEMBER ITEMS

Chairman Staples stated that he is on the APA Central Section Board and they recently had a mini-retreat to discuss activities for 2025. He state that they will be conduction education sessions that will be free to participants.

Chairman Staples also discussed the newly formed West Kern Economic Alliance that includes entities on the valley floor and west side. He said the Alliance is a networking group that will be conducting meetings in other locations.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the RPAC is March 5, 2025.

Kern Council of Governments

IV.
RPAC

April 2, 2025

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: AHRON HAKIMI,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By: Ben Raymond, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Advisory Committee Agenda Item: IV.
REGIONAL GROWTH ALLOCATION

DESCRIPTION:

Draft distribution of the Kern Regional Growth Forecast at the transportation analysis zone (TAZ) level.

DISCUSSION:

Background

Growth Forecast – Kern COG adopted the 2024-2050 regional growth forecast at its April 18th Board meeting in 2024. The growth forecast is a long-range projection for countywide total population. The population total is used to develop housing, employment, school enrollment, and income forecasts. The forecast will serve as the growth assumption for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The RPAC and Transportation Modeling Committee (TMC) are charged with overseeing changes to the growth forecast allocations at RSA subregion level and the transportation analysis zone (TAZ) level. The regional growth forecast included preliminary summaries for 13 RSA subregions. Kern COG utilizes a growth allocation model (Uplan) to distribute each subregions growth to the TAZ level.

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 COG's SCS. Many input layers are used to represent latest planning assumptions in the land use model. Some of the key input layers are: the general plan layer (generalized land use layer), existing urban mask, and growth attractors (infrastructure, tentative tracts, etc.). Kern COG's latest land use model documentation is available under the "Additional Documents" section at: https://www.kerncog.org/model-documentation/

Growth Allocation

Kern COG has generated a draft distribution of the Kern Regional Growth Forecast at the transportation analysis zone level. This draft distribution represents a base for developing scenarios for the 2026 RTP. Kern COG has worked with its member agencies to update land use data and local infrastructure data for generating the base TAZ distribution. Kern COG will be refining the growth distribution over the next month. The data has been mapped for member agencies to provide feedback and comments, due April 16th. The interactive map of the draft TAZ growth distribution will be posted by Monday March 31st at: https://www.kerncog.org/maps/.

ACTION: Information. Member agency comments due April 16, 2025.

Attachment A provides a summary of the distribution by RSA subregion.

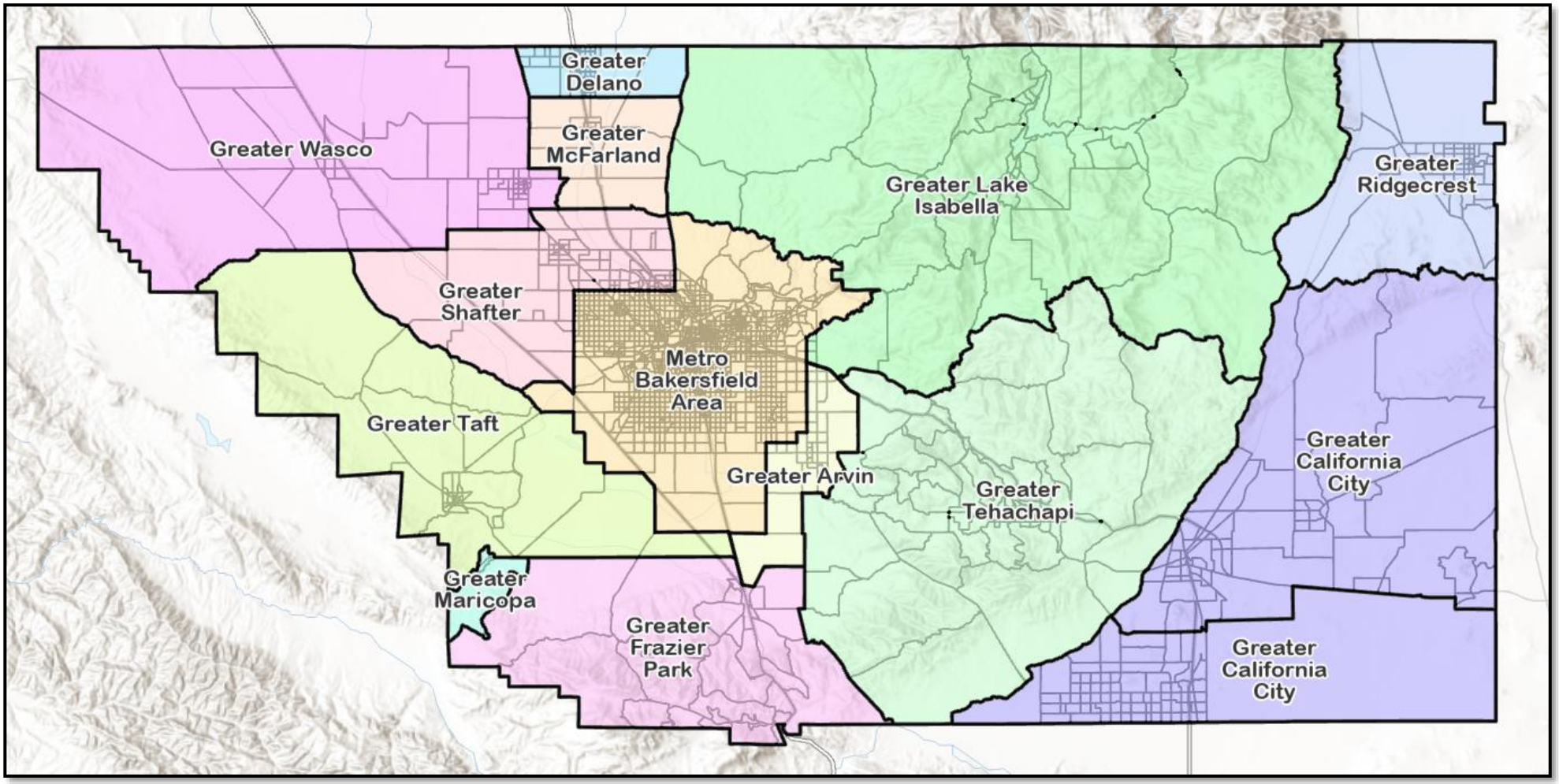
Attachment B is a map of the RSA Subregions.

Attachment A - RSA Subregion Summary Tables

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH 2024-2035 By RSA Subregion	2022RTP	2026RTP Draft Allocation 3/24/25	2022RTP	2026RTP Draft Allocation 3/24/25
	Employment Growth (2020-2035)	Employment Growth (2024-2035)	Annualized	Annualized
Greater Arvin	290	523	19	48
Greater Cal City/Mojave	2,123	3,004	142	273
Greater Delano	783	883	52	80
Greater Frazier Park	4,210	4,653	281	423
Greater Lake Isabella	159	126	11	11
Greater Maricopa	-	-	-	-
Greater McFarland	442	1,119	29	102
Greater Ridgecrest	1,054	1,185	70	108
Greater Shafter	5,656	5,942	377	540
Greater Taft	945	684	63	62
Greater Tehachapi	1,719	941	115	86
Greater Wasco	1,130	659	75	60
Metro Bakersfield	16,769	19,281	1,118	1,753
TOTAL	**35,280**	**39,000**	**2,352**	**3,545**

HOUSEHOLD GROWTH 2024-2035 By RSA Subregion	2022RTP	2026RTP Draft Allocation 3/24/25	2022RTP	2026RTP Draft Allocation 3/24/25
	Household Growth (2020-2035)	Household Growth (2024-2035)	Annualized	Annualized
Greater Arvin	208	589	14	54
Greater Cal City/Mojave	2,629	916	239	83
Greater Delano	379	1,232	34	112
Greater Frazier Park	4,729	5,718	430	520
Greater Lake Isabella	231	201	21	18
Greater Maricopa	6	1	1	0
Greater McFarland	269	797	24	72
Greater Ridgecrest	481	711	44	65
Greater Shafter	2,521	2,693	229	245
Greater Taft	412	421	37	38
Greater Tehachapi	1,214	1,375	110	125
Greater Wasco	1,278	1,125	116	102
Metro Bakersfield	23,233	21,621	2,112	1,966
TOTAL	**37,590**	**37,400**	**3,412**	**3,400**

ATTACHMENT B
REGIONAL STATISTICAL AREA (RSA) SUBREGIONS



Kern Council of Governments

V.
RPAC

April 2, 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: 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.

January 2025 – Kern COG Annual Statistically Valid Community Survey was conducted in January. Survey results have been compiled and will be shared with the Kern COG board at the April Board Meeting.

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-RangeTransit 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
- April 2025 – Transportation Modeling Committee Special Meeting
- 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.

Kern Council of Governments

VI.
RPAC

April 2, 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. COMMUNITY AT LARGE VOTING MEMBERS

DESCRIPTION:

Staff recruited for three (3) Community at Large Voting Members for the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC).

DISCUSSION:

The RPAC By-Laws allow for three Community at Large Voting Members. Staff advertised in the Bakersfield Californian and put the advertisement and the application on the Kern COG website. The advertisement and application were posted on the Kern COG website on February 3, 2025. A Display Advertisement was placed in the Bakersfield Californian on February 5, 2025. The application deadline was Thursday, March 6, 2025.

Staff received zero applications and zero inquiries about the openings. The last time any of the current Community at Large Members attended an RPAC meeting was on October 4, 2023.

Staff is requesting that members of the RPAC discuss this issue and give direction.

ACTION

Information.

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 30, 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 February 5, 2025.

IV. **REGIONAL GROWTH ALLOCATION** (Raymond)

Comment: Draft distribution of the Kern Regional Growth Forecast at the transportation analysis zone (TAZ) level.

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.

Action: Information.

VI. **COMMUNITY AT LARGE VOTING MEMBERS** (Napier)

Comment: Staff recruited for three (3) Community at Large Voting Members for the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC.

Action: Information/Committee Direction.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION MODELING COMMITTEE

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

WEDNESDAY
February 5, 2025
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
	Steve Esselman	Shafter
	Christine Chavez	Delano
	Keri Cobb	Wasco
	Brianna DeLeon	McFarland
	David Deels	Caltrans
KERN COG STAFF:	Becky Napier	Karl Davisson
	Rob Ball	Rochelle Invina-Jayasiri
OTHERS:	Andrea Nason	Caltrans

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 November 6, 2024

Committee Member Esselman made a motion to approve the minutes of November 6, 2024; seconded by Committee Member Cobb, unanimously approved by voice vote.

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

Comment: Karl Davisson presented the status of the California Department of Housing and Community Development approval of local jurisdiction Housing Elements.

Action: Information.

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

Comment: Karl Davisson discussed development of the generalized land use map layer 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 (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.

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Comment: The Regional Planning Advisory Committee needs to select a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. Committee Member Chavez made motion to nominate Mark Staples for Chairman, seconded by Committee Member Esselman, motion carried. Committee Member Staples made a motion to nominate Steve Esselman for Vice-Chairman, seconded by Committee Member Cobb, motion carried.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

IX. MEMBER ITEMS

Chairman Staples stated that he is on the APA Central Section Board and they recently had a mini-retreat to discuss activities for 2025. He state that they will be conduction education sessions that will be free to participants.

Chairman Staples also discussed the newly formed West Kern Economic Alliance that includes entities on the valley floor and west side. He said the Alliance is a networking group that will be conducting meetings in other locations.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the RPAC is March 5, 2025.

Kern Council of Governments

IV.
RPAC

April 30, 2025

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: AHRON HAKIMI,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By: Ben Raymond, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Advisory Committee Agenda Item IV.
REGIONAL GROWTH ALLOCATION

DESCRIPTION:

Revised draft distribution of the Kern Regional Growth Forecast at the transportation analysis zone (TAZ) level.

DISCUSSION:

Background

Growth Forecast – Kern COG adopted the 2024-2050 regional growth forecast at its April 18th Board meeting in 2024. The Regional Growth Forecast is available at: https://www.kerncog.org/estimates-and-projections/. The growth forecast is a long-range projection for countywide total population. The population total is used to develop housing, employment, school enrollment, and income forecasts. The forecast will serve as the growth assumption for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The RPAC and Transportation Modeling Committee (TMC) are charged with overseeing changes to the growth forecast allocations at RSA subregion level and the transportation analysis zone (TAZ) level. The regional growth forecast included preliminary summaries for 13 RSA subregions. Kern COG utilizes a growth allocation model (Uplan) to distribute each subregions growth to the TAZ level.

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 COG's SCS. Many input layers are used to represent latest planning assumptions in the land use model. Some of the key input layers are: the general plan layer (generalized land use layer), existing urban mask, and growth attractors (infrastructure, tentative tracts, etc.). Kern COG's latest land use model documentation is available under the "Additional Documents" section at: https://www.kerncog.org/model-documentation/

Growth Allocation

Kern COG has generated a draft distribution of the Kern Regional Growth Forecast at the transportation analysis zone level and presented the data at the April 2nd, 2025, RPAC meeting. Member agencies were asked to provide feedback and comments by April 16th. Kern County, the City of Bakersfield, and the City of Shafter provided initial comments. Based on initial comments and review, reductions to employment allocation were made in: Greater Arvin, Greater Cal City/Rosamond, Greater Cal City/Rosamond, Greater McFarland, to align with Kern COG Regional Growth Forecast. Greater Frazier Park and Greater Shafter were adjusted to increase employment growth to account for projects currently being developed and planned development. Additionally, reductions to household allocations were made in: Greater Arvin and Greater Taft. Greater Shafter was adjusted to increase household growth. Within the Metro Bakersfield Subregion corrections were made to the underlying combined land use map to account for the latest general plan amendments and zone changes. The RSA Subregion Summary Table is attached. Kern COG has prepared a revised Draft TAZ Growth Distribution, available for review at: https://www.kerncog.org/maps/. The Draft TAZ allocation represents a base for developing scenarios for the 2026 RTP.

Comments will be used in following timeline for the 2026 RTP/SCS development:

May-July 2025 – Scenario development for the 2026 RTP/SCS

August-Sept 2025 – Public workshops for the scenarios

November 2025 – 2026 RTP/SCS for internal review/begin preparing the Draft RTP/SCS/PEIR

March 2026 – DRAFT RTP/SCS/PEIR 55-day Public Review and Comment

June 2026 – Adopt RTP/SCS, EIR and associated documents

ACTION: Receive comments to prepare base assumptions. Information.

Attachment A provides a summary of the distribution by RSA subregion.

Attachment B is a map of the RSA Subregions.

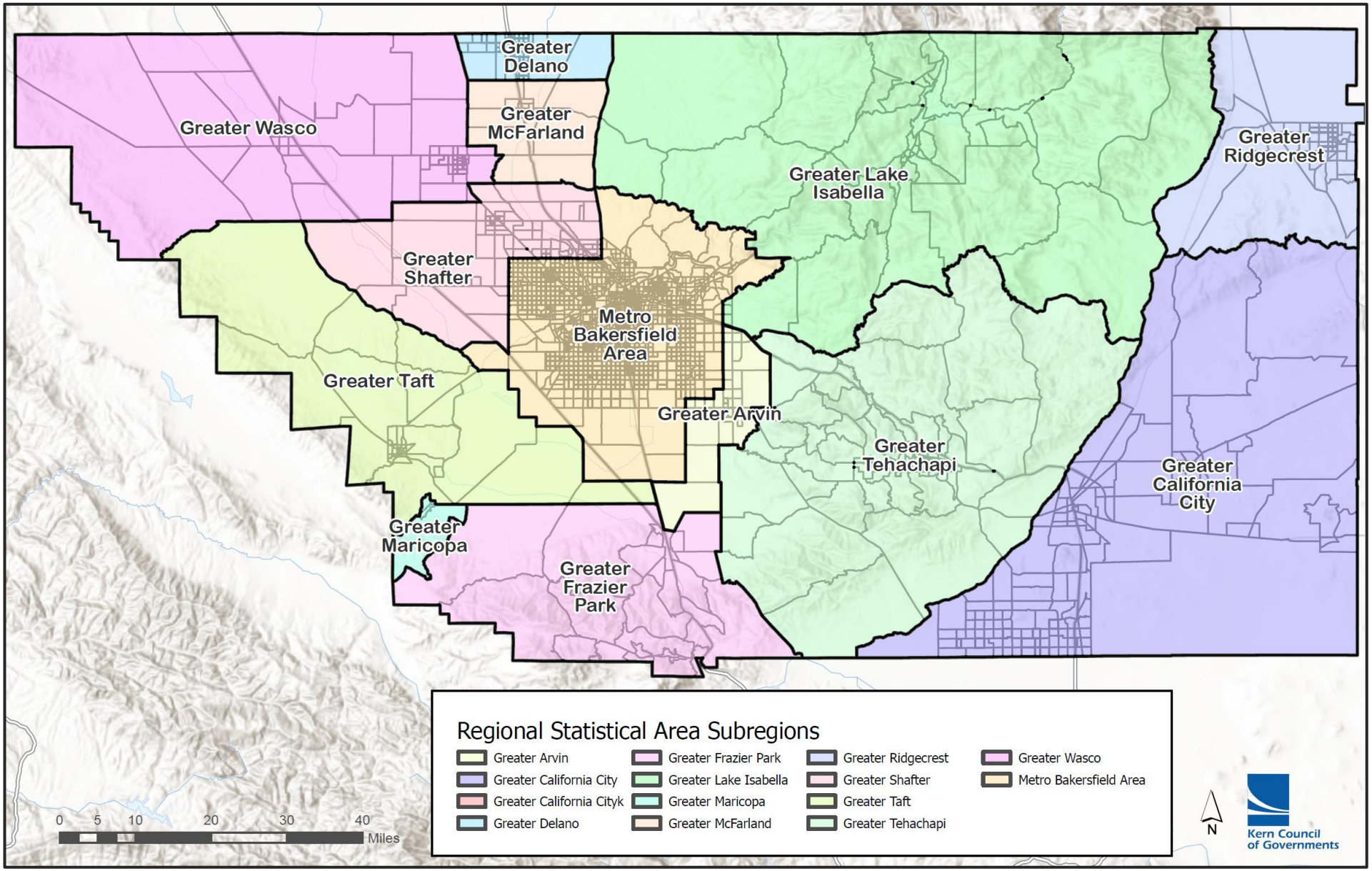
Map of Growth Allocation TAZ Data available at: https://www.kerncog.org/maps/

Attachment A - RSA Subregion Summary Tables

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH 2024-2035 By RSA Subregion	2022RTP	2026RTP Draft Allocation 4/21/25	2022RTP	2026RTP Draft Allocation 4/21/25
	Employment Growth (2020-2035)	Employment Growth (2024-2035)	Annualized	Annualized
Greater Arvin	290	370	19	34
Greater Cal City/Rosamond	2,123	2,823	142	257
Greater Delano	783	860	52	78
Greater Frazier Park	4,210	4,800	281	436
Greater Lake Isabella	159	126	11	11
Greater Maricopa	-	-	-	-
Greater McFarland	442	991	29	90
Greater Ridgecrest	1,054	1,184	70	108
Greater Shafter	5,656	6,214	377	565
Greater Taft	945	704	63	64
Greater Tehachapi	1,719	937	115	85
Greater Wasco	1,130	654	75	59
Metro Bakersfield	16,769	19,337	1,118	1,758
TOTAL	**35,280**	**39,000**	**2,352**	**3,545**

HOUSEHOLD GROWTH 2024-2035 By RSA Subregion	2022RTP	2026RTP Draft Allocation 4/21/25	2022RTP	2026RTP Draft Allocation 4/21/25
	Household Growth (2020-2035)	Household Growth (2024-2035)	Annualized	Annualized
Greater Arvin	208	443	14	40
Greater Cal City/Rosamond	2,629	917	239	83
Greater Delano	379	1,230	34	112
Greater Frazier Park	4,729	5,700	430	518
Greater Lake Isabella	231	201	21	18
Greater Maricopa	6	1	1	0
Greater McFarland	269	797	24	72
Greater Ridgecrest	481	710	44	65
Greater Shafter	2,521	2,894	229	263
Greater Taft	412	386	37	35
Greater Tehachapi	1,214	1,376	110	125
Greater Wasco	1,278	1,125	116	102
Metro Bakersfield	23,233	21,620	2,112	1,965
TOTAL	**37,590**	**37,400**	**3,412**	**3,400**

ATTACHMENT B
REGIONAL STATISTICAL AREA (RSA) SUBREGIONS



Kern Council of Governments

V.
RPAC

April 30, 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: 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.

