

November 1, 2024

Robert Phipps, Chair
San Joaquin Valley Regional Transportation Planning Agencies Directors' Committee
Interim Executive Director, Fresno Council of Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, California 93721
Rhipps@fresnocog.org

Dear Interim Executive Director Phipps:

Thank you for your letter dated October 15, 2024, regarding the desire to holistically review the SB 375 framework and providing context for the San Joaquin Valley. CARB agrees that SB 375 is an important foundation for planning and envisioning a future that better supports our climate goals and community needs, including the issues you raise of disadvantaged communities and air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley, and we appreciate the Valley metropolitan planning organizations' ongoing work and collaboration with our team to help make SB 375 a success. We agree that it is of crucial importance to ensure that the strategies identified in the plans developed under SB 375 are implemented.

CARB was recently invited to participate in a dialogue between State agencies and regional metropolitan planning organizations. Our understanding is that this effort is intended to facilitate and further the dialogue you have proposed. We are committed to participating and would welcome your participation in this effort.

In your letter, you requested that CARB pause our current processes to update the regional greenhouse gas reduction targets and the Sustainable Communities Strategies Program and Evaluation Guidelines to allow time for such dialogue to occur, or re-adopt existing targets should such a pause not be possible. CARB values MPO input and has been inviting MPO input on the guidelines and target-setting processes since late 2023. Given the statutory requirements for target setting and the need to update the Evaluation Guidelines in time for the fifth round of sustainable communities strategies, we cannot commit to pausing the process or commit to any specific target levels at this time. CARB must continue advancing our analytical staff work, support an inclusive public dialogue, and conduct an environmental review on these topics. As we undertake these processes, we could consider concepts that arise in the aforementioned dialogue, and of course we would be happy to meet with any of the Valley MPOs or consider any data or recommendations that you may wish to provide.

We look forward to continuing dialogue with your agencies about all of these important topics and doing so at a pace that will allow us to meet the requirements established by law. Thank you again for your letter. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this

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further, please do not hesitate to contact me or [Dr. Jennifer Gress](#), Chief of CARB's Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division.

Sincerely,

Steven S. Cliff, Ph.D., Executive Officer

cc: Jennifer Gress, Ph.D., Chief, California Air Resources Board, Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division

Jennifer.Gress@arb.ca.gov