

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD
Executive Order G-22-295

**San Diego Association of Governments' (SANDAG) 2021
Sustainable Communities Strategy 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 (MPOs), including the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) or an Alternative Planning Strategy that meets the regional GHG emissions reduction targets for automobiles and light trucks set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board);

Whereas, on September 23, 2010, the Board set targets for the SANDAG region of a 7 percent per capita reduction by 2020, and a 13 percent per capita reduction by 2035 relative to 2005 levels;

Whereas, on November 18, 2011, CARB accepted SANDAG's quantification of GHG emissions reductions for automobiles and light trucks as meeting the applicable targets in its first SCS, adopted by the SANDAG Board of Directors on October 28, 2011;

Whereas, in December 2015, CARB accepted SANDAG's quantification of GHG emissions reductions for automobiles and light trucks as meeting the applicable targets in its second SCS, adopted by the SANDAG Board of Directors on October 9, 2015;

Whereas, on March 22, 2018, the Board set targets for the SANDAG region of a 15 percent per capita reduction by 2020 and a 19 percent per capita reduction by 2035 relative to 2005 levels;

Whereas, under SB 1730 (Gonzalez, Chapter 634, Statutes of 2019), SANDAG received an extended timeline to adopt its next Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy until December 31, 2021, and is required to develop an implementation report beginning January 1, 2020, and every two years thereafter, that tracks the implementation of its most recently adopted sustainable communities strategy, and discusses implementation status of the strategy at the regional and local level, and as further specified, and submit the report to CARB as part of its SCS every four years;

Whereas, in preparation for its 2021 SCS, SANDAG staff engaged the public via presentations, advisory committee meetings, stakeholder working group meetings, public workshops, and public hearings between December 2016 and October 2021;

Whereas, in May 2021, SANDAG published its draft 2021 SCS, which was available for public review through August 2021;

Whereas, on December 10, 2021, SANDAG's Board of Directors adopted the final

2021 SCS, known as the SANDAG 2021 Region Plan, with a determination that the SCS would achieve the region's GHG target of a 15 percent per capita reduction by 2020 and a 19 percent per capita reduction by 2035 relative to 2005 levels;

Whereas, SANDAG submitted the final 2021 SCS to CARB on December 17, 2021, as required by California Government Code section 65080, subdivision (b)(2)(J)(ii), and completed its submittal of supporting information on March 16, 2022;

Whereas, CARB staff performed an evaluation of the 2021 SCS's quantification of the GHG emissions reductions the strategy would achieve, the technical methodology used to obtain that result, and SANDAG's implementation report based on CARB's November 2019 document entitled *Final Sustainable Communities Strategy Program and Evaluation Guidelines*;

Whereas, CARB staff's evaluation indicated that SANDAG used technical methodologies that would reasonably quantify GHG emissions reductions from the 2021 SCS for 2020 and 2035;

Whereas, CARB staff's evaluation indicated that SANDAG's 2021 SCS was not on track to meet its applicable GHG emissions reduction target for 2020, but for a steep decline in travel activity in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, CARB staff's evaluation indicated that SANDAG's 2021 SCS included new strategies, key actions, and investments to support its stated GHG emissions reductions for 2035;

Whereas, In response to questions posed by CARB staff, SANDAG staff provided assurances in correspondence dated August 17 and 19, 2022 affirming that the Road Usage Charge remains in the regional plan, that SANDAG would evaluate a range of strategies as part of its next update to the RTP expected in 2025, and that the development and evaluation of the update poses no risk to the implementation of the current RTP;

Whereas, CARB staff's evaluation showed SANDAG's 2021 SCS, when implemented, would meet the applicable GHG emissions reduction target that the Board established for the region for 2035;

Whereas, CARB staff's technical evaluation of SANDAG's GHG emissions reduction determination is included in Attachment A, Evaluation of the San Diego Association of Governments' SB 375 2021 Sustainable Communities Strategy, August 26, 2022;

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

Whereas, 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 SANDAG's determination that the SCS adopted by the SANDAG Board of Directors on December 10, 2021, would, when implemented, achieve the applicable GHG emissions reduction target for automobiles and light trucks of 19 percent per capita reduction by 2035, relative to 2005 levels, as established by CARB for the region.

Now, Therefore, CARB staff is directed to forward this executive order to the SANDAG Executive Director.

Executed at Sacramento, California this 26th day of August 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Segall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig Segall, Deputy Executive Officer

Attachment A: Evaluation of the San Diego Association of Governments' SB 375 2021 Sustainable Communities Strategy