April 23, 2025 – SB 375 Target Setting Update – Kern COG staff is participating in a workshop hosted by California Air Resources Board (ARB) for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to discuss SB 375 Target Updates and other SB 375 program-related items.

April 17, 2025 – Kern COG Annual Statistically Valid Community Survey was conducted in January. Survey results have been compiled and presented to the Kern COG board at the April Board Meeting. Results of the Annual Community Survey are available on Kern COG's website.

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 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-RangeTransit 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~~
- April 2025 - Annual Statistically Valid Community Phone Surveys
- April 2025 – Transportation Modeling Committee Special Meeting
- Spring 2023 to Spring 2026 – RTP/SCS Public Outreach Process
- Spring 2023 to Spring 2026 – Annual Statistically Valid Community Phone Surveys
- 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.

Kern Council of Governments

VI.
RPAC

April 30, 2025

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: Ahron Hakimi,
Executive Director

By: Becky Napier
Deputy Director - Administration

SUBJECT: REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM: VI. COMMUNITY AT LARGE VOTING MEMBERS

DESCRIPTION:

Staff recruited for three (3) Community at Large Voting Members for the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC).

DISCUSSION:

The RPAC By-Laws allow for three Community at Large Voting Members. Staff advertised in the Bakersfield Californian and put the advertisement and the application on the Kern COG website. The advertisement and application were posted on the Kern COG website on February 3, 2025. A Display Advertisement was placed in the Bakersfield Californian on February 5, 2025. The application deadline was Thursday, March 6, 2025.

Staff received zero applications and zero inquiries about the openings. The last time any of the current Community at Large Members attended an RPAC meeting was on October 4, 2023.

Staff is requesting that members of the RPAC discuss this issue and give direction.

ACTION

Information/Committee Direction.

Kern Council of Governments

May 27, 2025

TO: **REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

FROM: AHRON HAKIMI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: JUNE 4, 2025, MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE

The meeting of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 2025, has been cancelled.

The Cancellation Notice can be found on the Kern COG website:

https://www.kerncog.org/rpac-meetings/

The next regularly scheduled meeting is July 2, 2025.

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

KERN COG BOARD ROOM **WEDNESDAY**
1401 19TH STREET, THIRD FLOOR **July 2, 2025**
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA **1:30 P.M.**

Dial +1 (312) 878-3080 https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/586617702
Access Code: 586-617-702

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 April 30, 2025.

IV. REGIONAL GROWTH ALLOCATION (Raymond)

Comment: Kern COG has prepared a draft growth allocation of the Kern Regional Growth Forecast at the transportation analysis zone (TAZ) level for growth between the year 2024-2049.

Action: Receive comments to prepare base assumptions. 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.

Action: Information.

VI. COMMUNITY AT LARGE VOTING MEMBERS (Napier)

Comment: Staff recruited for three (3) Community at Large Voting Members for the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC.

Action: Information/Committee Direction.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. COMMUNITY-BASED OUTREACH MINI-GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE 2026 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY (Susanne Campbell)

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 6, 2025.

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION MODELING COMMITTEE

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

WEDNESDAY
April 30, 2025
1:30 P.M.

Chairman Staples called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL:

RPAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mark Staples	Taft
	Isaiah Medina	Arvin
	Christine Chavez	Delano
	Brianna Delon	McFarland
	Steve Esselman	Shafter
	Andrea Nason	Caltrans
	David Deels	Caltrans
KERN COG STAFF:	Ben Raymond	Rob Ball
	Rochelle Invina-Jayasiri	Karl Davisson

OTHERS:

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 February 5, 2025

Committee Member Esselman made a motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2025; seconded by Committee Member Chavez, unanimously approved by voice vote.

IV. **REGIONAL GROWTH ALLOCATION** (Raymond)

Comment: Ben Raymond presented the 2024-2035 Regional Growth Allocation sharing how to access and view the maps of the data online and answered questions.

Action: Information. (Comments are due April 30th by end of the day).

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

Comment: Ben Raymond shared an update on SB 375 target setting meetings held by California Air Resource Board (CARB), CARB will host another SB 375 workshop on May 21st.

Action: Information.

VI. COMMUNITY AT LARGE VOTING MEMBERS (Napier)

Comment: Ben Raymond informed the committee that no applications were received for Community at Large Voting Members. Committee members from Taft, Delano, Shafter, and McFarland directed staff to readvertise the vacant positions.

Action: Information.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CA Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) deadline for Annual Progress Reports – Karl Davisson reminded member agencies that housing element progress reports were due to HCD.
- KARGO Workshops – Karl Davisson provided multiple dates in May that Kern COG will be hosting KARGO Study Workshops. Additional information is available at: www.kerncog.org/kargo/

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the RPAC is June 4, 2025.

Kern Council of Governments

IV.
RPAC

July 2, 2025

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: JAY SCHLOSSER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By: Ben Raymond, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Advisory Committee Agenda Item IV.
REGIONAL GROWTH ALLOCATION

DESCRIPTION:

Kern COG has prepared a draft growth allocation of the Kern Regional Growth Forecast at the transportation analysis zone (TAZ) level for growth between the year 2024-2049.

DISCUSSION:

Background

Growth Forecast – Kern COG adopted the 2024-2050 regional growth forecast at its April 18th Board meeting in 2024. The Regional Growth Forecast is available at: https://www.kerncog.org/estimates-and-projections/. The growth forecast is a long-range projection for countywide total population. The population total is used to develop housing, employment, school enrollment, and income forecasts. The forecast will serve as the growth assumption for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The RPAC and Transportation Modeling Committee (TMC) are charged with overseeing changes to the growth forecast allocations at Regional Statistical Area (RSA) subregion level and the transportation analysis zone (TAZ) level. The regional growth forecast included preliminary summaries for 13 RSA subregions. Kern COG utilizes a growth allocation model (Uplan) to distribute each subregions growth to the TAZ level.

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 COG's SCS. Many input layers are used to represent latest planning assumptions in the land use model. Some of the key input layers are: the general plan layer (generalized land use layer), existing urban mask, and growth attractors (infrastructure, tentative tracts, etc.). Kern COG's latest land use model documentation is available under the "Additional Documents" section at: https://www.kerncog.org/model-documentation/

Growth Allocation

Kern COG generated a draft distribution of the midterm growth from the Kern Regional Growth Forecast to the transportation analysis zone level for growth between 2024-2035 and presented the data at the April 2nd, 2025, RPAC meeting. Member agencies were asked to provide feedback and comments by April 16th. Kern COG revised 2024-2035 growth allocation based on comments received and presented the revised data at the April 30th RPAC meeting.

Since the April 30th RPAC meeting, Kern COG staff have prepared a distribution of the long-term growth 2035-2049 from the Kern Regional Growth Forecast. The long-term growth was allocated to TAZ level geography. The midterm growth plus the long-term growth represent the draft allocation of the Regional Growth Forecast for developing the 2026 RTP/SCS to the planning horizon year of 2049.

The RSA Subregion Summary Table is attached. Kern COG has prepared a map of the 2024-2049 Draft TAZ Growth Allocation, available for review at: https://www.kerncog.org/maps/. The Draft TAZ allocation represents a base for developing scenarios for the 2026 RTP.

Comments will be used in the following timeline for the 2026 RTP/SCS development:

June-July 2025 – Scenario development for the 2026 RTP/SCS

August-Sept 2025 – Public workshops for the scenarios

November 2025 – 2026 RTP/SCS for internal review/begin preparing the Draft RTP/SCS/PEIR

March 2026 – DRAFT RTP/SCS/PEIR 55-day Public Review and Comment

June 2026 – Adopt RTP/SCS, EIR and associated documents

ACTION: Receive comments to prepare base assumptions. Information.

Attachment A provides a summary of the distribution by RSA subregion.

Attachment B is a map of the RSA Subregions.

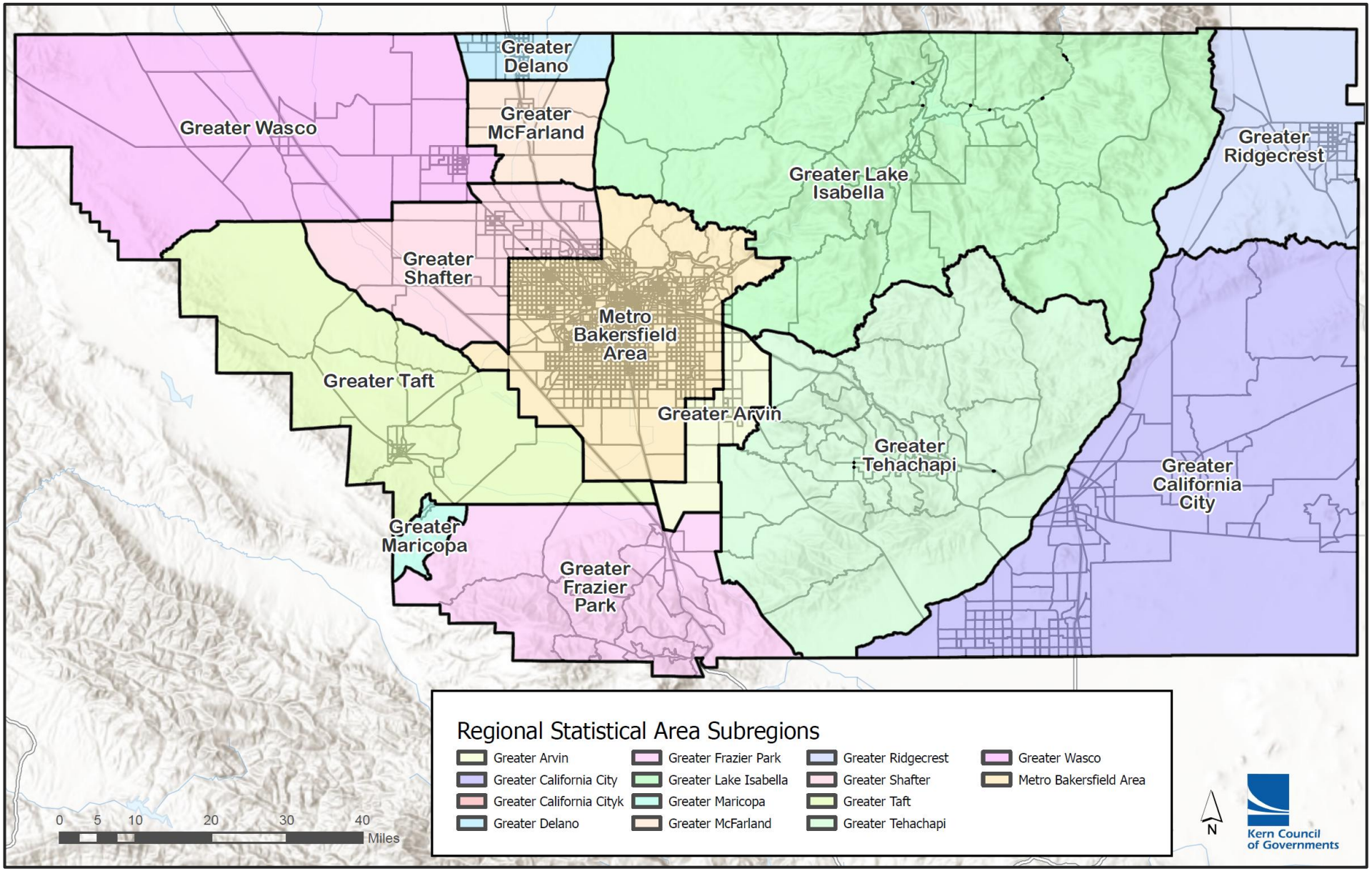
Map of Growth Allocation TAZ Data available at: https://www.kerncog.org/maps/

Attachment A - RSA Subregion Summary Tables

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH 2024-2049 By RSA Subregion	2022RTP	2026RTP Draft Allocation 3/24/25	2022RTP	2026RTP Draft Allocation 3/24/25
	Employment Growth (2020-2046)	Employment Growth (2024-2049)	Annualized	Annualized
Greater Arvin	638	795	25	32
Greater Cal City/Mojave	3,349	5,056	129	202
Greater Delano	1,428	1,629	55	65
Greater Frazier Park	12,076	12,329	464	493
Greater Lake Isabella	159	238	6	10
Greater Maricopa	5	-	0	-
Greater McFarland	685	2,214	26	89
Greater Ridgecrest	2,190	2,490	84	100
Greater Shafter	7,971	13,876	307	555
Greater Taft	1,422	1,264	55	51
Greater Tehachapi	1,897	1,659	73	66
Greater Wasco	1,660	1,245	64	50
Metro Bakersfield	27,034	38,705	1,040	1,548
TOTAL	**60,515**	**81,500**	**2,327**	**3,260**

HOUSEHOLD GROWTH 2024-2049 By RSA Subregion	2022RTP	2026RTP Draft Allocation 3/24/25	2022RTP	2026RTP Draft Allocation 3/24/25
	Household Growth (2020-2049)	Household Growth (2024-2049)	Annualized	Annualized
Greater Arvin	597	589	23	24
Greater Cal City/Mojave	4,537	1,439	175	58
Greater Delano	745	1,684	29	67
Greater Frazier Park	13,663	13,888	526	556
Greater Lake Isabella	231	125	9	5
Greater Maricopa	11	3	0	0
Greater McFarland	770	1,150	30	46
Greater Ridgecrest	1,273	1,031	49	41
Greater Shafter	4,501	4,940	173	198
Greater Taft	942	488	36	20
Greater Tehachapi	2,713	1,962	104	78
Greater Wasco	2,189	1,724	84	69
Metro Bakersfield	41,486	32,077	1,596	1,283
TOTAL	**73,658**	**61,100**	**2,833**	**2,444**

ATTACHMENT B
REGIONAL STATISTICAL AREA (RSA) SUBREGIONS



Kern Council of Governments

V.
RPAC

July 2, 2025

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: JAY SCHLOSSER
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.

May 21st – June 4th, 2025 – Kern COG hosted four hybrid (in-person/online) community workshops and three online workshops collecting input on the KARGO Community Prosperity/Protection Study and Freight related projects for the RTP/SCS. Workshops were held in Arvin, California City, Keene, and Shafter.

May 13, 2025 – CARB formally adopted their determination that Kern COG's 2022 RTP/SCS, when implemented, would achieve the SB 375 Target Reductions by 2035. In June 2023, Kern COG had received an email from CARB to notify that the 2022 SCS was "officially approved."

April 23, 2025 – SB 375 Target Setting Update – Kern COG staff is participating in a workshop hosted by California Air Resources Board (ARB) for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to discuss SB 375 Target Updates and other SB 375 program-related items.

April 17, 2025 – Kern COG Annual Statistically Valid Community Survey was conducted in January. Survey results have been compiled and presented to the Kern COG board at the April Board Meeting. Results of the Annual Community Survey are available on Kern COG's website.

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 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.

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 RangeTransit 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~~
- ~~April 2025 - Annual Statistically Valid Community Phone Surveys~~
- ~~May 2025 - KARGO Community Prosperity/Protection Study RTP/SCS Freight Outreach Events~~
- July 2025 – Transportation Modeling Committee Special Meeting
- July 2025 – Mini-Grant RFP Release
- Spring 2023 to Spring 2026 – RTP/SCS Public Outreach Process
- Spring 2023 to Spring 2026 – Annual Statistically Valid Community Phone Surveys
- 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.

Kern Council of Governments

VI.
RPAC

July 2, 2025

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: Jay Schlosser
Executive Director

By: Becky Napier
Deputy Director - Administration

SUBJECT: REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM: VI. COMMUNITY AT LARGE VOTING MEMBERS

DESCRIPTION:

Staff recruited for three (3) Community at Large Voting Members for the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC).

DISCUSSION:

The RPAC By-Laws allow for three Community at Large Voting Members. Staff advertised in the Bakersfield Californian and put the advertisement and the application on the Kern COG website. The advertisement and application were posted on the Kern COG website on February 3, 2025. A Display Advertisement was placed in the Bakersfield Californian on February 5, 2025 and on May 5, 2025. The final application deadline was June 12, 2025. In addition at your request, the Application Packet was sent to the RPAC members so you could recruit potential members.

Staff received zero applications and zero inquiries about the openings. The last time any of the current Community at Large Members attended an RPAC meeting was on October 4, 2023.

Staff is requesting that members of the RPAC discuss this issue and give direction to staff.

ACTION

Information.

Kern Council of Governments

DATE: **July 17, 2025**

TO: **INTERESTED PARTIES**

FROM: **JAY SCHLOSSER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT: **COMMUNITY-BASED OUTREACH MINI-GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE 2026 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY**

Overview:

Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) is seeking assistance from community-based organizations, etc. to solicit public input into key activities associated with the preparation of its **2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)**. Kern COG is requesting help with ensuring diverse and extensive input by further expanding community outreach activities.

