

PROPOSED

State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

**ACCEPTANCE OF GREENHOUSE GAS QUANTIFICATION DETERMINATION FOR
THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS' SB 375
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY**

Resolution 13-40

November 21, 2013

Agenda Item No.: 13-10-1

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 (MPO), including the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), or an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) that meets the regional GHG emission reduction targets for passenger vehicles set by the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board);

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2010, the Board approved GHG reduction targets for 2020 and 2035, expressed as a per capita percentage reduction relative to 2005 levels, for each of the State's MPOs;

WHEREAS, the targets established for the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) region are a zero percent decrease in 2020 and a zero percent decrease in 2035 relative to 2005 levels;

WHEREAS, SBCAG staff engaged the public by holding public workshops throughout three phases of public involvement between November 2011 and March 2013;

WHEREAS, in April 2013, SBCAG published a draft Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) for 2013-2040 that stated it would achieve a 10.5 percent per capita reduction from 2005 levels in 2020 and a 15.4 percent per capita reduction from 2005 levels in 2035;

WHEREAS, ARB staff performed a technical evaluation of the draft SCS using ARB's methodology, published in July 2011 for review of GHG emission calculation procedures for SCS plans;

WHEREAS, ARB staff's evaluation found that SBCAG used technical methodologies that would accurately quantify GHG reductions from the draft SCS;

WHEREAS, the SBCAG Board of Directors adopted the final SCS at its public meeting held on August 15, 2013;

WHEREAS, as required by California Government Code section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii), SBCAG submitted the final RTP/SCS to ARB on August 26, 2013 for review of its GHG quantification determination of 10.5 percent per capita reduction by 2020 and a 15.4 percent per capita reduction by 2035;

WHEREAS, section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii) of the California Government Code calls for ARB to accept or reject an MPO's determination that its submitted strategy would, if implemented, achieve the GHG emission reduction targets established by the Board;

WHEREAS, ARB staff's technical evaluation of SBCAG's GHG reduction quantification is contained in Attachment A, "Technical Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Quantification for the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' Sustainable Communities Strategies," dated November 2013; and

WHEREAS, ARB staff's evaluation affirms that SBCAG's adopted 2013-2040 SCS would, if implemented, achieve more reductions than the GHG targets that the Board established for the region for 2020 and 2035.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii) of the California Government Code, the Board hereby accepts SBCAG's quantification of the GHG emission reductions from the final SCS adopted by the SBCAG Board of Directors on August 15, 2013, and the MPO's determination that the SCS would, if implemented, achieve a 10.5 percent per capita GHG reduction from 2005 levels in 2020 and a 15.4 percent per capita GHG reduction from 2005 levels in 2035.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that ARB staff forward this Resolution to the SBCAG Board of Directors and Executive Director.

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Identification of Attachments to the Board Resolution

Attachment A: Technical Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Quantification for the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' Sustainable Communities Strategies
(Distributed at the November 21, 2013, Board hearing)