



# **Sustainable Communities Strategy Program & Evaluation Guidelines**

**Public Workshop  
April 3, 2019**

# Overview

- Background on SB 375
- Need for Updating SCS Program & Evaluation Guidelines
- Changes Since Last Draft
- SCS Evaluation Components
- Comments Received and CARB Responses
- Next Steps

# Background: SB 375

- Supports the State's climate goals
- MPOs prepare an Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) or Alternative Planning Strategy to reduce GHGs through coordinated land use & transportation planning



# Need for Updating SCS Guidelines

- CARB Board direction to shift focus to SCS strategies and associated actions
- Provide clarifications on SCS Evaluation Process
- Standardize review of GHG emissions quantification

# Development of SCS Program & Evaluation Guidelines





# Changes Since Last Draft

- Four comment letters received, and guidelines revised to
  - Incorporate applicable stakeholder feedback
  - Improve document organization, clarity, and flow
- Comment letters, responses to comments and revised Guidelines can be found at:  
<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/index.php/resources/documents/scs-evaluation-resources>

# Strategy-based SCS Evaluation Process



## **Tracking Implementation – SB 150 (Reporting Component):**

Report on the progress regions have made towards meeting their SB 375 GHG reduction targets

Lessons  
Learned



## **Policy commitments (Determination Component):**

Determine whether the planned strategies and commitments, when fully and effectively implemented in a timely manner, would achieve the GHG reduction targets, and whether there are any risks to not achieving those commitments



## **Incremental Progress (Reporting Component):**

Report on whether an MPO's proposed SCS has more or enhanced strategies than the currently adopted SCS



## **Equity (Reporting Component):**

Report on the efforts MPOs are taking to meet federal and state requirements related to equity

# Applicability of SCS Program and Evaluation Guidelines

- Will only apply to third SCSs
- SCS Program and Evaluation Guidelines may be updated again as new information and data become available

MPO	Current RTP Adoption Date	Estimated Date of Next Adopted RTP
AMBAG	6/2018	6/2022
BCAG	12/2016	12/2020
FCOG	7/2018	7/2022
KCAG	8/2018	8/2022
KCOG	8/2018	8/2022
MCAG	8/2018	8/2022
MCTC	9/2018	9/2022
MTC/ABAG	7/2017	7/2021
SACOG	2/2016	2/2020
SANDAG	10/2015	TBD
SBCAG	8/2017	8/2021
SCAG	4/2016	4/2020
SJCOG	6/2018	6/2022
SLOCOG	4/2015	6/2019
SRTA	10/2018	10/2022
StanCOG	6/2018	6/2022
TCAG	8/2018	8/2022
TMPO	5/2017	5/2021



Comments Received and CARB Responses

# **SCS Program & Evaluation Guidelines**

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/scs-evaluation-resources>

# Tracking Implementation – SB 150



## Comment

- Distinguish SB 150 and SB 375 requirements

## CARB Response

- The CARB Board directed in Resolution 18-12 to include tracking SCS implementation (reporting component)
- The focus of SB 150 progress report is to evaluate regional progress using a common set of metrics across all MPOs
- Tracking implementation would provide more comprehensive reporting of implementation status using additional indicators tailored to adopted RTP/SCS strategies

# Policy Commitments



## Comment

- Clarify how five analyses are used or weighted in CARB's SCS determination

## CARB Response

- CARB will use the entire body of evidence presented in the data, and results from the five analyses to support our SCS determination
- Failure of a single test does not mean automatic failure of the target, rather it will inform the need for additional information and clarification to resolve any potential issues identified

# Policy Commitments – Elasticity Analysis



## Comment

- Remove elasticity analysis
- Not enough data/evidence to apply at detailed/geographic level
- CARB and MPOs should develop an alternative approaches



## CARB Response

- Empirical evidence and studies form the foundation of the elasticity analysis based on decades of research across multiple regions
- MPOs often use this same body of research and other similar methods as part of their model development
- Elasticity analysis will be piloted for the third round of SCS evaluations

# Policy Commitments – Policy Analysis



## Comment

- Include the effects of road user pricing to demonstrate compliance of SB 375 targets

## CARB Response

- MPOs cannot include state road user pricing to demonstrate achievement of target, however
- MPO can make reasonable assumptions about revenues appropriated from State road user pricing that could be re-invested to further the region's SCS
- MPO may demonstrate compliance through a regional or local pricing strategy (e.g., local/regional tolls or congestion pricing)



# Policy Commitments – Plan Adjustments



## Comment

## CARB Response

- SCS should evaluate the effectiveness of individual strategy and program in reducing VMT and GHGs when describing the implementation status of adopted SCS strategies
- Quantifying the efficacy of each implemented strategy is difficult due to the interactive and synergistic effects of multiple strategies and other exogenous variables in reducing VMT and GHGs
- CARB staff will report the implementation status of RTP/SCS strategies and compare those indicators to plan performance measures in the Tracking Implementation section

# Incremental Progress



## Comment

- Outside of SB 375 Program
- Requirement for 14 of the state's 18 MPOs is inconsistent with SB 375 and CARB's Board's action during March 2018 target setting

## CARB Response

- The CARB Board directed in Resolution 18-12, to include an incremental progress (reporting component)
- As indicated in March 2018 Staff report, Incremental progress is applicable to the Big 4 and 8 San Joaquin Valley MPOs

# Equity



## Comment

- Outside of SB 375 program
- MPOs are already following appropriate state and Federal laws related to equity

## CARB Response

- The CARB Board directed in Resolution 18-12 to include an equity reporting component
- CARB staff will report the efforts MPOs are taking to meet the requirements of the state and federal laws related to equity

# Equity



## Comment

- Adequately analyze all significant strategies and projects, specifically with regard to whether and how well they are meeting important needs of underserved communities

## CARB Response

- The new Equity reporting component does not include any additional requirements beyond those required by state and federal transportation planning requirements
- CARB will report any additional equity analyses above and beyond conducted by MPOs if provided by MPOs

# Other Comments – EMFAC Adjustment

## Comment

- Remove or add new EMFAC adjustment method

## CARB Response

- SB 375 law indicates that MPOs may not take credit for state programs and policies. Consequently, CARB developed an adjustment to remove the effects of state programs. This approach has been used by all MPOs for their 2<sup>nd</sup> SCSs
- CARB is proposing MPOs use the same version of EMFAC & same adjustment methodology approach for their third SCS as they did for the second SCS



# Other Comments – Local Discretion and Resources

## Comment

- Guidelines need to allow for local discretion and flexibility due to MPO resources and data availability

## CARB Response

- CARB will work with MPOs when potential issues may arise
- MPOs may provide alternative attributes, data, approaches, or formats based on coordination between CARB and the MPO

# Other Comments – Add Glossary and Key Terms

## Comment

- Please add a glossary of key terms to the document

## CARB Response

- A list of key terms has been added and additional clarification has been provided throughout the Draft Guidelines

# Next Steps

Event	Date
Release Final SCS Program & Evaluation Guidelines	Later this Month

# Thank you.

Please email questions to:

[SustainableCommunities@arb.ca.gov](mailto:SustainableCommunities@arb.ca.gov)