Kern COG will provide mini grants up to $2,500 to community organizations with existing community contacts. Successful applicants will reach out to residents of the Kern County region, include them in the RTP and SCS transportation planning process via workshop and online participation and obtain defined input regarding their perceived transportation needs.

This program is designed to ensure that interested members of the public have ample opportunity to understand and provide meaningful input on these plans during the planning process. All mini grant recipients will be tasked with providing factual information to their contacts. Any attempts to influence a participant's responses or comments regarding any aspect of the RTP outreach is prohibited and is grounds for termination of a mini grant contract by Kern COG.

These activities will coordinate with other public involvement activities conducted by Kern COG. Kern COG will have a defined set of questions and/or types of feedback for all mini-grant recipients to use while reaching out on the RTP/SCS. All answers/input/data collected will be combined and used as input into the 2026 RTP/SCS.

Grant-awarded organizations will receive a detailed orientation about Kern COG, the RTP/SCS and the associated projects. Kern COG will also provide information and necessary materials in English to assist in outreach efforts. All written materials must be translated by mini-grant recipients and approved by Kern COG. Kern COG may provide some staff assistance with graphics and/or formatting documents to accommodate non-English translations.

Estimated Timeline:

Please review the attached background materials and respond with a letter of interest and completed application by **Friday, August 22, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. (noon).** No applications will be accepted after that date and time.

If needed, organizations whose responses meet Kern COG's outreach needs will be contacted to set up a face-to-face interview with representatives from your organization tentatively scheduled for **Friday, August 29, 2025**. Applicant acceptance and the associated funding level approved will be announced by **Thursday, September 4, 2025**.

Kern COG's goal is to empower each of the grant recipients to begin implementing the RTP/SCS outreach strategies right away. Staff will meet with mini-grant recipients between **September 8 – 12, 2025**, to refine each recipient's scope of work and discuss contract terms. All mini-grant recipients will participate in an orientation on **September 17, 2025**. All outreach should be completed and a final report submitted to Kern COG with each mini-grant recipient's findings and final community input summary by **December 5, 2025**.

Estimated Timeline:

Date	Activity
Friday, July 17, 2025	Release Mini-Grant Application Packets
Friday, August 22, 2025	Mini-Grant Application Packet and Proposals due to Kern COG by 12:00 p.m. (noon)
Friday, August 29, 2025	Applicant Interviews if needed (SAVE THE DATE)
Thursday, September 4, 2025	Applicants notified of acceptance
September 8 - 12, 2025	Finalizing Scopes of Work and signing contracts.
Wednesday, September 17, 2025	Mandatory Orientation Meeting for all recipients (Kern COG)
September 22 – November 7, 2025	Workshops/meetings held
December 5, 2025	Final outreach report due to Kern COG by 4:00 p.m. with all invoices, receipts and documentation.

Scope of Work:

Initially, Kern COG will require each mini-grant recipient to organize a workshop or public meeting specifically for those community members with whom they already have a working relationship. The goal is to obtain community input on the 2026 RTP/SCS. Kern COG staff will attend the meetings and make presentations; however, each recipient is responsible for organizing the meeting/workshop; making all the arrangements; inviting attendees; translating and duplicating materials, providing translation services during the meeting if needed, and arranging all needed workshop transportation, food, child care, etc. for attendees. All meetings must also be open to the public. Awardees must facilitate the workshop or meeting while Kern COG staff acts as presenter.

Each mini-grant recipient will then gather all participant input and submit it to Kern COG electronically and via a reproducible hard copy by the established deadline. Kern COG will supply a reporting format.

Kern COG does not have exact materials at this time; however, recipients will receive them by the orientation meeting.

Mini-grants will be awarded based upon the following criteria:

1. Outreach strategy and goals.
2. Comprehensiveness of the application packet.
3. The specific community demographics and the geographic area the organization will reach. Note that Kern COG is looking to reach a variety of non-traditional participants.
4. The expected number of people who will attend meetings/workshops and submit feedback. This should be based on experience with a target of at least 15 - 20 participants.
5. Experience with previous outreach activities to targeted audiences. How established are the organizational contacts?
6. Grant funding (up to $2,500) requested and the justification for receiving that amount of money.

Kern COG reserves the right to award the mini-grants as it deems appropriate at funding levels warranted by each applicant's individual outreach strategy. Grant recipients will be required to submit receipts, time cards and other proof of expenses for reimbursement.

What is a Regional Transportation Plan?

Regional Transportation Plans are planning documents developed by a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) such as Kern COG in cooperation with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Caltrans and other stakeholders including system users. Following the passage of Senate Bill 375, MPOs also need to work closely with the California Air resources Board (ARB) and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). MPOs are required to prepare these long-range plans per federal statute (Title 23 U.S.C. Section 134). The purpose of the RTP is to establish regional goals, identify present and future needs, deficiencies and constraints, analyze potential solutions, estimate available funding, and propose investments.

Pursuant to Title 23 CFR Part 450.324 et seq. FHWA describes the development and contents of RTPs as follows:

> *"The transportation plan is the Statement of the ways the region plans to invest in the transportation system. The plan shall 'include both long-range and short-range program strategies/actions that lead to the development of an integrated intermodal transportation system that facilitates the efficient movement of people and goods.' The plan has several elements, for example: Identify policies, strategies, and projects for the future; Determine project demand for transportation services over 20 years; Focus at the systems level, including roadways, transit, non-motorized transportation, and intermodal connections; Articulate regional land use, development, housing, and employment goals and plans; Estimate costs and identify reasonably available financial sources for operation, maintenance, and capital investments); Determine ways to preserve existing roads and facilities and make efficient use of the existing system; be consistent with the Statewide transportation plan; and Be updated every five years or four years in air quality nonattainment and maintenance areas. MPOs should make special efforts to engage interested parties in the development of the plan. In cases where a metropolitan area is designated nonattainment or maintenance area, the plan must confirm to the SIP for air quality."*

The regional transportation planning led by the MPO is a collaborative process that is widely participated by the federal, state, local and tribal governments/agencies, as well as other key stakeholders and the general public. The process is designed to foster involvement by all interested parties, such as the business community, California Tribal Governments, community groups, environmental organizations, the general public, and local jurisdictions through a proactive public participation process conducted by the MPO in coordination with the state and transit operations. It is essential to extend public participation to include people who have been traditionally underserved by the transportation system and services in the region. Neglecting public involvement early in the planning stage can result in delays during the project stage.

Questions may be directed to Ben Raymond braymond@kerncog.org or Rochelle Invina-Jayasiri rinvina@kerncog.org or by calling 661-635-2900.

Community-Based Outreach Mini-Grant Program

Application Form

Organization/Agency: _____

Address: _____

Primary Contact: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Organization/Agency Website (not required) _____

(Please make responses as concise as possible; applications will not be judged on length of response. Attach a separate sheet with the following questions and your answers.)

1. Please list and describe the outreach activities that the organization proposes to carry out in order to facilitate community-based outreach and public involvement on the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS).

   Note: Proposed costs for all activities described in response to this question must be included on the project budget sheet.

2. List the staff members or other individuals who will be implementing the Mini-Grant RTP/SCS Outreach program.

3. Please describe the specific demographic of the community targeted and the geographic area the program would reach (please include ZIP codes). What stakeholders would the program reach from specific communities who traditionally may not normally be involved in the regional transportation planning processes (i.e. seniors, youth, low income, minorities, and other)?

4. How many people do you commit to reach while implementing the public outreach strategy? (Validate your numbers – i.e. submit a list of contacts with your application).

5. Please describe the organization's experience working with these particular people or communities.

6. Describe any similar types of projects that your organization has undertaken.

7. How much funding (up to $2,500) do you wish to apply for? What is your justification for the amount?

Community-Based Outreach Mini-Grant Program
Proposed Project Budget Worksheet

Name of Organization/Agency: _____

Proposed Operational Expense Breakdown: Includes costs associated with: telephone and postage expenses directly related to the project, use of in-house copier (amount per copy) and external printing and copying jobs, etc. Overhead can be no more than 15 percent of Contract total.			
TOTAL PART A. PROPOSED OPERATIONAL EXPENSES			**$**
B. Proposed Staff Costs: Includes staff who will work on the project and their costs with hourly rates required to complete project.			
Staff Member	**Hourly Rate**	**Hours**	
TOTAL PART B. PROPOSED STAFF COSTS			**$**
C. Other Proposed Direct Cost Breakdown: May include refreshments, signage, translation equipment, and other appropriate meeting and promotion expenses.			
TOTAL PART C. OTHER PROPOSED DIRECT COSTS			**$**

2026 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

COMMUNITY-BASED OUTREACH

Mini-Grant Program

Release Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025
Proposals Due: Friday, August 22, 2025
By: 12:00 pm (noon)

We Need Your Help:

Kern Council of Governments is seeking assistance from community-based organizations to solicit public input into key activities associated with the preparation of its 2026 Regional Transportation and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Who Should Apply:

Mini-Grants up to $2,500 will be provided to community based organizations with existing community contacts to ensure diverse and extensive input by further expanding community outreach activities.

Kern Council of Governments

kerncog.org

Kern Council of Governments

July 31, 2025

TO: **REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

FROM: JAY SCHLOSSER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: AUGUST 6, 2025, MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE

The meeting of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) scheduled for Wednesday, August 6, 2025, has been cancelled.

The Cancellation Notice and information items can be found on the Kern COG website:

https://www.kerncog.org/rpac-meetings/

The next regularly scheduled meeting is September 3, 2025.

A Transportation Modeling Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6 at 9:30 AM virtually or in the Kern COG Board Room. Meeting agenda available: *https://www.kerncog.org/rpac-meetings/*

Kern Council of Governments

July 31, 2025

TO: REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RPAC)

FROM: JAY SCHLOSSER,
Executive Director

BY: Rob Ball, Deputy Director/Planning Director
Rochelle Invina-Jayasiri, Regional Planner
Victoria Romero Valdivia, Regional Planner
Vincent Liu, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: **INFORMATION ITEM: 1**
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY GRANTS/COG ASSISTANCE REQUESTS AND FEEDBACK MONITORING DATA - **EMAIL REQUESTS DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025**

DESCRIPTION:

The 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) includes a strategy to provide sub regional feedback on SB 375 travel reduction goals and provide technical assistance and grant writing assistance to help sub areas of the County that need it most. This is an annual process reviewed by the TTAC and RPAC.

DISCUSSION:

A new 2-part strategy was proposed in the 2014 RTP/SCS, and continued in subsequent cycles, to help our member agencies voluntarily monitor their progress toward the region's air emission goals. The strategy also helps member agencies develop projects that will better compete for funding under policies that emphasize sustainability. Kern COG provides monitoring data along with technical assistance and grant writing assistance. The data provides sub-regional monitoring feedback and helps prioritize assistance using the regional travel model as part of this process.

COG Technical Assistance
The 2014 RTP was the first to contain an SCS as required by the state Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375). Kern COG began work with member agencies on developing more sustainable projects and strategies immediately after the adoption of the 2008 Kern Regional Blueprint.

Since 2009, Kern COG has awarded over $500,000 in technical assistance grants and/or staff time support to provide member agencies with resources to identify and implement projects that would further the goals of the 2008 Kern Regional Blueprint and now the SCS. Available funding for Kern COG technical assistance grants, and staff time support to assist member agencies in applying for the numerous grant resources vary from year to year based on need and resource availability. This program has helped fund:

- In kind staff-time match for sustainable community planning grants for modeling/public outreach
- Regional travel demand modeling and GIS mapping support
- community bike and complete street plans
- community visioning/design workshops
- 2D/3D community visualizations
- transportation impact fee programs
- general plan circulation element updates
- Early transportation project development planning studies

Member Agencies Email Sustainable Community Planning/Project Development Ideas to Kern COG by Friday, September 26, 2025

Under this Kern COG local government assistance program, staff can recommend technical assistance resources be prioritized for agencies with the greatest potential need (see monitoring section below). Requests may be made by email and should include a brief preliminary scope and budget regarding the planning level work needed. Agencies are encouraged to contact COG staff for assistance in developing the request for sustainable community strategy implementation and planning funds. Staff will provide assistance to member agencies in deciding which grant resources (see attachment 1) are most appropriate and effective. Please contact Rob Ball - 661-635-2902, rball@kerncog.org or Rochelle Invina-Jayasiri - 661-635-2908, rinvina@kerncog.org

Member Agencies Provided with Free Access to GrantFinder.com

Kern COG has secured GrantFinder software licenses on behalf of its member agencies, and local public transit agencies for the period ending May 31, 2026, which is renewed annually. GrantFinder (http://grantfinder.com) is a real-time database of federal, state, and private grant opportunities tailored to municipalities and nonprofits. The program allows users to tailor their grant searches to their needs. To receive access, the member agency may designate up to two users. GrantFinder training is available by request; Program contact: Irene Enriquez ienriquez@kerncog.org or Susanne Campbell scampbell@kerncog.org.

Prioritized Funding Policy for More Sustainable Projects

In November 2012 and most recently updated in April 2021, the Kern COG Board adopted the new project delivery policies and procedure (https://www.kerncog.org/policies/) to assist the region in promoting projects that better match the goals of the RTP/SCS. Dependent on the funding category, the procedure provides points for ranking projects for future funding. Up to half of the points go to projects that promote more sustainable/livable communities and lower air emissions. Since this policy and procedure update, Kern COG has funded park & ride facilities in California City and South Bakersfield, the Golden Empire Transit District has implemented a new/more convenient bus rapid transit, express bus and On Demand micro-transit network, and the City of Tehachapi has adopted the first city-wide “form-based-code” General Plan in California. These types of projects are proliferating in the region in part because Kern COG adopted project delivery policies.

Monitoring Data Feedback

The table in Attachment 2 shows the latest modeling of auto Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per person (household population + employment by place of work) from the most recently adopted RTP. The total shows a 2.6 percent decrease in VMT between 2020 and 2022. All regions show lower VMT per capita household population + employment by 2046 compared to 2020 except for Greater Taft, Arvin and Tehachapi.

This technical and grant writing assistance program RTP strategy will continue to be funded as planning funds and grants are available. Subject to the Board’s direction, Kern COG resources

may be prioritized to communities that may be showing difficulty in making progress towards reducing emissions and passenger vehicle travel. Grants and incentives are subject to state and federal funding requirements.

Attachments
Attachment 1 – Kern Sustainable Community Grant Resources – July 2025
Attachment 2 – 2022 RTP/SCS Change in Daily Auto Miles Traveled
Attachment 3 – Kern Sub Area Index and Vehicle Miles Traveled Maps

Attachment 1

Kern Sustainable Community Grant Resources
(Updated July 2025)

Program	Program Description	Resource and contact
Kern Council of Governments	- Technical Assistance Program Requests may be made by email and should include a draft scope, budget and timeline regarding the planning need. Agencies are encouraged to contact COG staff for assistance in developing the request for planning resources and strategizing which sources are most appropriate. Awards are subject to available funding, need, and past geographic distribution of past awards. The awards will be used in developing the programming for next fiscal year's Kern COG Overall Work Program. Past awards have included: - Travel modeling and GIS mapping support technical support - In-kind staff time in data collection/outreach to help match a sustainable planning grant - Grant writing assistance - Community bike and complete street plans - Community visioning/design workshops - Transportation impact fee programs - General plan circulation element updates - Transportation project development planning studies To support grant applications Kern COG posts regional plans, resources and toolkits on the Kern COG website www.kerncog.org. For example: - 2022 Regional Transportation Plan Chapter 4 - Sustainable Communities Strategy provides projects and strategies for implementing Kern efforts to reduce GHG emissions from passenger vehicles. - EV Charging Station Blueprint – 2019 Kern EVCS Blueprint, Kern COG will produce an updated EV Charging Station Blueprint in the coming year - Kern COG EV Charging Station Installation Resource List - 2023 Kern Medium-Duty and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Blueprint featured five high-impact sites which may serve as examples to follow. The five sites may be eligible for a new CEC funding. Check CEC website for funding opportunities.	Email Request to Rob Ball rball@kerncog.org or Rochelle Invina-Jayasiri rinvina@kerncog.org **due by Friday, September 26, 2025**

	- 2018 Kern Regional Active Transportation Plan provides eligible bike and pedestrian projects for all jurisdictions in Kern. - 2020 Kern County Rural Alternative Transportation Plan provides transit ZEV projects for all outlying jurisdictions in Kern	
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Grants and Incentive Programs	- AB 836 Clean Air Centers Pilot Program The Clean Air Centers Pilot Program provides funding to create Wildfire Smoke Clean Air Centers for Vulnerable Populations and establish a network of publicly accessible facilities with high-efficiency air filtration systems for valley residents who may not otherwise have access to clean air during wildfire events. - Alternate Fuel Mechanic Training Provides funds for mechanic education or training in alternative-fuel vehicles and infrastructure. - Bike Paths Provides funds to establish bicycle infrastructure such as Class I or Class II bicycle paths. - Clean Alternatives to Fireworks Pilot Incentive Program Provides incentives for clean, non-firework alternatives in lieu of a portion or all of large-scale public fireworks displays celebrating the Fourth of July or New Year's Eve, or other celebratory public gatherings. - Clean Vehicle Fueling Infrastructure Program Provides incentives for new stations, conversion of an existing fueling station, and expansion of stations for hydrogen fuel and electric battery charging stations for heavy-duty vehicles. - Charge Up! Provides funds for businesses and public agencies to purchase and install electric vehicle chargers for public use. - Emergency Vehicle Replacement Program - Provides incentives to replace existing in-use emergency vehicles with new reduced-emission vehicles. - E-Mobility Commerce Provides funds to develop or expand electronic telecommunication services. - Plug in Electric Vehicle Resources Center Provides information about plug-in electric vehicles including available incentive funding, charging infrastructure and locations, and the District's activities to increase and sustain electric vehicles in the Valley.	Grants | Valley Air District- Some applications accepted year-round.

