

To: MPO staff

From: Lezlie Kimura Szeto, Manager, Sustainable Communities Policy and Planning Section

Date: Monday, July 29, 2024

Subject: Request for target recommendation for 2026 SB 375 target update

Background

Senate Bill (SB) 375 requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to set passenger vehicle greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets and update them no later than every eight years. GHG reduction targets (targets) were first set by CARB in 2010 and updated in 2018, with the next updated targets due in 2026. The update process includes MPO consultation, public involvement, CARB Board consultation and approval, and an environmental analysis.

CARB staff recognizes that metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) will need sufficient lead time to develop regional transportation plans/sustainable communities strategies (RTP/SCSs) that meet their updated targets. Therefore, CARB staff plans to propose updated targets for the Board's consideration in 2025, with the intent to seek Board adoption in mid-2026 to become effective for 5th cycle SCSs.

This memo contains an overview of the process and schedule of this target update, a request for information that CARB staff will consider in its work on the target update, and a request for the MPOs' recommendations, with supporting data, for their own GHG emissions reduction targets.

Process and Schedule

Staff anticipates these key milestones in the target update process:

1. **Summer 2024:** CARB holds MPO, State agency, and air district meetings and an initial public workshop.
2. **July 29 - October 31, 2024:** MPOs provide information and recommendations so that CARB staff can review and evaluate the recommended targets before incorporating them into a CARB staff target proposal report.
3. **November 2024:** CARB staff provides an information update to the joint CARB-CTC-HCD meeting (tentative, agenda discussions in progress).
4. **Winter 2024-2025:** CARB staff holds MPO, State agency, and air district meetings and a second public workshop.
5. **Spring 2025 through early spring 2026:** CARB staff releases a draft target proposal report, prepares and circulates a draft CEQA document, and takes public input on the draft report.

6. **Spring and summer 2026:** CARB staff reviews and responds to public input on the staff target proposal report and responds to comments on and finalizes the CEQA document.
7. **Summer 2026 (July):** the CARB Board considers approval of the updated targets, which would become effective for MPOs' 5th cycle RTP/SCSs.

Request for Information and Target Recommendation

SB 375 was intended by the Legislature as one of the ways to achieve the goals of AB 32, and thus it is important to consider how the SB 375 targets can work to support achievement of climate targets in the 2022 Scoping Plan. SB 375 targets should consider, among other factors (e.g., population, employment, auto operating cost), what the Scoping Plan finds is needed from VMT reduction after considering California's ambitious efforts in vehicle technology and fuels. A goal of this target update process is to learn what role SB 375 targets can play in meeting State goals and what additional actions (funding, legislation, etc.) will be necessary to achieve these necessary goals.

As stated in SB 375, "Greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks can be substantially reduced by new vehicle technology and by the increased use of low carbon fuel. However, even taking these measures into account, it will be necessary to achieve significant additional greenhouse gas reductions from changed land use patterns and improved transportation. Without improved land use and transportation policy, California will not be able to achieve the goals of AB 32." Thus, as part of the process for setting targets, CARB staff gather information for a variety of land use and transportation characteristics of MPO regions to support target recommendations.

For the 2026 target update, CARB staff requests that MPOs provide CARB staff with:

- A target recommendation for 2035.
- Supporting data and information for the recommendation. CARB staff requests that MPOs fill out the attached spreadsheet, "*MPO SB 375 GHG Reduction Target Recommendation Data Request - July 2024t.xlsx*," that requests values for a key set of metrics and exogenous factors for the latest base year information (2019 or later), and 2035 forecasts per the current adopted SCS and the MPO-recommended target scenario, along with data sources that help contextualize the MPO's recommendation.
- An explanation of what additional actions (funding, legislation, etc.) will be needed to achieve the individual strategies that support the reductions in the proposed target.
- CARB staff also welcomes additional information that will help with understanding how MPOs arrived at their recommendation.

Next steps

In the coming weeks, you can email or call me or my staff directly if you have any questions or concerns about this process, and we will also have drop-in office hours on Teams in the coming weeks:

- [Friday, August 2, 2024, 3-4pm](#)
- [Monday, August 5, 11am-noon](#)
- [Friday, August 9, 2024, 10-11am](#)

Please email your final target recommendation with supporting information to John Beutler at john.beutler@arb.ca.gov **by October 31, 2024**.

CARB staff will consider these recommendations along with comments and feedback received through the public process in developing a draft staff proposal for targets for each of the 18 MPO regions. MPO target recommendations will be posted publicly as part of the public process for the target update. CARB staff will also report MPO recommendations to the CARB board.

The draft CARB staff proposal for targets will be vetted through a public process, including the evaluation of potential environmental effects of new targets as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CARB staff anticipates bringing the final staff target proposal report to the CARB Board for consideration and approval by mid-2026.

CARB staff is happy to meet with MPO staff to discuss the target update process. If you have any questions, please contact me at lezie.kimura@arb.ca.gov or John Beutler at john.beutler@arb.ca.gov.