

**NOTICE OF DOCUMENT RELEASE**  
**SENATE BILL 375: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY PROGRAM AND**  
**EVALUATION GUIDELINES**

The California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) staff released the *Final Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Program and Evaluation Guidelines*, along with Staff's response to comments received. These Guidelines outline how CARB evaluates Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) SCSs pursuant to the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375). 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 3, 2019 in Sacramento to discuss comments received and CARB's response to comments. In mid-September 2019, a final draft of the guidelines was released to solicit feedback on changes made to the Guidelines. Over the three week comment period, CARB received thirteen comment letters. Responses to comments are also released along with the Final SCS Program and Evaluation Guidelines.

The *Final SCS Program and Evaluation Guidelines* and responses to comments documents are available at the following web link:

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

**Background:**

SB 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, requires MPOs to add a SCS 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) emission reduction targets for 2020 and 2035 and evaluate MPO SCSs to determine whether the 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 SB375 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.

For any questions regarding the guidelines, please contact Dr. Nesamani Kalandiyur, Manager of the Transportation Analysis Section at [nesamani.kalandiyur@arb.ca.gov](mailto: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](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CARB/subscriber/new?topic_id=sb375).