	- Public Benefit Provides funds to purchase new, alternative-fuel vehicles and infrastructure and develop advanced transit and transportation systems. - Public Transportation Subsidy and Park & Ride Lots Provides funds to subsidize transportation passes for bus, shuttle and commuter rail services. Funds are also available for the construction of park and ride lots. - Zero-Emission Landscaping Equipment Voucher Program Provides incentives for the replacement of landscape maintenance equipment to lawn care providers. - Zero-Emission School Bus Replacement Incentive Program Provides monetary incentives to replace existing yellow school buses that transport public school children to and from school with zero-emission school buses in disadvantaged or low-income communities.	
Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District	- **DMV Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Rebate Program** is ongoing with no application deadline. - $4,000 funding available for the purchase of a Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) with an EPA Smog Score of 10 - **DMV Grant** Program ($50k max. per project) Projects include Paving Dirt Roads to reduce fugitive dust emissions caused by vehicle travel, Installation of EV Charging Station or CNG refilling stations, Alternative Fuel Mechanics Training, Public Education Courses, and Innovative Vehicle-Related Emission Reduction Proposals accepted. **Applications open annually and the program closed February 28, 2025. Check the website in late 2025 for the next round of funding.**	Eastern Kern APCD Grants Contact: 661-862-5250 Some grant funds are distributed annually.
Kern County Air Pollution Mitigation Fund	For projects designed to reduce particulate or ozone air pollution in Kern and is administered by the Rose Foundation for Sierra Club.	KC Air Pollution Mitigation Fund
Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants FY 2026-2027	The Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program includes Sustainable Communities Grants, Climate Adaptation Planning Grant, Strategic Partnerships Grants - **Call for applications September 2025 and grant application deadline in November/December 2025.** Applicants are encouraged to visit the California Grants Portal and subscribe to receive notifications about State funding opportunities.	Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants | Caltrans

Caltrans Transportation Planning Resources	Transportation Planning webpage – includes Major Outreach and Engagement, Plans, Tools and Analysis, Resources for Districts, and Resources for Regional and Local Partners	Division of Transportation Planning | Caltrans
Active Transportation Program (ATP)	The California Transportation Commission (CTC) ATP Cycle 7 Call for Projects opened March 21-22 and closed on June 17, 2024. - For MPO-directed funding, the Kern COG process follows the statewide application process, using that process to score projects for Kern COG consideration. Kern COG announces the ATP Cycle funding to its member agencies via email and in technical advisory committee meetings.	Active Transportation Program (ATP) | Caltrans
California Housing and Community Development Department (HCD)	The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has a list of housing programs that currently have funding available. - Programs include: CalHome Program, Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) , Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) Program , Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF) Program - NOFA calendar shows targeted release dates for draft guidelines, NOFAs, and awards	Grants & Funding | California Department of Housing and Community Development
California Housing and Community Development Department Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC)	AHSC program makes it easier for Californians to drive less by making sure housing, jobs, and key destinations are accessible by walking, biking, and transit. AHSC Round 9 is processing on schedule. NOFA released in March 2025 with applications due on May 28, 2025.	California Department of Housing and Community Development | AHSC
Strategic Growth Council (SGC)	SGC's grant programs promote sustainability, health, and equity across California. Find funding for affordable housing, transit-oriented development, open space conservation, and climate change resilience.	Strategic Growth Council Grant Programs
California Natural Resources Agency	The California Natural Resources Agency Bonds and Grant unit administers various programs. They offer listserv registration for some program notifications. For instance, the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program is an annual program (solicitation closed for 2025) offering grants to local, state and federal governmental agencies and to	CA Natural Resources Grant Programs

	nonprofit organizations for projects to mitigate the environmental impacts caused by new or modified public transportation facilities.	
California Air Resources Board	Air Pollution Incentives, Grants and Credit Programs - Multiple granting programs. Visit the website to obtain project eligibility requirements and application due dates. - **Carb Planning and Capacity Building Administrator:** Planning and Capacity Building Projects are intended to increase transportation equity in disadvantaged and low-income communities. Request for Applications is expected to open soon *(see flyer for information)*	Incentives | California Air Resources Board
California Energy Commission	The California Energy Commission offers a variety of funding opportunities to advance the state's transition to clean energy and transportation through innovation, efficiency, and the development and deployment of advanced technologies.	CEC Funding Opportunities (ca.gov)
United States Department of Energy	Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy |Alternative Fuels Data Center - California Transportation Data for Alternative Fuels and Vehicles - Find transportation data and information about alternative fuels and advanced vehicles in California, including laws and incentives, fueling stations, fuel prices, and more: AFDC | California	Alternative Fuels Data Center: California Laws and Incentives (energy.gov)
US Department of Transportation – Federal Railroad Administration	**Federal Railroad Administration Grants & Loans -** To develop safety improvements and encourage the expansion and upgrade of passenger and freight rail infrastructure and services, FRA supports the nation's rail network through a variety of competitive and dedicated grant programs.	US DOT Railroad Grant Program
Federal Highway Administration	Competitive Grant Funding: - ADCMS - Advanced Digital Construction Management Systems: A program to promote, implement, deploy, demonstrate, showcase, support and document the application of advanced digital construction management systems, practices, performances, and benefits. - AID - Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration Program: Provides grants to support the pilot/demonstration of innovations on projects, in areas such as planning, financing, operations, pavements, structures, materials, environment, and construction. - Advanced Transportation Technologies and Innovative Mobility Deployment (also known as Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) Program):	US DOT Grants

	Provides grants to deploy, install, and operate advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, mobility, efficiency, system performance, intermodal connectivity, and infrastructure return on investment. - Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program: Funding beyond FY23 is subject to the availability appropriations; the program provides grants to construct safe and connected active transportation facilities in an active transportation network or active transportation spine and to develop plans for active transportation networks and active transportation spines. - Bridge Investment Program: Provides grants for projects to improve the condition of bridges and culverts and the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and freight over bridges. - BUILD - Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Grant Program: Provides grants for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact (aka Local and Regional Project Assistance). - Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants Program (Community Charging): Provides grants for projects to develop electric vehicle charging and hydrogen, propane, and natural gas fueling infrastructure access along alternative fuel corridors throughout the country, including in rural areas, low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, and communities with a low ratio of private parking spaces to households or a high ratio of multiunit dwellings to single family homes. - Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants Program (Corridor Charging): Deploys publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure and hydrogen, propane, and natural gas fueling infrastructure along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors. - Congestion Relief Program: Provides grants to advance innovative, integrated, and multimodal solutions to reduce congestion and the related economic and environmental costs in the most congested metropolitan areas with an urbanized area population of at least 1 million. - INFRA - Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects: Provides grants for multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance. - MEGA - National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program: Provides grants to surface transportation infrastructure that are too large or complex for traditional funding programs that will have a significant national or regional impact. - Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP): Provides grants to Tribes and Federal land management agencies to complete projects that will provide substantial benefits to their communities or parklands.	

	- NEVI set-aside (First NOFO: Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Program) 10 percent set-aside each fiscal year to provide grants to provide additional assistance to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure. This first round of the NEVI set-aside program focuses on repairing and replacing existing non-operational EV chargers. - NEVI set-aside (Second NOFO: NEVI 10): 10 percent set-aside each fiscal year to provide grants to provide additional assistance to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure. This second round of the NEVI set-aside program has been incorporated into the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program second NOFO. - PROTECT: Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Grants: Provides grants for activities that enable communities to address vulnerabilities to current and future weather events, natural disasters, and changing conditions, including sea level rise, and plan transportation improvements and emergency response strategies to address those vulnerabilities. - Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program (RTEPF): Studies and provides grants to reduce idling at port facilities, including through the electrification of port operations. - Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A): Provides grants to support local initiatives to prevent transportation-related death and serious injury on roads and streets (commonly referred to as “Vision Zero” or “Toward Zero Deaths” initiatives). - Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program: Provides grants to support projects that seek to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions, and in carrying out that purpose, improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species.	
California Grants Portal	The California Grants Portal (a project by the California State Library) is your one destination to find all grants and loans offered on a competitive or first-come basis by California state agencies.	CA Grants Portal

Note that the above listing of programs is not comprehensive and are subject to change. The listing is intended as an example resource guide of programs that can help implement the Kern region’s Sustainable Communities Strategy.

CARB PLANNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR

Planning & Capacity Building Project Grants

Request for Applications Opening Soon



Addressing Transportation Inequities in Your Community

Planning and Capacity Building projects are intended to increase transportation equity in disadvantaged and low-income communities by:

- Improving the local understanding of residents' transportation needs
- Helping develop organizational and community capacity-building so communities are ready to plan for clean transportation solutions
- Preparing communities to implement projects that fill transportation gaps and improve clean transportation access

The Request for Applications is expected to open mid-2025:

- $7.5 million available for approximately 15+ grantees
- Up to **$500,000 available** for each project
- Application support available

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS Cap and Trade Dollars at Work

Eligible Applicants

At least 50% of the project area must be within a **disadvantaged and/or low income community**.

These are eligible applicants:

- Tribal governments
- Community-based organizations
- Local governments
- School districts

To learn more, visit
tinyurl.com/AboutPCB

How to Apply

Although applications are not open yet, you can **join our mailing list and complete the interest form** using the QR code or link provided below.

tinyurl.com/PCBRFA24-25

Planning and Capacity Building Administrators

www.tinyurl.com/AboutPCB

CleanTransportationIncentives@arb.ca.gov

ADMINISTRADOR DE PLANIFICACION Y DESARROLLO DE CAPACIDAD DE CARB

Becas para Proyectos de Planificación y Desarrollo de Capacidad

Convocatoria de Solicitudes Abrirá Pronto



Abordando las Desigualdades en el Transporte en Tu Comunidad

Los proyectos de Planificación y Desarrollo de Capacidad tienen como objetivo aumentar la equidad en el transporte en comunidades desfavorecidas y de bajos ingresos mediante:

- Mejorar la comprensión local de las necesidades de transporte de los residentes
- Ayudar a desarrollar la capacidad organizativa y comunitaria para que las comunidades estén listas para planificar soluciones de transporte ecológico
- Preparar a las comunidades para implementar proyectos que llenen las brechas de transporte y mejoren el acceso a transporte ecológico

Se espera que la convocatoria de solicitudes se abra a mediados de 2025:

- $7.5 millones disponibles para aproximadamente 15+ beneficiarios
- Hasta $500,000 disponibles para cada proyecto
- Apoyo disponible para la solicitud

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS — Cap and Trade Dollars at Work

Solicitantes Elegibles

Al menos el 50% del área del proyecto debe estar ubicada en una **comunidad desfavorecida y/o de bajos ingresos.**

Ejemplos de Solicitantes Elegibles

- Gobiernos de pueblos indígenas
- Organizaciones comunitarias
- Gobiernos locales
- Distritos escolares

Para obtener más información, visite
tinyurl.com/AboutPCB

Como Solicitar Más Información

Aunque las solicitudes aún no están abiertas, puede **unirse a nuestra lista de correo y completar el formulario de interés** utilizando el código QR o el enlace proporcionado a continuación.

tinyurl.com/PCBRFA24-25

Administradores de Planificación y Desarrollo de Capacidades

www.tinyurl.com/AboutPCB
CleanTransportationIncentives@arb.ca.gov

Attachment 2 – How Sub Areas of Kern County are Doing on Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled

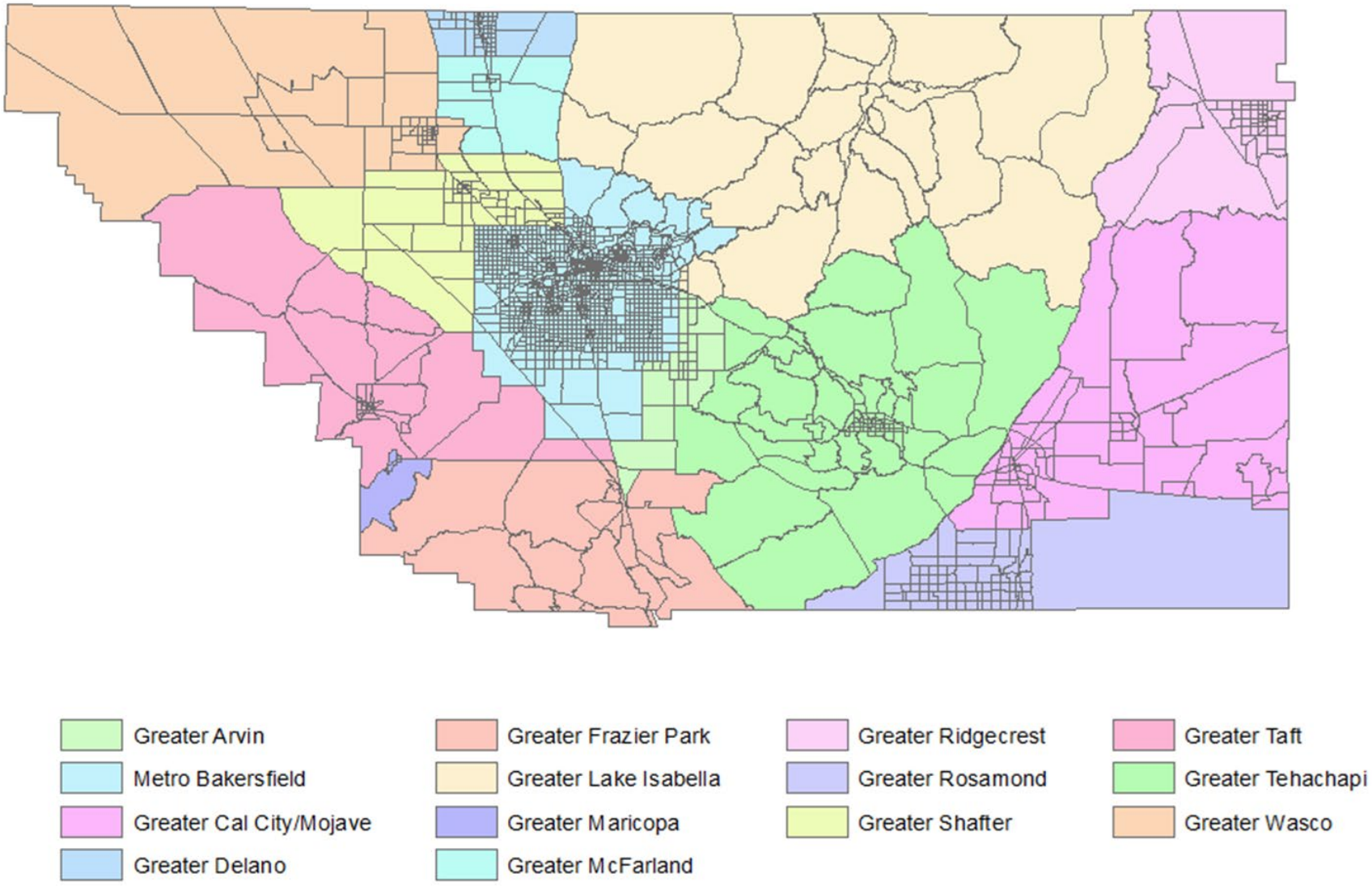
2022 RTP Change in Daily Auto Miles Traveled Compared to the Old Plan

		RSA VMT			Persons = Household Population + Employment (by place of work)			Auto Miles Traveled/Person			% Change from Base 2020		Progress Compared to Old Plan
		2020	2046 Old Plan	2046 Plan	2020	2046 Old Plan	2046 Plan	2020	2046 Old Plan	2046 Plan	2020 & 2046 Old Plan	2020 & 2046 Plan	
		(miles)			(persons)			(miles/person)			(percent)		
1	Greater Taft	1,139,077	1,459,016	1,447,492	27,496	33,334	33,221	41.43	43.77	43.57	5.7%	5.2%	-0.5%
2	Greater McFarland	895,810	1,013,188	1,016,217	25,972	32,597	32,426	34.49	31.08	31.34	-9.9%	-9.1%	0.7%
3	Greater Wasco	1,477,836	1,804,142	1,771,176	38,691	53,046	52,749	38.20	34.01	33.58	-11.0%	-12.1%	-1.1%
4	Greater Tehachapi	1,588,962	1,966,921	1,920,689	40,884	54,914	54,224	38.87	35.82	35.42	-7.8%	-8.9%	-1.0%
5	Greater Bakersfield	15,674,973	19,140,950	19,128,176	792,093	1,011,853	1,016,113	19.79	18.92	18.82	-4.4%	-4.9%	-0.5%
6	Greater Cal City/Mojave	1,054,411	1,397,478	1,365,859	25,727	40,094	38,396	40.99	34.86	35.57	-15.0%	-13.2%	1.8%
7	Greater Lake Isabella	769,798	880,509	727,855	19,215	23,285	21,160	40.06	37.81	34.40	-5.6%	-14.1%	-8.5%
8	Greater Ridgecrest	775,055	802,517	736,566	49,742	58,629	58,265	15.58	13.69	12.64	-12.2%	-18.9%	-6.7%
9	Greater Frazier Park	955,022	2,570,839	3,468,996	13,788	46,682	65,164	69.26	55.07	53.24	-20.5%	-23.1%	-2.7%
10	Greater Shafter	2,173,354	3,022,792	3,057,541	47,887	73,573	73,203	45.39	41.09	41.77	-9.5%	-8.0%	1.5%
11	Greater Arvin	1,011,263	1,290,470	1,226,085	30,692	37,201	35,672	32.95	34.69	34.37	5.3%	4.3%	-1.0%
12	Greater Delano	1,626,396	1,720,906	1,703,981	63,266	72,919	72,297	25.71	23.60	23.57	-8.2%	-8.3%	-0.1%
13	Greater Maricopa	204,836	203,423	197,277	1,625	1,636	1,628	126.05	124.34	121.16	-1.4%	-3.9%	-2.5%
14	Greater Rosamond	870,768	966,958	977,382	32,894	41,336	42,061	26.47	23.39	23.24	-11.6%	-12.2%	-0.6%
	Total / Average:	30,217,561	38,240,107	38,745,291	1,209,973	1,581,100	1,596,578	24.97	24.19	24.27	-3.2%	-2.8%	0.3%
16	Gateway	9,085,626	9,971,386	10,338,693									
	All Travel	39,303,187	48,211,493	49,083,984									

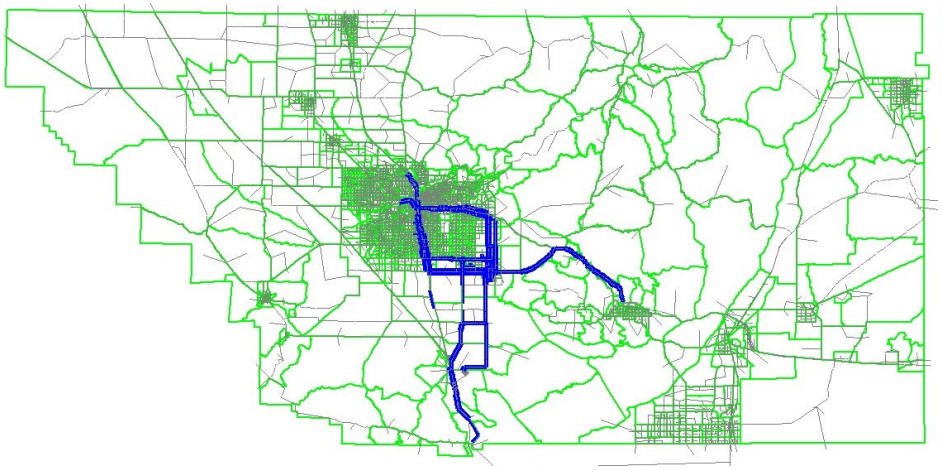
Note that this reporting is voluntary and for advisory purposes only. Future year values are estimated based on the latest land use assumptions and are updated every four years. These assumptions can vary widely from year to year based on recent changes in the local development activity and other variables. Although average travel per person includes areas outside each sub area (see spider diagram maps below), they do not include travel outside the county possibly skewing the results of sub areas nearer the edge of the County. This analysis is updated with the RTP once every 4 years. The analysis shows that Bakersfield and Ridgecrest have the lowest travel per person possibly because these regions are fairly self-contained having sufficient amenities such as hospitals.

