

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD EXTENSION
**SENATE BILL 375: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY PROGRAM &
EVALUATION GUIDELINES**

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) staff has released the latest Draft Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Program and Evaluation Guidelines, which outlines how CARB evaluates each Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) SCS. The initial draft guidelines were released in early December 2018 and discussed in a public workshop on December 12, 2018 in Sacramento with satellite locations at Fresno and Los Angeles. In late March 2019, a second draft of the guidelines was released and a public workshop was held on April 3rd in Sacramento to discuss comments received and CARB's response to comments. Since then, CARB staff has made additional revisions to the draft guidelines. The updated Draft SCS Program and Evaluation Guidelines is available at the following web link:

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

CARB is soliciting feedback on changes made to the Guidelines, which are shown as tracked changes. The comment period will be open for two weeks from September 18th to October 3rd. **The comment period has been extended until October 9, 2019.** Please submit your written comments to SustainableCommunities@arb.ca.gov

Background:

SB 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, requires MPOs to add a Sustainable Communities Strategy to their regional transportation plans. The intent of the SCS is to better integrate land use and transportation policies to meet long-term sustainability goals. To help guide these regional planning efforts, CARB is required to establish regional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets for 2020 and 2035 and evaluate MPO's SCSs to determine whether their SCS would meet the targets, when implemented.

In March 2018, the Board adopted updated SB 375 GHG emissions reduction targets, which became effective on October 1, 2018. As part of that action, the Board directed CARB staff to update its current SCS review process to focus on changes to land use and transportation strategies and investments that MPOs are making from one SCS to the next, and to increase program transparency and accountability by developing additional reporting and tracking guidance within the SCS Program and Evaluation Guidelines. CARB's current SCS Program and Evaluation Guidelines was published in July 2011, and focuses on the technical aspects of the regional modeling and supporting analysis related to GHG quantification.

The SCS Program and Evaluation Guidelines is intended to clarify the scope of the updated strategy-based SCS Evaluation Process, which consists of the following four key components: Tracking Implementation (SB 150), Policy Commitments, Incremental Progress, and Equity. However the Policy Commitment component is the only component used by CARB staff as the basis for accepting or rejecting the MPO's SB 375 GHG emission reduction target determination. The other three reporting components Tracking Implementation (SB 150), Incremental Progress, and Equity are included to identify the effectiveness of prior SCS implementation and increase overall transparency of the SCS for the public and other stakeholders. The Sustainable Communities Strategy Program and Evaluation Guidelines is consistent with the Board's direction and builds on the last 10 years of experience since SB 375 passed.

CARB kicked off the public process for the updates to the guidelines in January 2018. Since then, four public workshops across California have been held to discuss concepts, the revised evaluation framework, and the components of the draft guidelines.

For any questions regarding the draft guidelines, please contact Dr. Nesamani Kalandiyur, Manager of the Transportation Analysis Section at nesamani.kalandiyur@arb.ca.gov or (916) 324-0466.

More information about CARB's SB 375 program, is available at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/sustainable-communities-climate-protection-program>.

Notices for Future Meetings and Materials: If you would like to receive notices of future meetings and the availability of materials, please sign up for our list serve at: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CARB/subscriber/new?topic_id=sb375.