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Date: November 10, 2009

To: Chair and Members of the Governing Board,
Westside Cities Council of Governments

From: Gordon R. Anderson, Interim Executive Director

Subject: **Collaborative Process with Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to Prepare Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) as Required by SB 375**

Recommendation:

- It is recommended that the COG Governing Board:
- a. authorize participation by the WSCCOG in the Collaborative Process with SCAG to develop the Sustainable Community Strategy; and,
 - b. direct staff to return at the next meeting COG Governing Board meeting with recommendations on the roles and responsibilities that the WSCCOG should undertake.

Executive Summary:

At the COG Governing Board meeting on May 21, 2009 as part of the discussion of the Sustainability Committee meeting notes, it was noted that SCAG as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is required to prepare several items to comply with the requirements of SB 375, one of which is a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for the SCAG region. It was further noted that SCAG was offering sub-regions the option to prepare their own SCS as required under SB 375 or participate in a collaborative process with SCAG to prepare a region-wide SCS; however, the collaborative process had not been developed. Finally, sub-regions would have to make a determination by September 2009, which was later changed to the end of the year.

Since that time, SCAG has developed a draft [SCS Collaborative Process](#) which is available on its website. Staff has participated in several meetings and presentations on the collaborative process. Given the complexity, cost and timeline for the preparation of the SCS, staff believes the WSCCOG should participate in the collaborative process.

It should be noted that SB 375 defines roles and responsibilities for the various agencies involved in the preparation of a SCS and also requires a robust local public participation process, both regional and sub-regional. The SCAG draft SCS Collaborative Process presents a flexible array of roles and responsibilities among the various partners and stakeholders that can

be tailored and refined to reflect the best working arrangements within each sub-region. Staff is not prepared at this time to make a recommendation on the roles and responsibilities the WSCCOG should undertake. Staff proposes to make its recommendations at the next COG Governing Board meeting, anticipated in January 2010.

There is not fiscal impact associated with this item at this time. When WSCCOG roles and responsibilities are determined there may be fiscal impacts. SCAG has indicated funding for sub-regional activities is not available at this time.

Background/Discussion:

The entire background has been taken from the [SCAG Draft \(October 27, 2009\) Sustainable Community Strategy Collaborative Process](#). (which is a 30 page document)

I. INTRODUCTION

SB 375 (Steinberg), also known as California's Sustainable Communities Strategy and Climate Protection Act, is a new state law which became effective January 1, 2009. SB 375 calls for the integration of transportation, land use, and housing planning, and also establishes the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as one of the overarching goals for regional planning. SCAG, working with the County Transportation Commissions (CTCs) and the subregional organizations within the SCAG Region, is responsible for implementing SB 375 in the SCAG region. Success in this endeavor is dependant on collaboration with a range of public and private partners throughout the region.

Briefly summarized here, SB 375 requires SCAG as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to:

- Prepare a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as part of the 2012 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The SCS will meet a State-determined regional GHG emission reduction target, if it is feasible to do so.
- Prepare an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) that is not part of the RTP if the SCS is unable to meet the regional target.
- Integrate SCAG planning processes, in particular assuring that the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) is consistent with the SCS, at the jurisdiction level.
- Specific to SCAG only, allow for subregional SCS/APS development.
- Develop a substantial public participation process involving all stakeholders.

In addition, the following are SCAG's preliminary goals for implementing SB 375:

- Achieve the regional GHG emission reduction target for cars, light, and medium trucks through a SCS.
- Fully integrate SCAG's planning processes for transportation, growth, intergovernmental review, land use, housing, and the environment.
- Seek areas of cooperation that go beyond the procedural statutory requirements, but that also result in regional plans and strategies that are mutually supportive of a range of goals.

- Build trust by providing an interactive, participatory and collaborative process for all stakeholders. Provide, in particular, for the robust participation of local jurisdictions, subregions and CTCs in the development of the SCAG region's SCS and implementation of the subregional provisions of the law.
- Assure that the SCS adopted by SCAG and submitted to California Air Resources Board (ARB) is a reflection of the region's strategy and vision for the future.
- Develop strategies that incorporate and are respectful of local and subregional priorities, plans, and projects.

In sum, the SCAG region will develop and finalize a SCS as part of the 2012 Regional Transportation Plan. This Strategy will emerge through extensive dialogue and collaboration involving SCAG, its 14 subregions, member and non-member jurisdictions, CTCs, and a variety of other stakeholders and participants including the general public. As described further in this document, SCAG has established several goals for this process. SCAG intends to use this process to foster collaboration, such that the eventual regional SCS is a reflection of the region's own vision for its future.

In addition, SCAG has detailed, in a separate document, the Draft Subregional Framework and Guidelines, the specific roles and responsibilities that a SCAG subregion shall undertake, should any subregion elect to prepare a Subregional SCS for its subregion (Attachment D). [Note, for Attachment D, see full document on website.]

II. COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS

Reducing GHG emissions in the SCAG region will require extensive collaboration among many partners: Subregions, CTCs, Air Districts, Counties, Cities, and many other stakeholders. Flexibility, rather than formal arrangements is encouraged. This planning process should be viewed in terms of a series of iterative discussions between SCAG, its subregions, counties and cities, and CTCs, with the collective goal of identifying GHG reduction strategies. SCAG welcomes all levels of effort and participation.

This SCS planning process will include the following:

- Identifying transit projects (existing; planned/programmed; new projects/concepts)
- Identifying other transportation projects and policies that may reduce GHG emissions
- Identifying Champion/Green cities (demonstration projects/policies for GHG reductions)
- Holding collaborative workshops (outreach and education)
- Reviewing and refining ARB's "Best Management Practices" (BMPs)
- Reviewing and refining local data with SCAG staff
- Developing additional regional policies to reduce GHG emissions (above and beyond reductions from existing General Plan strategies)
- Performing regional transportation model runs (along with other types of analysis)

If a subregion exercises the option of preparing and adopting their own SCS, then two additional steps would be required: Subregional Board adoption of the subregional SCS and a documented public outreach effort.

This SCS Collaborative Process presents each subregion with a flexible range of approaches to develop a SCS. SCAG has requested that each subregion identify, and submit in writing to SCAG, the approach it proposes to undertake by December 31, 2009.

A. SCS Development: Timeline

The following provides a brief outline of the five phases leading to the development of a SCS:

Phase 1: Program Setup and Conceptual Scenario [1/2009-12/2009]

- Developed amended Public Participation Plan and Conceptual Land Use Scenario
- Providing informational presentations and workshops

Phase 2: Target Setting/Scenario Planning/Outreach [6/2009-9/2010]

- Participated in the Statewide Target Setting process (RTAC)
- Initiate sketch/scenario planning with subregions and local jurisdictions
- Develop Regional Target recommendation for ARB

Phase 3: SCS Development [7/2010-11/2011]

- Conduct Scenario Planning Workshops throughout the region
- Prepare Draft 2012 RHNA, at the city level
- Prepare Draft 2012 SCS/RTP and Draft PEIR

Phase 4: Draft 2012 SCS/RTP; and Draft PEIR [11/2011-4/2012]

- Conduct at least three (3) public hearings for the Draft SCS (as required by SB 375)
- Respond to comments/input to Draft 2012 SCS/RTP and Draft PEIR

Phase 5: Final 2012 SCS/RTP [4/2012-6/2012]

- Prepare and adopt Final 2012 SCS/RTP and PEIR
- Prepare and adopt Final 2012 RHNA, at the jurisdiction level

B. Roles and Responsibilities

SB 375 defines roles and responsibilities for the various agencies that are involved in the preparation of the SCS/RTP. The statute allows for the option of subregions, in partnership with CTCs, to develop, adopt and submit a subregional SCS to SCAG for integration into the SCAG regional SCS, with the understanding that a subregional SCS complies with the statute and SCAG's Subregional Framework and Guidelines. SB 375 also requires a robust local public participation process in the development of any SCS, whether it be regional or subregional.

This SCS Collaborative Process presents a flexible array of roles and responsibilities among the various partners and stakeholders, that can be tailored and refined to reflect the best working arrangements within each subregion. As a starting point, the possible roles and responsibilities are as follows:

SCAG's Roles and Responsibilities:

- Develop and adopt an integrated growth forecast for the SCAG region
- Develop and adopt 2012 RTP/SCS/APS, and RHNA
- Adopt Public Participation Plan and Subregional Framework and Guidelines

- Provide growth forecast datasets as required by the SCS/RTP and RHNA planning efforts
- Develop and conduct a public process
- Convene and facilitate workshops and other dialogue
- Develop, maintain and disseminate data, maps and other information as needed in SCS
- Develop models, technical tools, and methodologies, and provide technical analysis and modeling results regarding estimates of GHG emissions
- Facilitate partnership arrangements among other participants (e.g., subregions and CTCs)

Subregions' Potential Roles and Responsibilities:

- Convene and facilitate workshops and other dialogue with local jurisdictions and stakeholders
- Provide planning assistance to SCAG and/or local governments
- Identify strategies or strategy elements that can be considered and developed for SCS
- Identify key partners, stakeholders, and Champion Cities within their areas
- Compile and submit input to SCAG on growth forecast/strategy
- Adopt subregional RHNA distribution
- Work with CTCs to prepare transportation investment strategy
- Develop and adopt subregional SCS/APS at their option (subject to Framework & Guidelines)

County Transportation Commissions' Potential Roles and Responsibilities:

- Identify transportation investments that support the land use components of a SCS
- Work with subregions and local governments to develop strategy options
- Participate in workshops and dialogue
- Work with SCAG and/or subregions to develop SCS

Cities' and Counties' Potential Roles and Responsibilities:

- Participate in workshops and dialogue
- Compile and submit input to SCAG on growth forecast
- Work with subregions, CTCs, and SCAG to develop strategies that can be included in a SCS
- Work with SCAG and/or one of the 14 SCAG subregions to develop SCS