Attachment 3 – Map of Sub Areas

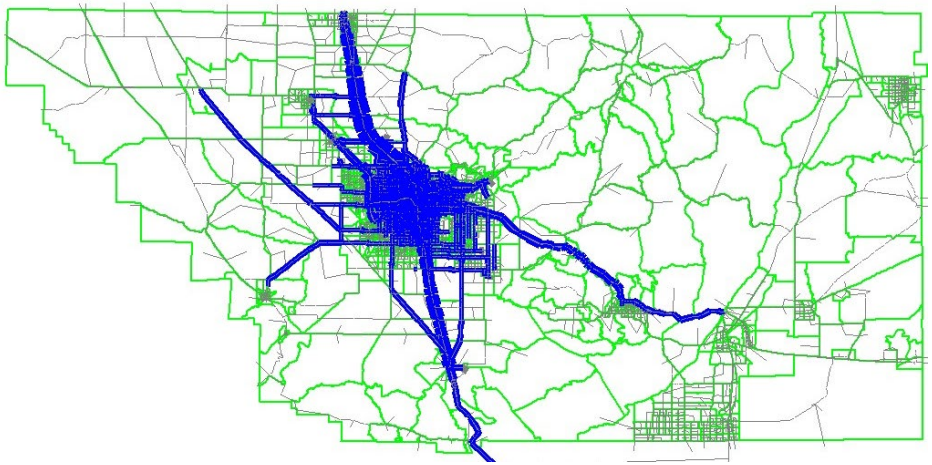
Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs) by Regional Statistical Areas (RSAs)



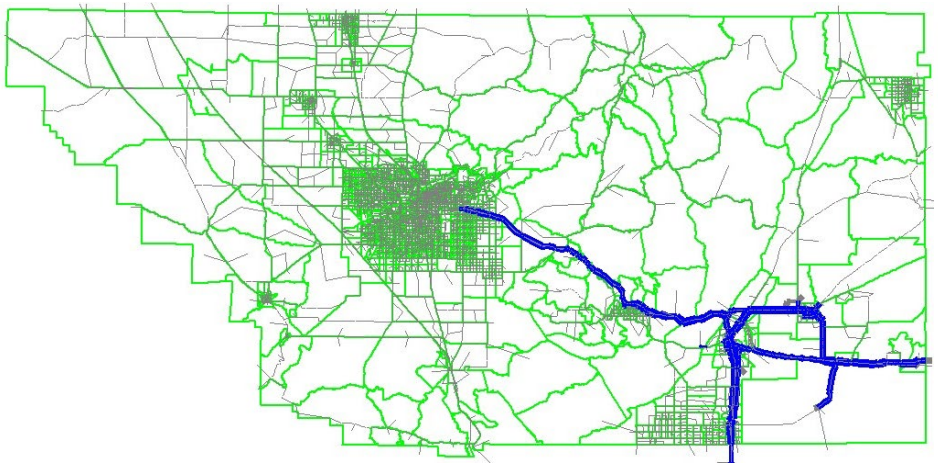
Greater Arvin



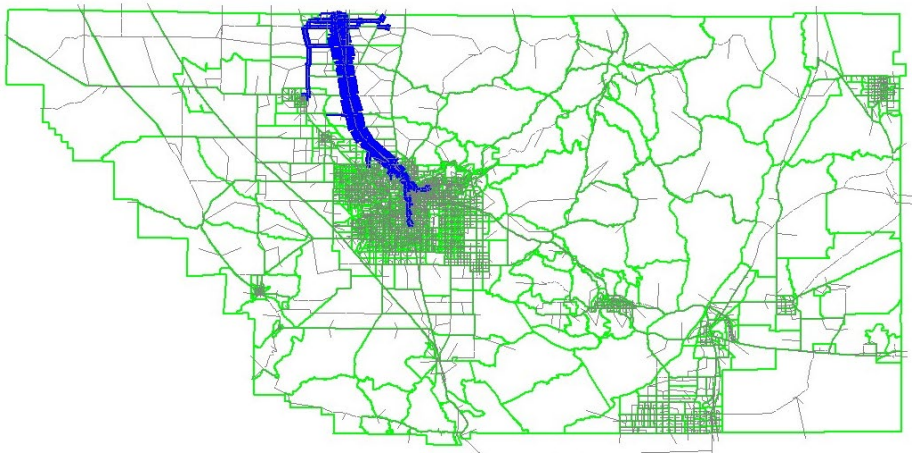
Greater Bakersfield



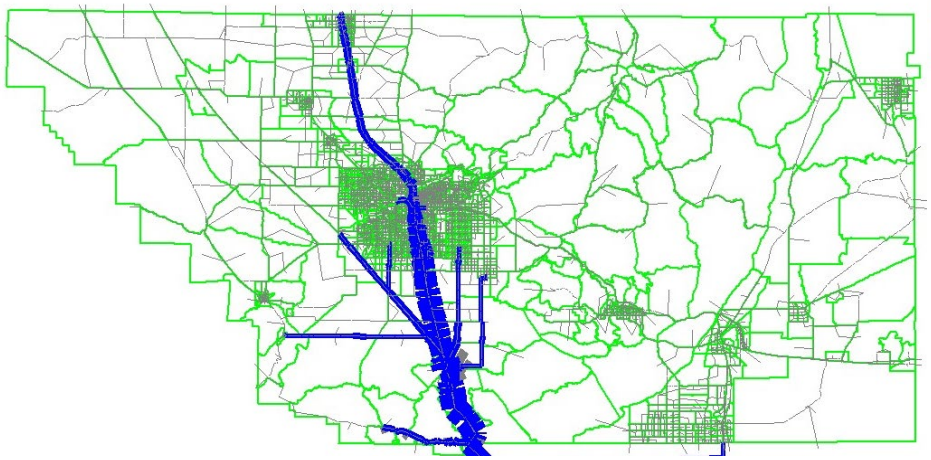
Greater California City / Mojave



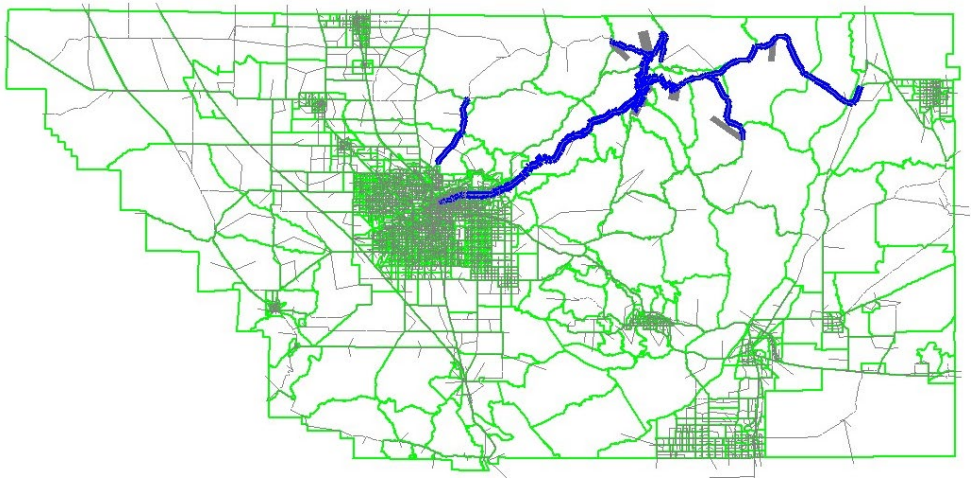
Greater Delano



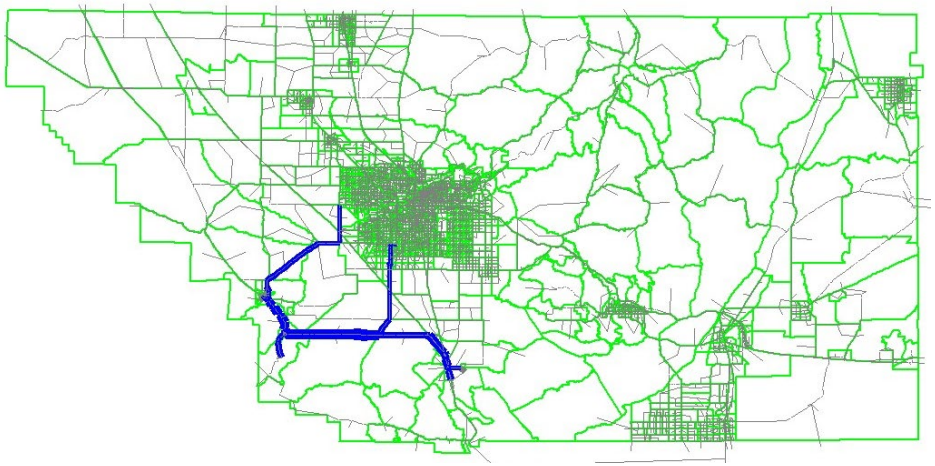
Greater Frasier Park



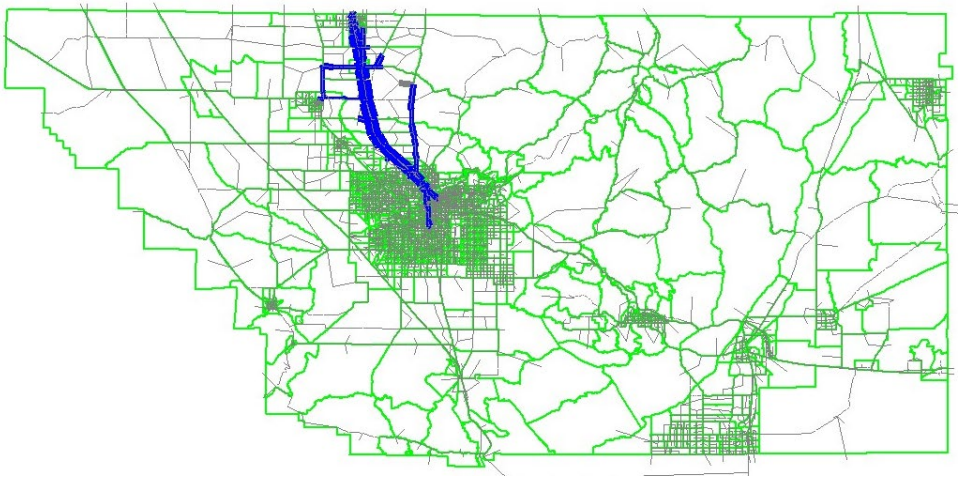
Greater Lake Isabella



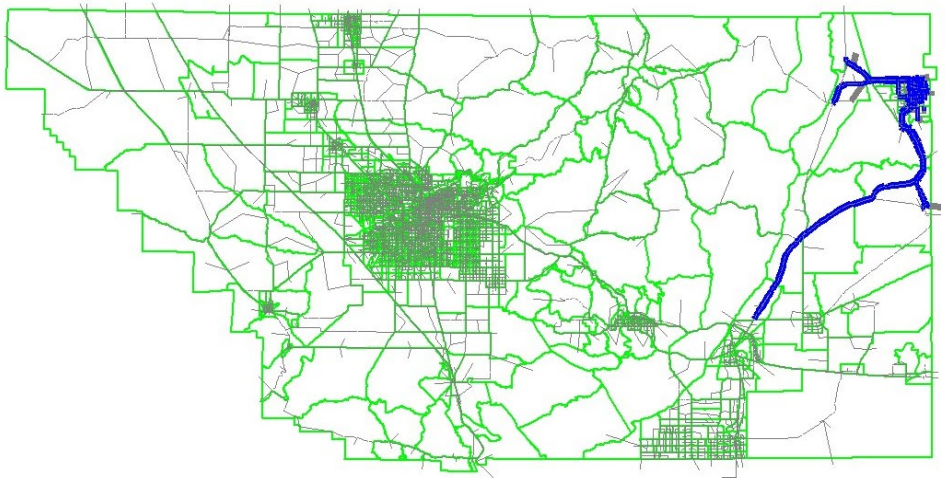
Greater Maricopa



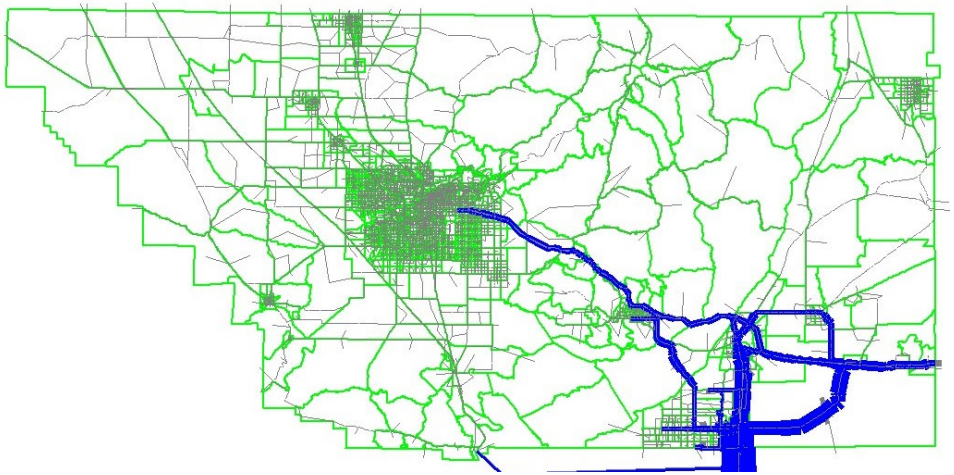
Greater McFarland



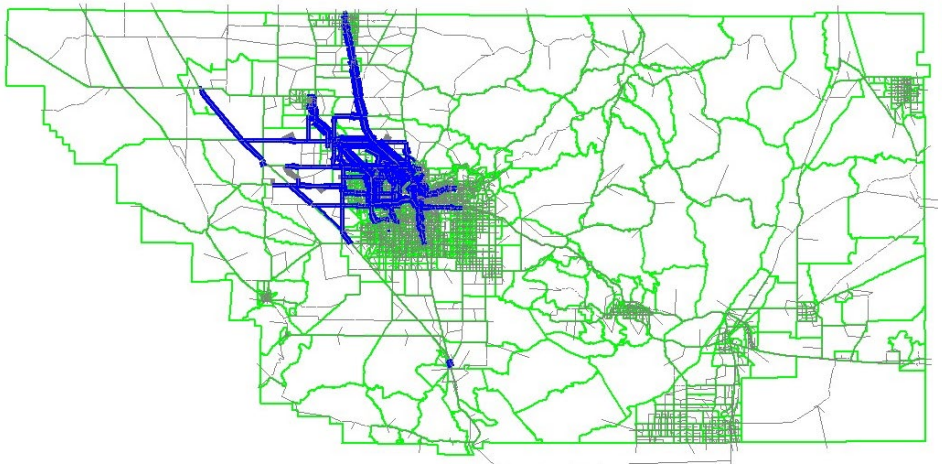
Greater Ridgecrest



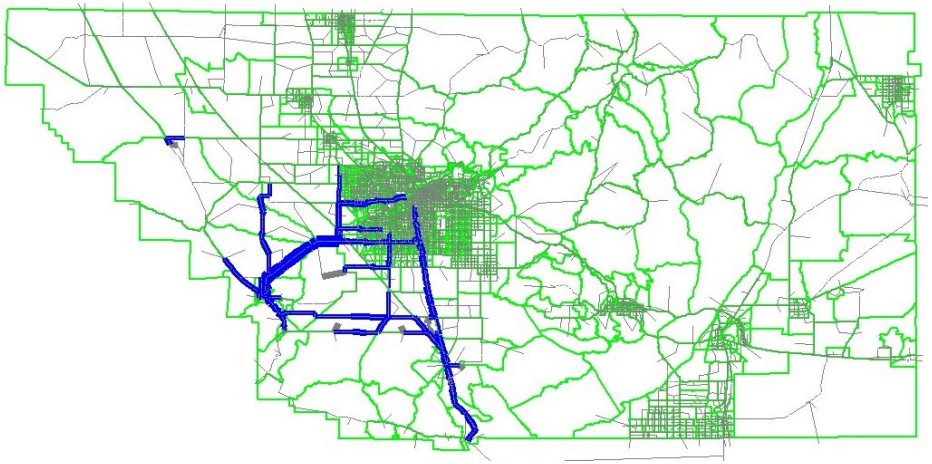
Greater Rosamond



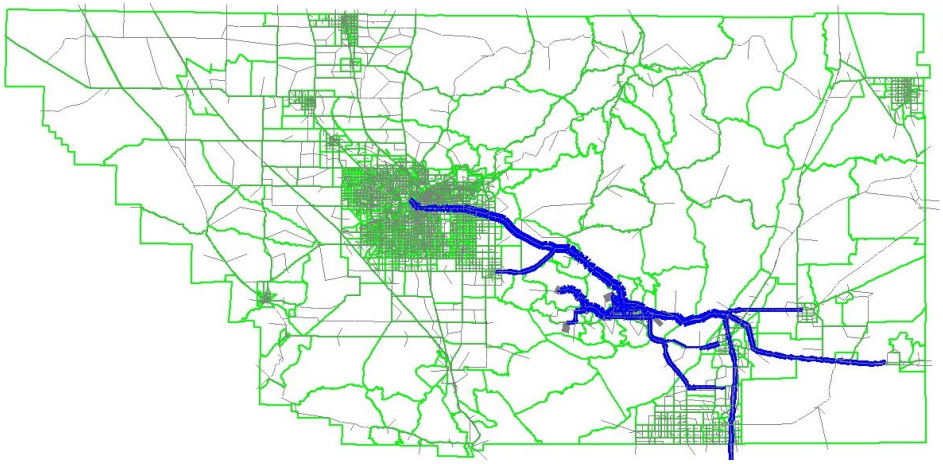
Greater Shafter



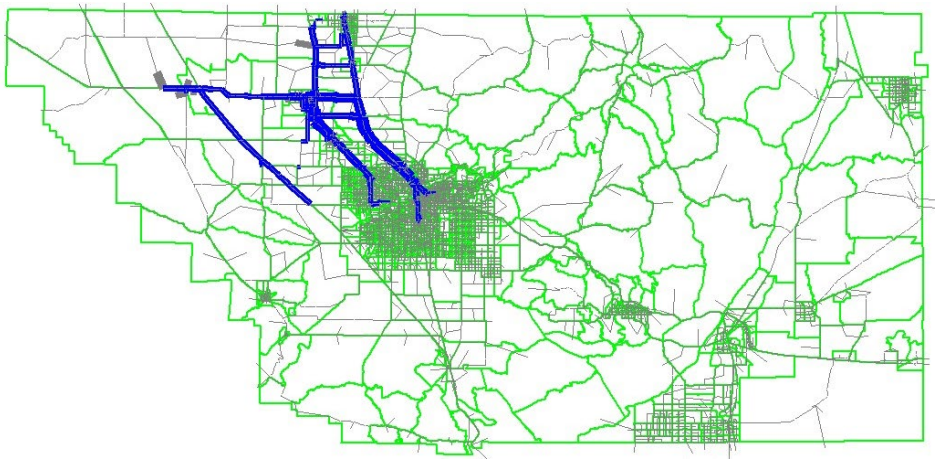
Greater Taft



Greater Tehachapi



Greater Wasco



Kern Council of Governments

September 25, 2025

TO: **REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

FROM: JAY SCHLOSSER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 1, 2025, MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE

The meeting of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 2025, has been cancelled.

