



SCAG's Mission:

Under the guidance of the Regional Council and in collaboration with our partners, our mission is to facilitate a forum to develop and foster the realization of regional plans that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

SENATE BILL 375 FACTSHEET

WHAT IS SB 375?

SB 375 (Steinberg) is California state legislation that became law effective January 1, 2009. It prompts California regions to work together to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from cars and light trucks. This new law would achieve this objective by requiring integration of planning processes for transportation, land-use and housing. The plans emerging from this process will lead to more efficient communities that provide residents with alternatives to using single occupant vehicles. SB 375 requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop regional reduction targets for automobiles and light trucks GHG emissions. The regions, in turn, are tasked with creating "sustainable communities strategy," (SCS) which combine transportation and land-use elements in order to achieve the emissions reduction target, if feasible. SB 375 also offers local governments regulatory and other incentives to encourage more compact new development and transportation alternatives.

Background

In order to achieve the greenhouse gas reduction goals set out in California Assembly Bill 32: *The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006* (AB 32), SB 375 focuses on reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and urban sprawl. AB 32 was the nation's first law to limit greenhouse gas emissions and SB 375 was enacted thereafter to more specifically address the transportation and land use components of greenhouse gas emissions. Through the implementation of regional SCS plans by 2020, the goal of SB 375 is to see a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions for the environment and an increase in quality of life for residents.

How does SB 375 Relate to SCAG?

SB 375 requires SCAG to direct the development of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for the region. Alternatively, if the GHG emissions reduction targets cannot be met through the SCS, an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) may be developed showing how those targets would be achieved through alternative development patterns, infrastructure, or additional transportation measures or policies. Additionally, unique to the SCAG region, is the option for subregions to create their own SCS or APS.

There are two mutually important facets to the SB 375 legislation: reducing VMT and encouraging more compact, complete, and efficient communities for the future.

What is required in a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)?

The SCS, as defined in SB 375, is a newly required element of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). After receiving regional targets in 2010, SCAG will begin to develop the SCS and create a plan for meeting the emissions reduction targets by 2020 and 2035 respectively.

The new SCS will integrate planning elements of transportation, land use, and housing with greenhouse gas reduction targets. This process will require meaningful collaboration and negotiation with local governments and other stakeholders in the region, to ensure a well-balanced SCS is developed and that all aspects of transportation alternatives have been considered and properly vetted.

Development of the SCS is subject to an extensive public review process. Outreach and public participation will play a major part in the creation of the final SCS document; input and suggestions will be considered.

Next Steps

To date, SCAG has hosted workshops and conducted focused stakeholder discussions around the region to discuss SB 375 and its impact to the RTP process. Additionally, SCAG participates on the Regional Targets Advisory Committee (RTAC), which is responsible for recommending factors and methodology to be considered by CARB in setting the regional emissions reduction targets.

In the near term, SCAG will gather input from members and stakeholders regarding proposed approaches and methodologies for recommending the 2020 regional reduction targets. In addition, SCAG will continue to conduct outreach to encourage the active participation of a broad range of stakeholder groups in the planning process.

For more information please visit the SCAG Web site at: www.scag.ca.gov/sb375 or contact Matt Horton at (213) 236-1980.



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i SB 375 QUICK FACTS

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Creation of regional targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction tied to land use
- ▶ A requirement that regional transportation planning agencies create a plan to meet targets
- ▶ A requirement that regional transportation funding decisions be consistent with the new plan
- ▶ Tying together regional housing and transportation planning efforts
- ▶ New CEQA exemptions and streamlining for projects that conform to the new regional plans

MAJOR MILESTONES

- ▶ Jan. '09 - SB 375 becomes law
- ▶ Jan. '09 - RTAC established
- ▶ Sep. '09 - RTAC recommends regional targets and methodologies
- ▶ Sep. '10 - CARB issues final regional targets
- ▶ Nov. '11 - Release draft RTP/SCS for public review
- ▶ Apr. '12 - Regional Council adopts RTP/SCS

SCAG REGION REQUIREMENTS/ GOALS

- ▶ Prepare framework guidelines for subregional SCS/APS development.
- ▶ Develop, adopt and implement a public participation process involving outreach to stakeholders; consultation with congestion management agencies, transportation agencies, and transportation commissions; and public workshops and hearings.
- ▶ Conduct informational meetings in each county within the region for local elected officials (members of the board of supervisors and city councils), to present the draft SCS or APS, and solicit and consider input and recommendations.
- ▶ Prepare, circulate for review, and adopt an SCS as part of RTP (meeting the GHG reduction target if feasible to do so).
- ▶ If unable to meet target with SCS, prepare, circulate for review, and adopt an APS that is separate from the RTP.
- ▶ Integrate planning processes, in particular assuring that the RHNA is consistent with SCS.