

**State of California  
AIR RESOURCES BOARD**

**Executive Order G-18-050**

**Merced County Association of Governments' (MCAG)  
Amended 2014 Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)  
CARB Acceptance of GHG Quantification Determination**

WHEREAS, SB 375 (Steinberg, Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008), also known as the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act, aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from passenger vehicle travel through improved transportation and land use planning at the regional scale;

WHEREAS, SB 375 requires each of the State's 18 federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), including the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG), to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), or an Alternative Planning Strategy that meets the regional GHG emissions reduction targets (targets) for passenger vehicles set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board);

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2010, the Board set targets for the MCAG region of 5 percent per capita decrease by 2020, and 10 percent per capita decrease by 2035 relative to 2005 levels;

WHEREAS, in preparation for its 2014 SCS, MCAG staff engaged the public by holding roundtable discussions, public workshops and community meetings between August and October 2013 and open houses and public hearings between April and May 2014;

WHEREAS, in April 2014, MCAG published its draft 2014 SCS, which was available for public review through July 2014;

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2014, MCAG adopted the final 2014 SCS with a determination that the SCS would not achieve the region's GHG emissions reduction target of 5 percent per capita decrease by 2020, and 10 percent per capita decrease by 2035;

WHEREAS, between April 2015 and November 2015, MCAG staff completed additional work to revise modeling inputs and assumptions of their final 2014 SCS, and determined that, with these modeling refinements, both targets could be met;

WHEREAS, in November 2015, MCAG published its Amended 2014 SCS, which was available for public review through January 2016, and MCAG staff engaged the public for comment at public hearings in November and December 2015;

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2016, MCAG adopted the Amended 2014 SCS with a determination that the SCS would achieve the region's GHG targets of 5 percent per capita decrease by 2020, and 10 percent per capita increase by 2035;

WHEREAS, MCAG submitted the Amended 2014 SCS to CARB on August 10, 2017, as required by California Government Code section 65080, subdivision (b)(2)(J)(ii), and completed its submittal of supporting information on April 11, 2018;

WHEREAS, CARB staff performed a technical evaluation of the Amended 2014 SCS based on CARB's technical methodology for evaluating an SCS (published in July 2011);

WHEREAS, CARB staff's evaluation showed MCAG used technical methodologies that would reasonably quantify GHG emissions reductions from the Amended 2014 SCS;

WHEREAS, CARB staff's evaluation showed MCAG's Amended 2014 SCS, if implemented, would meet the GHG emissions reduction targets that the Board established for the region for 2020 and 2035;

WHEREAS, CARB staff's technical evaluation of MCAG's GHG reduction determination is included in Attachment A, the *Technical Evaluation of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Quantification for the Merced County Association of Governments' SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy*, August 2018;

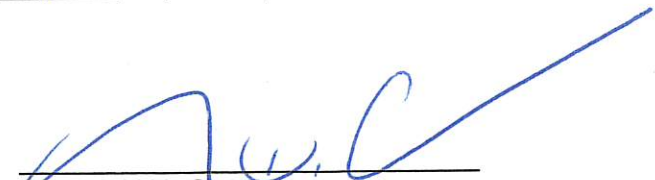
WHEREAS, California Government Code section 65080, subdivision (b)(2)(J)(ii) calls for CARB to accept or reject the MPO's determination that the strategy submitted would, if implemented, achieve the GHG emission reduction targets established by the Board;

WHEREAS, the California Health and Safety Code sections 39515 and 39516 delegate to the Board's Executive Officer the authority to act on behalf of the Board in this manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that under California Government Code section 65080, subsection (b)(2)(J)(ii), the Executive Officer hereby accepts MCAG's determination that the Amended 2014 SCS adopted by MCAG's Board of Directors on May 19, 2016, would, if implemented, achieve the 2020 and 2035 GHG emissions reduction targets established by CARB.

NOW, THEREFORE, CARB staff is directed to forward this Executive Order to the MCAG Executive Director.

Executed at Sacramento, California this 4th day of September 2018.

  
Richard W. Corey  
Executive Officer

**Attachment A:**

*Technical Evaluation of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Quantification for the Merced County Association of Governments' SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy*, August 2018.