The Cancellation Notice and information items can be found on the Kern COG website:

https://www.kerncog.org/rpac-meetings/

The next regularly scheduled meeting is November 5, 2025.

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

KERN COG BOARD ROOM **WEDNESDAY**
1401 19TH STREET, THIRD FLOOR **November 5, 2025**
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA **1:30 P.M.**

Dial +1 (312) 878-3080 https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/586617702
Access Code: 586-617-702

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 July 2, 2025.

IV. UPDATED: LEGISLATIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CHANGES ENACTED IN 2025 (Raymond)

Comment: Several substantial changes to housing law were passed into state law in the recent session including the Permit Streamlining Act, AB 130, SB 131, AB 893 and SB 79.

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.

Action: Information.

VI. MOBILITY INNOVATIONS AND INCENTIVES PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT (Romero Valdivia)

Comment: To help meet more stringent air standards, Kern COG promotes early deployment of alternative fuel vehicle technologies such as plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) and compressed natural gas-fueled vehicles. This report covers the period July 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025.

Action: Information.

VII. UPDATE – KERN COG TRAVEL MODEL: VALIDATION, CALIBRATION, AND SENSITIVITY TESTS

Comment: The Kern COG Travel model is updated every 3-5 years. The draft documentation on updates, validation, calibration and sensitivity tests of the Travel Model are available for review.

Action: Information.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

IX. MEMBER ITEMS

X. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, 2025. **May be dark.**

KERN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION MODELING COMMITTEE

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

WEDNESDAY
July 2, 2025
1:30 P.M.

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

I. ROLL CALL:

RPAC MEMBERS PRESENT:	Steve Esselman	Shafter
	Christine Chavez	Delano
	Paul Saldana	McFarland
	David Deels	Caltrans
KERN COG STAFF:	Becky Napier	Karl Davisson
	Rob Ball	Rochelle Invina-Jayasiri
	Ben Raymond	Ed Flickinger
OTHERS:	Andrea Nason	Caltrans

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 April 30, 2025

Committee Member Saldana made a motion to approve the minutes of April 30, 2025; seconded by Committee Member Deels, unanimously approved by voice vote.

IV. **REGIONAL GROWTH ALLOCATION** (Raymond)

Comment: Ben Raymond presented the status of the draft allocation of the Kern Regional Growth Forecast at the transportation analysis zone (TAZ) level for growth between thee year 2024-2045.

Action: Information.

V. **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.

VI. COMMUNITY AT LARGE VOTING MEMBER

Comment: Ms. Napier reported on the status of the recent recruitment activities for three Community At Large Voting Members. After discussion by the Committee, staff was directed to provide for another recruitment in the Fall of 2025.

Action: Information.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Community-Based Outreach Mini-Grant Program for the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan Sustainable Communities Strategy will begin on July 17, 2025.

VIII. MEMBER ITEMS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the RPAC is August 6, 2025 (**May be dark).**

Kern Council of Governments

IV.
RPAC

November 5, 2025

TO: Regional Planning Policy Committee

FROM: Jay Schlosser,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By: Karl Davisson, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Policy Committee: IV.
UPDATE: Legislative Housing Development Changes enacted in 2025.

DESCRIPTION:

Several substantial changes to housing law were passed into state law in the recent session including the Permit Streamlining Act, AB 130, SB 131, AB 893 and SB 79

DISCUSSION:

This discussion provides an overview on recent legislative activity related to housing laws signed into law in 2025. Three pieces of legislation, AB 130, SB 131 and SB 79 are garnering the most attention. AB 893 is also notable due to its potential to effect several member jurisdictions. We would ask that member agencies consult with their legal counsel about the legislation discussed below.

Summary of Key Legislation

SB 79 has generated substantial media. It applies only to “urban transit counties” (those with 15+ passenger rail stations), including Alameda, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara. SB 79 does not apply to Kern County.

AB130 was signed on June 30, 2025, with an urgency clause, AB 130 took effect July 1, 2025. It amends multiple codes (Civil, Government, Health & Safety, Public Resources, Revenue & Taxation, and Welfare & Institutions) and includes:

1) Freeze on statewide and local residential building code updates from **October 1, 2025, to June 1, 2031**. The 2025 Building Code will take effect January 1, 2026.
2) Removal of existing sunset dates, making several laws permanent:
    a. Housing Accountability Act
    b. Housing Crisis Act (SB 330)
    c. Permit Streamlining Act
    d. The Five-hearing limit
    e. Application checklist and preliminary application requirements

f. Starter Home Revitalization Act (SB 684 / SB 1123)

Most notable for this committee, AB 130 contains a revision to CEQA that creates a new type of full statutory exemption for qualifying housing projects and their related permits and public improvements. AB 130 does not have prerequisites related to affordability, transit adjacency or density. Workforce requirements only apply to projects over 85 feet tall or that are 100% affordable. AB 130 applies to counties as well as General Law and Charter cities. To qualify for an AB 130 exemption a housing project site must be:

1) Within a City or a US Census Bureau Urban Area
2) An infill site that is at least one of the following:
    a. Previously developed or
    b. 75% of the perimeter is developed with urban uses or
    c. 75% of the area within ¼ mile of existing developed uses or
    d. 3 of 4 sides are developed with existing urban uses
3) Project site is no greater than 20 acres.
4) Proposed project is consistent with the existing General Plan Land Use OR Zoning. The project need only be consistent with one.
5) Density must be at least 50 of the Housing Element Default density
6) No transient lodging (Hotels, Motels, etc)
7) Not in Prime Farmland
8) Specific requirements for Tribal Notification (future language clean-up is anticipated)
    a. within 14 days of "notification" (before 7/1/26) or deemed complete (after 7/1/26)
    b. Tribes must respond within 60 days of formal notice
    c. Jurisdiction has 14 days to start consultation after Tribal acceptance
    d. Jurisdiction has 45 days (plus a 15-day extension) to complete Tribal Consultation
9) **If the project qualifies for an AB 130 exemption, within 30 days of conclusion of Tribal consultation the jurisdiction MUST render a decision on the project**.
10) If a tribe immediately notifies an agency that it is not interested in consultation the project *must* be approved or disapproved within 45 days of that notification.

Additionally, at PRC §21080.44, AB130 creates a new optional, VMT mitigation strategy for lead agencies. If a project has a significant VMT impact under SB 743 that impact can now be mitigated by either:

1) Fund or facilitate qualified VMT-efficient affordable housing or related infrastructure projects, or
2) Starting July 1, 2026, contributing to the state's Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Implementation Fund, this is the much discussed "VMT Mitigation Bank".

AB 130 also tasks The Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (formerly OPR) with mapping "eligible urban infill sites" by July 1, 2027. Draft maps will be submitted to each county and city for comment and feedback prior to adoption. However, the criteria are not the same as those required to qualify for the new infill exemption. (PRC § 21083.03.)

SB 131 creates a concept referred to as a "Near Miss" for housing projects. A housing project that but for one, single condition (physical, regulatory feature, setting or effect on the environment) would have qualified for a statutory exemption or categorical exemption in classes 1-5, 12, 15,20,

27, 30 and 32 can qualify for a focused CEQA review (Initial Study, Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report) that only addresses the single condition that renders the project otherwise ineligible. Analysis of growth inducement and alternatives are specifically not required. Projects including oil and gas infrastructure and distribution centers are specifically prohibited from using the "near miss" analysis process.

The Permit Streamlining Act was revised to mandate that ministerial projects must be either approved or disapproved within 60 days of a "complete application".

AB 893 (GC §65912.101) effective January 1, 2026 creates a ½ mile radius "Campus Development Zones" within "commercial corridors" around the "main campus" of every Community College, CSU and UC statewide that allows by-right development of affordable housing projects for students or faculty at densities up to 80 units per acre. The project must be multifamily and meet specified objective standards. The law also specifies that once a project is deemed consistent with the objective standards the local government has 60 days to approve the project if it is less than 150 unit and 90 days to approve the project if over 150 units are proposed.

Again, we ask that member agencies consult with their legal counsel about the legislation discussed in this report.

Attachment**:** ABAG High-Level Summary of Key Provisions in AB 130 (2025) and SB 131 (2025)

ACTION: Information.

ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Technical Assistance
for Local Planning
HOUSING

DISCLAIMER: This guide is intended solely as a high-level summary of AB 130 (2025) and SB 131 (2025). It is not legal advice regarding any jurisdiction's specific policies or any proposed project. Local staff should consult with their city attorney or county counsel when determining how to implement these new pieces of legislation.

High-Level Summary of Key Provisions in AB 130 (2025) and SB 131 (2025)

Introduction

On June 30, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom signed two budget trailer bills—Assembly Bill (AB) 130 and Senate Bill (SB) 131—enacting some of the most significant reforms to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in recent history, along with a broad range of additional changes to land use and housing law. These provisions took effect immediately on July 1, 2025.

This document provides a high-level overview of AB 130 and SB 131 to help local government staff identify key issues and determine where deeper analysis may be needed. This resource is not exhaustive, but rather highlights provisions of particular relevance to planning, building, and housing staff. Additional technical assistance will be provided moving forward.

How to use this document:

- Green indicates an "action item."
- Yellow indicates information that "impacts your job."
- Blue indicates information that is "good to know."

Wherever colors are used, the text is labeled for accessibility.

New CEQA Exemptions

Urban Infill Housing Development Projects

AB 130 includes a new exemption from CEQA for certain urban infill housing development projects. The exemption, codified in Public Resources Code Section 21080.66, provides a complete exemption from CEQA for all aspects of a qualifying "housing development project," including any permits and public improvements required for the project. This exemption applies in all incorporated cities, including charter cities, and in unincorporated "urban areas." This new exemption offers broader eligibility and fewer barriers for qualifying projects than the existing Class 32 categorical infill exemption, although some projects may qualify for the Class 32 exemption that do not qualify for this exemption.

Key qualifying provisions include the following.

- **Housing Development Project:** This exemption applies only to a "housing development project," which is defined in Government Code Section 65589.5(h)(2) to include residential units (including single-family homes); mixed-use developments where at least two-thirds of the square footage is designated for residential use or 50 percent is designated for residential use when other conditions are met; transitional and supportive housing; and farmworker housing.
- **Location**: The project site must be within an incorporated city or unincorporated "urban area" as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- **Urban Infill**: The project site must be an urban infill site, which requires the project site to meet any of the following criteria: (1) has been previously developed with an urban use, (2) at least 75 percent of the perimeter of the site adjoins parcels that are developed with urban uses, (3) at least 75 percent of the area within one-quarter mile radius of the site is developed with urban uses, or (4) for sites with four sides, at least three of the four sides are developed with urban uses and at least two-thirds of the perimeter of the site adjoins parcels that are developed with urban uses.
- **Project Size:** Generally, the project site may be up to 20 acres (or 5 acres for "builder's remedy" projects).
- **Good to Know—Mapping of Eligible Infill Sites:** The Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (formerly OPR) is being tasked with mapping "eligible urban infill sites" by July 1, 2027. Draft maps will be submitted to each county and city for comment prior to adoption. However, the criteria are not the same as those required to qualify for the new infill exemption. (Public Resources Code Section 21083.03.)

- **Hazardous / Environmentally Sensitive Sites**: The project must meet Government Code Section 65913.4(a)(6) siting criteria, which generally prohibits projects in environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., certain areas within the coastal zone, habitat, wetlands, conservation lands) and requires mitigation measures for sites in hazardous areas (hazardous waste sites, floodways, floodplains, very high fire hazard areas, fault hazard zones).
- **Consistency:** The project must be consistent with the general plan, zoning, and local coastal program (if applicable) based on substantial evidence. If general plan and zoning are inconsistent, consistency with one is sufficient. Density bonuses, incentives, waivers, or reduced parking per State Density Bonus Law do not create an inconsistency.
- **Minimum Density:** The project must achieve at least one-half the default density, resulting in minimum densities of 10 or 15 units per acre for San Francisco Bay Area jurisdictions.
- **Historic Structures:** The project cannot involve the demolition of a historic structure that was listed on a national, state, or local historic register prior to the filing of a preliminary application.
- **Transient Lodging:** If the project is "deemed complete" under Government Code Section 65589.5(h)(5) after January 1, 2025, no portion of the housing project can be used for a hotel, motel, bed and breakfast, or other transient lodging (excluding residential hotels).

Agencies must apply certain conditions of approval.

- **Freeway Proximity**: Specified conditions apply if the housing is within 500 feet of a freeway.
- **Environmental Assessment:** A Phase I environmental assessment is required as a condition of approval for development. If a "recognized environmental condition" is found, a more detailed preliminary endangerment assessment is required to identify any hazardous substance release. Any identified release must be remediated to meet federal and state standards before a certificate of occupancy can be issued.
- **belowLabor Requirements.** This exemption is tied to specific labor requirements for projects that meet any one of the following criteria: they are 100 percent dedicated to lower income households, are over 85 feet in height, or are other specified projects in San Francisco. **Good to Know:** These labor requirements are not expected to significantly limit project eligibility.

- **Action Item:** Prepare standard conditions of approval for projects that qualify for this exemption.

Agencies must also comply with processing requirements, including requirements for tribal consultation that specifically apply to projects that qualify for this exemption.

- **Tribal Notification.** For projects "deemed complete" before July 1, 2026, a local government must notify Native American tribes within 14 days of receiving a notification that the project is eligible to be exempt. "Deemed complete" means either that the project has submitted a preliminary application containing all required elements, or, if a preliminary application was not submitted, that the project application was found complete under the Permit Streamlining Act. The tribal notification must be provided by certified mail and email and contain specified information.
- **Action Item:** Local governments should prepare application forms listing the requirements for this exemption and requiring that applicants notifying the agency provide substantial evidence that the project is eligible for the exemption.
- **Tribal Consultation.** Each tribe has 60 days to notify the local government that it wishes to be consulted, and the local government must initiate the consultation within 14 days after each tribal notification. The consultation must be completed in 45 days, with one 15-day extension possible if requested by the tribe.
- **Conditions of Approval.** Certain conditions of approval must be applied, unless both the tribe and applicant agree that they will not be applied, and any enforceable agreement in addition to those conditions must be signed by the applicant, local government, and the tribe.
- **Impacts Your Job:** Projects qualifying for this exemption must be approved or disapproved by the lead agency within 30 days from the conclusion of the tribal consultation. (Gov. Code Section 65950(a)(7).) This translates to approximately 45 to 178 days from the date of notification. (The shortest timeline would result if a tribe immediately notified an agency that it was not interested in consultation.) See Table 1 below for further information on the applicable timelines.

Table 1. Tribal Consultation Timeline for Urban Infill Housing CEQA Exemption

Timeline	Required Actions and Details
Within 14 days of: • The application being deemed complete, OR • For projects deemed complete before July 1, 2026, receiving notice that the project is eligible for the exemption	The local government must formally notify, via certified mail and email, each California Native American tribe traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project site. This notification serves as an invitation to consult on the proposed project, its location, and its potential effects on tribal cultural resources. Public Resources Code Section 21080.66(b) specifies the required contents of this notification.
60 days from formal notification	California Native American tribes have 60 days to accept consultation invitation. If the tribes decline or fail to respond within 60 days, the consultation is considered concluded.
Within 14 days of tribal acceptance	The local government must initiate the consultation process with that tribe.
45 days from consultation initiation (plus optional 15-day extension)	The consultation must conclude within 45 days of initiation, subject to a one-time 15-day extension upon request by a participating California Native American tribe.
Within 30 days from conclusion of consultation	The public agency that is the lead agency for a development project must approve or disapprove the project (or it is deemed approved). The timeline does not include appeals.

Other New / Expanded CEQA Exemptions

Housing Element Rezoning

- **New CEQA Exemption:** CEQA does not apply to a rezoning that implements the schedule of actions contained in an approved Housing Element. This could include not only rezoning to increase densities on sites designated for lower income housing, but also all other changes in zoning contemplated by the Housing Element, such as increases in height, parking reductions, and increased density in single-family areas. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.085.)
- **Exclusions**: This exemption does not apply to rezoning that allows construction within any "natural and protected lands" as defined in the new Section 21067.5, except that rezoning of prime farmland is eligible for the exemption if included in the Housing Element's schedule of actions. If a site designated for rezoning includes both "natural and protected lands" and areas not included in that definition, the exemption will apply if the rezoning excludes the natural and protected lands.

"Near Miss" Projects

- **Narrowed CEQA Analysis:** For housing development projects that would otherwise be exempt from CEQA under all statutory exemptions or specified categorical exemptions adopted before January 1, 2026, "but for a single condition," CEQA review is limited solely to the environmental effects caused by that single condition. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.1).
- **Scope:** An initial study, Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for a housing development project that qualifies for this narrowed analysis must only examine effects that, based upon substantial evidence in the record, are caused solely by the single condition that disqualifies the project from the CEQA exemption. In addition, an EIR is not required to include any discussion of alternatives to or the growth-inducing impacts of the housing development project.
- **Good to know:** "Condition" is defined as a physical or regulatory feature of the project or its setting or an effect upon the environment caused by the project. What constitutes a single "condition" may be subject to dispute and legal review.
- **Exclusions:** This narrowed CEQA analysis does not apply to projects located on natural and protected lands (as defined in the new Section 21067.5), except that it may apply to a project located in a very high fire hazard severity zone. It also does not apply to a housing project that is not similar in kind to the projects listed in the exemption, or to a

housing development project with two or more conditions that would make the project ineligible for one of the identified exemptions.

Exemptions for Certain Community-Serving and Infrastructure Projects

A number of CEQA exemptions for certain community-serving and infrastructure projects were added or expanded in SB 131, including the following.

- **Day Care Centers:** For certain day care centers that are not located in a residential area or on natural or protected lands. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.69(a)(1).)
- **Rural Health Clinic or Federally Qualified Health Center:** For facilities as defined that are less than 50,000 square feet and are not on natural or protected lands. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.69(a)(2).)
- **Nonprofit Food Bank or Food Pantry:** For projects located on a site that is zoned exclusively for industrial uses and is not on natural or protected lands. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.69(a)(3).)
- **Advanced Manufacturing:** For projects located on a site that is zoned exclusively for industrial uses and is not on natural or protected lands. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.69(a)(4).)
- **Agricultural Employee Housing:** For new agricultural employee housing projects that meet specified criteria and are owned or operated by a public or nonprofit entity or that are the recipient of certain state, federal, or local public funding. Also, for projects consisting exclusively of repair or maintenance of existing farmworker housing. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.44.)
- **Community Water System Projects:** For projects as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21080.47 that receive funding from certain sources; do not otherwise include any construction activities; will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and meet other specified requirements. This exemption remains in effect until January 1, 2030. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.48.)
- **Wildfire Risk Reduction Projects:** For projects that include fuel breaks, defensible space fire clearance, the re-establishment of fire intervals, or certain other wildfire reduction strategies that meet specified requirements. The project cannot exceed 50 contiguous acres and must be located within one-half mile of a subdivision with at least 30 units. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.49).
- **Broadband:** Expands existing exemption for linear broadband deployment in a right-of-way to include a right-of-way of a local street or road. Also removes certain limitations

(e.g., on funding sources) that previously applied. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.51.)

- **Public Park/Nonmotorized Trail Facilities:** For activities or approvals necessary for or incidental to planning, design, site acquisition, construction, operation, or maintenance of public park or nonmotorized recreational trail facilities funded by a specified source. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.57.)
- **High-Speed Rail Projects:** For the development, construction, or operation of heavy maintenance or other maintenance facilities for electrically powered high-speed rail, if conditions are met. Also, for the development, construction, or modification of a proposed passenger rail station, or design changes to a station, for serving electrically powered high-speed rail, if conditions are met. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.70.)

Additional CEQA Provisions

New Strategies to Mitigate Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

AB 130 creates a new, optional strategy for lead agencies to mitigate significant transportation impacts under CEQA.

- **New Mitigation Strategy:** If a project is determined to have a significant Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) impact, a lead agency may now mitigate this impact to less than significant by (1) helping to fund or otherwise facilitating qualified VMT-efficient affordable housing or related infrastructure projects, or (2) contributing to the state's Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Implementation Fund, starting July 1, 2026. The use of these new mitigation strategies is not mandatory, and other mitigation measures may be used as well. (Public Resources Code Section 21080.44.[1])

[1] Public Resources Code section 21080.44 was added by both AB 130 (Stats. 2025, Ch. 22) and SB 131 (Stats. 2025, Ch. 24), with each bill adding a substantively different version of the section. This citation refers to the version of Section 21080.44 added by AB 130. **However, as SB 131 was chaptered later and therefore has precedence, AB 130's version of Public Resources Code Section 21080.44 may not be operative.** The Legislature is aware of this conflict and is expected to address it.

- **Implementation:** The Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation will develop guidance on methodologies for determining appropriate funding levels, identifying qualified projects, and estimating VMT reductions. This guidance is expected by July 1, 2026.
- **Good to Know:** This provides a more flexible, and potentially faster, alternative to traditional on-site or localized VMT mitigation measures.

Limiting the Administrative Record

- **Narrowing of Scope of Administrative Record:** Internal agency communications (e.g., emails) that were not presented to the final decision-making body or to an administrative official in a supervisory role who is reviewing the project may be excluded from the administrative record. (Public Resources Code Section 21167.6(e)(1)(B).)
- **Exclusions:** This provision does not apply to projects that include a distribution center or oil and gas infrastructure.

Permit Streamlining Act (PSA)

AB 130 amends the Permit Streamlining Act (PSA)—which requires local government agencies to adhere to strict time limits for reviewing and approving or disapproving development project applications—in ways that further expedite the processing of housing development projects.

- **Impacts Your Job—Expanded Definition of "Development Project":** The definition of "development project" that is subject to the PSA has been amended to include any ministerial housing development project requiring an entitlement permit, but excludes post-entitlement phase permits. (Government Code Section 65928.) However, the PSA already required review of all housing development projects for completeness, including ministerial projects. (Government Code Section 65943(g).)
- **Impacts Your Job—Revised Approval Timeline for Ministerial Projects:** For ministerial projects, public agencies must now approve or disapprove an application within 60 days of receiving a complete application (with the exception of projects using AB 2011, The Affordable Housing and High Road Jobs Act of 2022, which concerns affordable and mixed-income housing in commercial zones. (Government Code Section 65950(a)(6).) This provision effectively replaces the longer timelines in other sections providing ministerial review, such as Government Code Section 65913.4 (SB 35), which allowed 90 to 180 days to make a decision on a project.

- **Impacts Your Job—Approval Timeline for Urban Infill CEQA Exemption Projects**: For projects that qualify for the urban housing infill CEQA exemption, public agencies must approve or disapprove an application within 30 days of the conclusion of the tribal consultation process (or specified environmental assessments). (Government Code Section 65950(a)(7).)
- **Impacts Your Job— "Deemed Approved" Process Simplified:** If a public agency fails to approve or disapprove a project within the required PSA timelines, the application will be automatically "deemed approved." The previous requirement for public notice prior to an application being deemed approved has been removed. (Government Code Section 65956.)
- **Timeframe Precedence:** The PSA timeframes apply only if they are equal to or shorter than any other applicable time limits. (Government Code Section 65953.)
- **Action Item:** Local government staff should take note of these tight timelines and develop strategies and processes with internal stakeholders to meet them. Note that a one-time extension of up to 90 days may be granted by mutual agreement of the applicant and the local government. (Government Code Section 65957.)

Other Major Land Use and Housing Reforms

Housing Accountability Act

AB 130 removes several sunset dates from the Housing Accountability Act (HAA), effectively making certain provisions permanent unless amended in the future, including the following.

- **Definitions.** The definitions of terms including "deemed complete," determined to be complete," and "objective" will now remain in effect indefinitely. (Government Code Section 65589.5(h).)
- **Applicable Rules.** The provision stating that housing development projects are subject to only the ordinances, policies, and standards in effect at the time that the preliminary application was submitted has been made permanent. (Government Code Section 65589.5(o).)
- **Court Order to Correct Action.** The requirement that a court must issue an order to correct an action in cases where a local agency requires a housing development project to comply with an ordinance or standard not in effect when the preliminary application was filed now remains in effect indefinitely. (Government Code Section 65589.5(k).)

Housing Crisis Act (SB 330)

AB 130 removes several sunset dates that were imposed as part of SB 330, making certain provisions permanent, including the following.

- **Housing Crisis Act Sunset Date Removed.** The Housing Crisis Act now remains in effect permanently, due to the deletion of Government Code Section 66301.
- **Hearing Limit**: Local agencies are now permanently prohibited from requiring more than five public hearings (including continuances and appeals) on a housing development project that complies with the applicable, objective general plan and zoning standards in effect at the time the application is deemed complete. (Government Code Section 65905.5.)
- **Required Completeness List.** Local governments are now permanently required to include on their application forms the information needed to determine replacement housing requirements, to limit completeness comments to those on application forms, to limit completeness comments on resubmittals to those raised in the first comment letter, and to comply with other requirements. (Government Code Sections 65940 and 65943.)
- **Preliminary Application.** The provision authorizing a housing development proponent to submit a preliminary application and requiring a local government to determine the completeness of that preliminary application is in effect indefinitely. (Government Code Section 65941.1.)

Affordable Housing on Faith and Higher Education Lands (SB 4)

Changes were made to SB 4 (Government Code Section 65913.16), which established a ministerial approval process for 100 percent affordable housing on land owned by religious and certain higher education institutions, including the following.

- **Child Care Ancillary Use.** There is no limit on the number of children who can be served by child care centers that are eligible for approval by right as an ancillary use on the ground floor. (Government Code Section 65913.16(h).)
- **Parking Requirements.** AB 130 removes the parking requirement for nonresidential space, requiring the proposed development to provide up to one space per unit, unless a state law or local ordinance requires fewer spaces. (Government Code Section 65913.16(i) & (k).)
- **Height Limits.** SB 4 previously provided that a housing development may be one story above the maximum height otherwise applicable to the parcel. This has been amended

to provide that the housing development may be up to one story or 11 feet above the otherwise applicable height limit. (Government Code Section 65913.16(j).)

Starter Home Revitalization Act of 2021 (SB 684 / SB 1123)

Changes were made to SB 684 / SB 1123, which established a ministerial approval process for subdividing a parcel into 10 or fewer residential parcels containing 10 or fewer residential units. These changes include the following.

- **Remainder Parcels**: Authorizes proposed subdivision to designate a remainder parcel that retains existing land uses/structures, does not contain new residential units, and is not exclusively dedicated to serving the housing development project. Remainder parcels do not count against the 10-parcel maximum for ministerial review and are excluded from residential density calculations. (Government Code Section 66499.41(a).)
- **Sale/Lease/Finance Restrictions**: A parcel from an SB 684 or SB 1123 subdivision is generally restricted from being sold, leased, or financed separately, unless the parcel satisfies one of four criteria. However, local agencies may override this prohibition via ordinance or map condition. (Government Code Section 66499.41(e).)

Surplus Land Act

- **School District Exemptions Removed from the Act:** Property previously considered "exempt surplus land" for school districts must now follow the standard Surplus Land Act disposal procedures. (Government Code Section 54221(f).)

Accessory Dwelling Units

- **Exception for Certain Local Standards Eliminated**: AB 130 removed a provision in State ADU law (Government Code Section 66323(g)) that stated that if a local agency had adopted an ordinance before July 1, 2018 to ministerially approve ADUs in multifamily dwelling structures, it could impose objective standards on ADUs (such as design, development, and historic standards, but not minimum lot size).
- **Action Item:** Jurisdictions applying pre-July 1, 2018 objective standards to multifamily ADUs may need to amend their ordinance to comply with current state law and HCD guidance.

Residential Building Standards Freeze

AB 130 adds several provisions that limit the ability to make modifications to the California Building Standards Code relating to residential units, including the following.

- **Local Amendments Restriction:** From October 1, 2025, to June 1, 2031, a city or county is generally prohibited from making changes to provisions that are published in the California Building Standards Code and that apply to residential units unless certain conditions are met (e.g., deemed necessary by the California Building Standards Commission as emergency standards to protect health and safety). (Health & Safety Code Sections 17958, 17958.5, 17958.7, 18941.5.)
- **Building Code Amendment Restriction**. Similarly, from October 1, 2025, to June 1, 2031, the California Building Standards Commission is generally prohibited from making changes to provisions that are published in the California Building Standards Code and that apply to residential units unless certain conditions are met (e.g., deemed necessary as emergency standards to protect health and safety). (Health & Safety Code Sections 18929.1 and 18930.) Note that the 2025 version of the Building Code will go into effect as expected on January 1, 2026.

Homeless Shelters

AB 130 adds provisions to the Health and Safety Code regarding the regulation of homeless shelters, including as follows.

- **Annual Inspections.** Cities and counties are required to perform an annual inspection of every homeless shelter in their jurisdiction, announced or unannounced. (Health & Safety Code Section 17974.1.)
- **Occupants Rights Notice.** Homeless shelters must prominently display information about an occupant's rights and the complaints process as well as provide written notice to new occupants during intake. (Health & Safety Code Sections 17974.1, 17974.1.5, 17974.5.)
- **Reporting Requirements.** Cities and counties must report the number of complaints received by the city or county, including whether no complaints were received, in the annual report submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency by April 1st of each year. (Health & Safety Code Section 17974.5.)
- **Action Item:** Cities and counties should take note of the above-listed requirements and update procedures to ensure compliance.

Upcoming Resources

- **Webinar:** The Regional Housing Technical Assistance (RHTA) Program will be holding a webinar on August 12, 2025 at 10 a.m. to review AB 130, SB 131, and their implications. Click here to register.
- **Urban Infill Housing CEQA Exemption Memo:** The RHTA Program will be publishing a detailed analysis of the urban infill housing CEQA exemption contained in AB 130.
- **Office Hours:** The Regional Housing Technical Assistance consultant team will be offering office hours.

Kern Council of Governments

V.
RPAC

November 5, 2025

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: JAY SCHLOSSER,

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. The Regional Planning Advisory Committee has reviewed this item.

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.

October 10th & October 20th – Mini-Grant Stakeholder Hosted RTP/SCS Workshops were held by Bike Bakersfield in downtown Bakersfield and CRPE in Delano.

September 17-28, 2025 – Received input from over 1000 people at the Kern County Fair booth on the development pattern scenarios for the 2026 RTP.

August 6, 2025 – Kern Regional Transportation Modeling Committee met to review Kern Travel Model validation and documentation for the 2026 RTP/SCS. Information is posted on Kern COG website under RPAC agendas.

May 21st – June 4th, 2025 – Kern COG hosted four hybrid (in-person/online) community workshops and three online workshops collecting input on the KARGO Community Prosperity/Protection

Study and Freight related projects for the RTP/SCS. Workshops were held in Arvin, California City, Keene, and Shafter.

May 13, 2025 – CARB formally adopted their determination that Kern COG's 2022 RTP/SCS, when implemented, would achieve the SB 375 Target Reductions by 2035. In June 2023, Kern COG had received an email from CARB to notify that the 2022 SCS was "officially approved."

April 23, 2025 – SB 375 Target Setting Update – Kern COG staff is participating in a workshop hosted by California Air Resources Board (ARB) for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to discuss SB 375 Target Updates and other SB 375 program-related items.

April 17, 2025 – Kern COG Annual Statistically Valid Community Survey was conducted in January. Survey results have been compiled and presented to the Kern COG board at the April Board Meeting. Results of the Annual Community Survey are available on Kern COG's website.

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 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 for the Kern Area Regional Goods-movement Operations (KARGO) Study, which will feed into the 2026 RTP and include additional outreach events to collect input of the study and development of the 2026 RTP. 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 update 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 - At the quarterly SJV Inter-Agency Consultation meeting, ARB staff announced that the SCSs for Kern, Stanislaus, and Tulare COGs have been approved 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.

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 Kern COG TPPC staff report and transmittal letter to ARB with a request for the Kern COG Chair to sign. Approved by the Board on May 18, 2023, the letter documents technical changes that do not affect the adopted RTP/SCS text or conclusions and includes updates from the November 2022 SCS technical data submittal per ARB guidelines.

May 1, 2023 – Kern COG circulated the draft Public Involvement Procedure for a 45-day public review ending June 15. The Executive Director and other San Joaquin Valley COG directors also met with ARB's SJV representative, where staff indicated Kern was close to an acceptance finding for its 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 it be approved by the Kern COG Board and have Kern COG's chair's signature.

April 17, 2023 – Kern COG web conferenced with ARB staff for the 14th time in 3 years to discuss the 2022 SCS technical methodology. 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.

Preliminary Timeline 2026 RTP/SCS

- ~~June 2023 – Update Public Involvement Procedure~~
- ~~July 2023 - Stakeholder roundtable process to vet outreach and performance measures~~
- ~~April 2024 – Regional Growth Forecast Update~~
- ~~June 11, 2024, – Bakersfield Downtown Transit Ctr. – LRT Plan Update walk-up event~~
- ~~July-August 2024 KARGO Study RTP/SCS Freight Outreach Events~~
- ~~April 2025 - Annual Statistically Valid Community Phone Surveys~~
- ~~May 2025 - KARGO Study RTP/SCS Freight Outreach Events~~
- ~~August 6, 2025 – Transportation Modeling Committee Special Meeting~~
- ~~August 23-24, 2025 – 2026 RTP/SCS Outreach at Tehachapi Mountain Festival~~
- ~~August 29, 2025 – Mini-Grants Applications Due~~
- ~~September 17-28, 2025 – 2026 RTP/SCS Outreach at Kern County Fair~~
- ~~September each year – Technical Assistance Requests to Kern COG Due~~
- ~~October 18, 2025 – 2026 RTP/SCS Outreach at Oildorado Days in Taft~~
- November 1st 2025 – 2026 RTP/SCS Outreach at Regional Hoop Dance Championship in Ridgecrest
- November 8th, 2025 – 2026 RTP/SCS Outreach at Riverlakes Farmers Market, Bakersfield
- Fall 2025 – Mini-Grant Stakeholder Hosted RTP/SCS Workshops (see attached flyer)
- Spring 2023 to Spring 2026 – RTP/SCS Public Outreach Process
- Spring 2023 to Spring 2026 – Annual Statistically Valid Community Phone Surveys
- Fall 2023 to Fall 2025 – Fairs/Festivals/Farmer's Market Outreach
- Summer 2026 Adopt RTP/SCS, EIR and associated documents.

Attachment: Kern COG RTP/SCS Outreach Event Flyer (English/Spanish)
ACTION: Information only.

Kern Council of Governments

WE WILL BE OUT IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Kern COG will be collecting input for our 2026 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS). We have collected 7,100 responses, and we still need yours!



COME VISIT US HERE:

AUG 23-24	Tehachapi Mountain Festival
SEPT 17-28	Kern County Fair in Bakersfield (Exhibit Building 2)
OCT 10 6:30PM	RTP/SCS Workshop with Bike Bakersfield at Café Smitten (parking lot) - 915 18th Street, Bakersfield
OCT 18	Taft Oildorado Days - 4th & Supply Rd, Taft
OCT 20 6:00PM	RTP/SCS Workshop with Center on Race, Poverty & The Environment at CRPE Office - 1012 Jefferson St, Delano
NOV 1	AkaMya Culture Group - 1st Annual Regional Hoop Dance Championship - Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S Richmond St, Ridgecrest
NOV 6 6:00PM	RTP/SCS Workshop with FARO Church - 500 Campus Drive, Arvin
NOV 8 9:00AM	Riverlakes Farmers Market at Centennial High School - 8601 Hageman Road, Bakersfield
NOV 13 4:00PM	RTP/SCS Workshop with City of Wasco Police Activities League (PAL) Program - 1276 Birch Ave, Wasco



Visit our website or scan the QR code for more details:
kerncog.org/2026-rtp/

Kern Council of Governments

¡VAMOS A ESTAR EN TU COMUNIDAD!

Kern COG estará recopilando opiniones para nuestro Plan de Transporte Regional (RTP) 2026 y Estrategias de Comunidades Sostenibles (SCS). Hemos recopilado 7,100 respuestas y aún necesitamos la tuya!



VEN A VISITARNOS:

AGO 23-24	Tehachapi Mountain Festival
SEPT 17-28	Feria del Condado de Kern en Bakersfield (Edificio de Exposiciones)
OCT 10 6:30PM	RTP/SCS Taller con Bike Bakersfield en el estacionamiento de Café Smitten - 915 18th Street, Bakersfield
OCT 18	Taft Oildorado Days - 4th & Supply Rd, Taft
OCT 20 6:00PM	RTP/SCS Taller con Center On Race, Poverty & The Environment en la officina de CRPE - 1012 Jefferson St, Delano
NOV 1	AkaMya Grupo Cultural - Primer Campeonato Regional Anual de Danza del Aro - Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S Richmond St, Ridgecrest
NOV 6 6:00PM	RTP/SCS Taller con Iglesia FARO - 500 Campus Drive, Arvin
NOV 8 9:00AM	Riverlakes Farmers Market en Centennial High School - 8601 Hageman Road, Bakersfield
NOV 13 4:00PM	RTP/SCS Taller con La Cuidad de Wasco- Liga de Actividades Policiales (PAL) Programa - 1276 Birch Ave, Wasco



Visita nuestro sito de web o escanea nuestro código QR para mas detalles:
kerncog.org/2026-rtp/

Kern Council of Governments

VI.
RPAC

November 5, 2025

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: Jay Schlosser,
Executive Director

By: Victoria Romero Valdivia, Regional Planner
Irene Enriquez, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Advisory Committee Item: VI.
Mobility Innovations and Incentives Program - Status Report

DESCRIPTION:
To help meet more stringent air standards, Kern COG promotes early deployment of alternative fuel vehicle technologies such as plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) and compressed natural gas-fueled vehicles. This report covers the period July 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025.

DISCUSSION:

Kern EV Charging Spaces: Please find the most recent charging space inventory by zip code attached to this staff report. The report shows that as of September 30, 2025, there is a 279.20% increase in charging spaces (1,181 spaces) throughout Kern County over the July 2016 base month and year, when Kern COG began tracking electric vehicle charging spaces. Six new locations have been identified in this reporting period, adding 131 charging spaces.

EV Ready Communities:

- Kern COG Staff completed written reports to the CEC and participated in monthly calls with the CEC Contract Agreement Manager.

- EV Charging Stations in ten locations throughout Kern County: Five sites have completed installation. The sites include City of Arvin, California City, McFarland, City of Taft, and Wasco. Ribbon-cutting celebrations will be rolled out as stations open. During this period, delays in electrical installations, parts, permits, and location site readiness have served to delay several of the site openings. Kern COG is working with all the station hosts to complete deliverables by December 2025.

- Workforce Development: Kern Community College District reports a second EV Training class started March 13, 2024, at Bakersfield College. They are researching a more robust TESLA program and are currently in negotiations. Kern Community College District reports that a replacement off-grid charging station has been received from the vendor.

- Kern EVCS Blueprint Update: The EV Ready Communities funding is being used to implement the 2024 EVCS Blueprint. A five-year update to the Blueprint is scheduled to be completed in

2026. DKS Associates held a stakeholder meeting on September 16, 2025, to provide an update on future EV infrastructure demand forecasts, siting analysis criteria, and current gap analysis. The last stakeholder meeting will be held November 6, 2025.

Fast Charge California Project - The California Energy Commission is accepting applications for its Fast Charge California Project Program, which provides incentives for purchasing and installing eligible direct current (DC) fast chargers. To be considered for a rebate, applications must have a minimum of 50% CCS connectors installed for incentive funding. There is an extension for applications till January 29, 2026. For more information about the program, please review the program guidelines and application.

Here is a link to the program: https://calevip.org/fast-charge-california-project

Participation in committees and workgroups

Kern COG staff participated in monthly or quarterly meetings held by several working group committees as time and schedule allowed, including the

- **Kern COG EV Blue Print Virtual Stakeholder Meeting # 2**

Upcoming activities:

Tune In Tune Up – Valley Clean Air Now (CAN) will be hosting a free smog repair event. Below are dates and locations for the events . All community members are welcome to this event. Please see the link below for more information.

Bakersfield: November 15, 2025 – Kern County Fairgrounds at 7:45 A.M.-11:45 A.M.

Tune In Tune Up: Smog Events – Valley CAN

Third Stakeholder meeting of the EV Charging Station Blueprint at 10:00 A.M., Thursday November 6, 2025(Virtual). See attached.

If member agencies are interested in identifying funds for a specific project, Kern COG staff may be able to assist you. Please contact Irene Enriquez, Regional Planner at ienriquez@kerncog.org.

ATTACHMENT**:** Kern County Electric Vehicle Public Charging Spaces Report by Zip Code Report, EV Blue Print Save the Date Flyer

ACTION: Information.

Kern County Electric Vehicle Public Charging Spaces by Zip Code

November 2025 Report

Kern Council of Governments has set a goal of 4,000 electric vehicle charging spaces in Kern County by 2025. This report shows a 279.20% increase (1,181) in the number of charging spaces compared to the baseline inventory established July 2016. This represents an increase of 131 spaces (8.89%) over the July 2025 report of 1,473 spaces. Highlighted numbers reflect updates from the previous report. Some of this change in inventory may simply be due to better reporting and not new chargers or disconnections. This change in inventory may also include station closings.

The number of parking spaces and station status are validated by telephone and occasionally in person. The primary resource for identifying stations is the Alternate Fuel Data Center (AFDC) Station Locator (www.afdc.energy.gov/locator/stations). The AFDC data was downloaded on October 1, 2025. Plugshare.com and charging station networks are also used to update the inventory. Not all sites list their locations on these websites. Level 1, Level 2, DC Fast Charging, Tesla Superchargers and wall plugs are counted. Note that some chargers may serve more than one parking space. These reports charging *spaces*, not the *charging stations*. This follows along with the expression to move cords, not cars. Public transit charging is not counted in this inventory.

City	Zip Code	# of Charging Spaces	Baseline July 2016
Arvin	93202	3	0
Arvin	93203	130	0
Buttonwillow	93206	**50**	22
Delano	93215	**34**	2
Kernville	93238	142	123
Lake Isabella	93240	6	5
Lamont	93241	**11**	0
Lebec	93243	79	13
Lost Hills	93249	65	20
McFarland	93250	20	0
Shafter	93263	33	0
Taft	93268	7	0
Tupman	93276	60	60
Wasco	93280	101	0
Wofford	93285	1	1
Bakersfield	93301	113	19
Bakersfield	93303	0	6
Bakersfield	93304	21	0
Bakersfield	93305	4	
Bakersfield	93306	22	0
Bakersfield	93307	58	40
Bakersfield	93308	**161**	9
Bakersfield	93309	53	0
Bakersfield	93311	47	7
Bakersfield	93312	15	
Bakersfield	93313	63	14
Bakersfield	93314	12	0
Mojave	93501	**83**	7
California City	93505	4	0
Boron	93516	11	0
North Edwards	93523	8	0
Inyokern	93527	40	4
Ridgecrest	93555	**49**	40
Rosamond	93560	1	2
Tehachapi	93561	**97**	29
	TOTAL	**1604**	**423**

Six new locations were identified in this reporting period, adding 34 charging spaces:

Desert Valley Credit Union, Ridgecrest, 93555

Douglas Street Apartments, Bakersfield, 93308

Dignity Health Hospital, Bakersfield, 93301

Mountain View Village, Lamont, 93241

Studio 6 Delano, Delano, 93215

EZ Trip Plaza, Buttonwillow, 93206

Caltrans Districts works with Kern COG and other Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the San Joaquin Valley to identify gaps along highway corridors in order to seek FAST Alternative Fuel Corridor designations of "Corridor Ready" by the Federal Highway Administration. (https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/alternative_fuel_corridors/) Caltrans and the California Energy Commission are implementation partners for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program (NEVI), which will allocate $384 million to California over 5 years.

Kern Council of Governments

KERN EV CHARGING STATION BLUEPRINT 2024



SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the final virtual meeting to discuss the 2024 Kern Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) Blueprint!

WHEN:
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

WHERE:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86767822763

MEETING ID:
867 6782 2763

This meeting will provide a final update on planning for the Kern EVCS Blueprint project.

SCAN TO JOIN



Please RSVP by November 3 by emailing

elise.brockett@dksassociates.com

Kern Council of Governments

VII.
RPAC

November 6, 2025

TO: Regional Planning Advisory Committee

FROM: JAY SCHLOSSER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By: Ben Raymond, Regional Planner

SUBJECT: Regional Planning Advisory Committee Agenda Item: VII.
UPDATE - KERN COG TRAVEL MODEL: VALIDATION, CALIBRATION, AND SENSITIVITY TESTS.

DESCRIPTION:
The Kern COG Travel model is updated every 3-5 years. The draft documentation on updates, validation, calibration and sensitivity tests of the Travel Model are available for review.

DISCUSSION:

On August 6th, 2025, Kern Regional Transportation Modeling Committee (TMC) met to review Kern Travel Model validation and documentation for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). This staff report was presented to the TMC at the August 6th meeting and has since been updated to include results of model sensitivity tests.

Kern COG Travel Model Background:
Travel demand models are mathematical tools used to estimate and forecast how people travel within a region. These models assist transportation planners and policymakers in understanding travel behavior, assessing current and future transportation needs, and evaluating the impacts of infrastructure projects or policy changes. Travel demand models are essential to the development of the **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**—a long-range plan that Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) is required to prepare every four years under federal regulation and California statute.

Kern COG's Travel Demand Model was developed in coordination with the eight San Joaquin Valley (SJV) Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) as part of the **Valley Model Improvement Plan (MIP)**. Initiated in 2010, the MIP project significantly enhanced the modeling capabilities of the SJV MPOs. Additional improvements, including calibration and validation to latest data, were carried out in 2017, resulting in the release of the MIP-II model.

Travel demand models rely on two primary types of input data: **socioeconomic data** and a detailed representation of the **transportation network**. Socioeconomic inputs—such as population, households, employment by industry, income levels, and school enrollment—are used to estimate trip generation and distribution, reflecting how and why people travel. The

model also includes a comprehensive regional road network, incorporating data on roadway classification, speed limits, capacities, and connectivity. These inputs allow the model to simulate travel demand and trips through the network under various conditions. The accuracy of these inputs is critical to producing realistic travel forecasts.

The Kern COG MIP Model is updated and revalidated with each RTP cycle. Each updated version is given a new identifier reflecting enhancements and new data inputs. The model used for Kern COG's 2022 RTP was the **MIP-3 model**, which was calibrated in 2021 using pre-COVID data with a base year of January 2020. For the 2026 RTP cycle, Kern COG contracted DKS Associates to develop the **MIP-4 model**, incorporating enhancements to the MIP-3 version. MIP-4 is calibrated and validated using the most current available data, with a base year of 2023.

Model Calibration and Validation:
To ensure the model produces credible and policy-relevant outputs, it undergoes rigorous **calibration and validation**:

- **Calibration** adjusts model parameters using the most recent data—such as Household Travel Surveys, Census data, and employment statistics—so that modeled travel behavior aligns with observed regional patterns.

- **Validation** tests the model's ability to replicate actual travel conditions before it is used for forecasting. This includes comparing model outputs (such as traffic volumes) to observed data using statistical measures and established thresholds.

One key validation metric is **vehicle miles traveled (VMT)**. To assess model accuracy, outputs are compared with data from the **Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS)**. According to the **FHWA's *Model Validation and Reasonableness Checking Manual* (1997)**, modeled VMT should be within 3% of HPMS VMT for areas in moderate non-attainment or worse for carbon monoxide (CO).

Although Kern County is currently in attainment maintenance for CO, it remains best practice to ensure that model outputs align closely with HPMS data. In the 2023 base validation year, Kern COG's Travel Demand Model was **1.4% above** HPMS VMT, as shown in **Table 1**, which falls well within acceptable limits.

Table – 1

VMT comparison to 2023 HPMS

Trip Assignment - VMT

	Quantity	Notes
Model AWDT	25,353,289	Weekday average, interior, including intrazonal
AWDT/AADT ratio	0.986	Calculated from BTS trips by distance 3-day/7-day for Kern County, 2023*
AADT	25,720,488	Equivalent annual average of model VMT
HPMS	25,440,800	2023 Caltrans HPMS
% Deviation	1.4%	Evaluation Criterion: +/- 3%
% XX VMT	24.9%	

* Source: https://data.bts.gov/Research-and-Statistics/Trips-by-Distance/w96p-f2qv/data 1/22/2025

Table 2 summarizes the standard highway validation spreadsheet analysis, which compares observed traffic count data to the model-assigned daily traffic volumes for corresponding roadways. The traffic count data used in this analysis come from two sources: Kern COG's traffic count program—which collects data at over 1,200 locations on non-state roadways throughout Kern County—and Caltrans traffic counts for state routes in the region. The results of the analysis indicate that the Kern COG MIP-4 model closely aligns with observed traffic volumes, demonstrating strong model performance in replicating real-world conditions.

Table 2

DAILY Assignment		
Model/Count Ratio =	0.98	
Percent Within Caltrans Maximum Deviation =	74%	> 75%
Percent Root Mean Square Error =	32%	< 40%
Correlation Coefficient for all locations =	97%	> 0.88
%of Screenlines Within Caltrans Standard Dev. =	100%	100%
Total Counted	851	
Link Within Deviation	628	
Link Outside Deviation	223	

ADT Model/Count by Functional Class		
Functional Class	M/C	# Locations
Freeway	1.06	35
Expressway	1.10	13
Arterial	0.98	820
Collector	0.82	168

Sensitivity Tests:

In addition to model validation, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) requests that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) conduct travel demand model sensitivity tests for two primary purposes:

1) To evaluate the responsiveness of the travel demand model to RTP/SCS strategies
2) To ensure that the model outputs are a reliable basis for measuring the performance of those strategies

Sensitivity testing typically involves systematically adjusting one RTP/SCS-related model input variable at a time—such as transit frequency, auto operating cost, or land use density—while keeping all other inputs constant. The goal is to observe whether, and to what extent, key model outputs—such as vehicle miles traveled (VMT), mode share, or vehicle trips—respond to these changes.

This analysis helps determine whether the model accurately reflects the potential VMT and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions resulting from specific RTP/SCS strategies. To complete the analysis, results from the MPO's sensitivity tests are compared to relevant empirical literature. Elasticities derived from that literature are then applied to the model's outputs to assess whether the magnitude and direction of change are consistent with established research.

Kern COG worked with DKS to perform each of the sensitivity tests shown in Table 3. Table 3 summarizes the test parameters and output measurements for each sensitivity test. The Kern COG model responded within the elasticity ranges provided by CARB for most of the sensitivity tests. Parking Cost sensitivity test had slightly smaller VMT elasticity than the smallest effect rate reported. The lesser elasticity of VMT of the affected trips appears to reflect the region's lack of walk, bike, and transit options for longer-distance trips. Kern COG's roadway capacity sensitivity tests show expected results for areas with low congestion which fall short of the lower values in ranges reported by CARB for urbanized areas with heavier congestion levels. The Kern COG model is much more sensitive along facilities with heavy congestion.

Table 3 – Sensitivity Tests

Senstivity Test	Test Parameters	Ouput Measurements
Transit Frequency	Increase Transit Headways by 33%and 100% Decrease Transit Headways by 20% and 33%	Vehcile-miles Traveled; Transit Boardisn; Trips by Mode; Trips by Purpose
Transit Fare	Increase/Decrease Transit Fares by 25% and 50%	Vehcile-miles Traveled; Transit Boardisn; Trips by Mode; Trips by Purpose
Auto Operating Cost	Increase/Decrease Auto Operation cost 25% and 50%	Vehcile-miles Traveled; Transit Boardisn; Trips by Mode; Trips by Purpose
Parking Cost	Set downtown parking cost to Free, $5, and $10	Vehcile-miles Traveled; Trips by Mode and Purpose (work/non-work)
Roadway Capacity	Add and subtract roadway lanes from exisitng roadway facilities	Vehcile-miles Traveled

In addition to the sensitivity tests listed above, a cross-sectional analysis was performed to determine how modeled travel behavior in the Kern MIP 4 model varies with home-location characteristics, including land use, transportation access, and demographics. Model results are compared with findings from empirical studies on similar factors. The analysis uses vehicle miles traveled (VMT), transit trips, and walk trips per person as dependent variables. A multivariate regression relates these outcomes to demographic factors (age and income) and

land use/transportation variables.

Overall, the cross-sectional analysis shows that travel behavior in the Kern MIP 4 model aligns closely with established empirical findings. Compact, mixed-use, and well-connected environments are linked to less driving and more active or transit-oriented travel, while higher income and poorer transit accessibility lead to greater vehicle dependence.

Full documentation and results of the completed sensitivity tests and cross-sectional analysis are available on the Transportation Model Documentation webpage: https://www.kerncog.org/model-documentation/. This webpage also contains the draft documentation for the MIP-4 model updates, documentation for previous model versions, and the detailed development report for the MIP-2 model.

ACTION: Information.

Relevant Documents:
MIP4 – Model Updates – Draft 2025
MIP3 – Mode Updates - 2022
MIP2 – Peer Review - 2017
MIP2 – Model Development Report - 2017

Kern Council of Governments

November 26, 2025

TO: **REGIONAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

FROM: JAY SCHLOSSER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 3, 2025, MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE

The meeting of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, 2025, has been cancelled.

The Cancellation Notice and information items can be found on the Kern COG website:

https://www.kerncog.org/rpac-meetings/

The next regularly scheduled meeting is February 4, 2026.