

Notice of Preparation

- To:** California Office of Planning and Research, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Other Interested Parties
- Subject:** Notice of Preparation of a Draft Substitute Environmental Document
- Project Title:** Proposed Update to the Senate Bill 375 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets
- Lead Agency:** California Air Resources Board
- Date:** July 11, 2024
- Review Period:** July 11, 2024 - August 10, 2024

As the Lead Agency, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will prepare a substitute environmental document (referred to as an “Environmental Analysis” or “EA”) as part of the Staff Report prepared for the proposed project identified above. CARB would like to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. If the proposed project has no relevance to you or your organization, no action on your part is necessary.

Information on the project description, location, and potential environmental effects, as currently known, are contained in the attached materials, including the notice for a public workshop to be held on July 23, 2024 in Sacramento, California. In addition to soliciting input on the proposed project, this workshop will also serve as a CEQA scoping meeting to solicit input on scope and content of the EA to be prepared for the proposed project. Additional information on this proposed project is available for review on the Program webpage at the following link: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/sustainable-communities-program/regional-plan-targets>.

The Notice of Preparation (NOP) is available for review and comment for 30 days, per CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15082(b)). The comment period for this NOP begins July 11, 2024 and ends on August 10, 2024. Due to the limits mandated by State law, responses should be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than 5:00 PM on August 10, 2024.

Please submit your comments to CaliforniaEnvironmentalQualityAct@arb.ca.gov or via mail to Rebecca Fancher, Air Resources Board Legal Office/CEQA Unit, P.O. Box 2815 Sacramento, CA 95812-2815. In your response, please indicate the public agency or other entity you represent, and the name and phone number of a contact person.

Date: 7/11/2024 **Signature:** Rebecca Fancher /s/

Rebecca Fancher
Staff Air Pollution Specialist
California Air Resources Board
Legal Office/ CEQA Unit
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

CaliforniaEnvironmentalQualityAct@arb.ca.gov

List of Agencies to Review

Distributed to agencies marked with an "X" below:

STATE AGENCIES

- Boating & Waterways, Department of
- California Highway Patrol
- CalRecycle
- Caltrans
- Caltrans Planning
- Coastal Commission
- Conservation, Department of -- Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources
- Delta Protection Commission
- Energy Commission
- Fish & Wildlife, Department of
- Food & Agriculture, Department of
- Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of
- Health Services, Department of
- Housing & Community Development
- Integrated Waste Management Board
- Native American Heritage Commission
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of General Services
- Strategic Growth Council
- California High Speed Rail Authority
- Department of Conservation - Division of Land Resource Protection
- OEHHA
- Office of Historic Preservation
- Office of Emergency Services
- Parks & Recreation, Department of
- Pesticide Regulation, Department of
- Public Utilities Commission
- Regional Water Quality Control Board #_____
- Resources Agency
- SF Bay Conservation & Development Commission
- State Lands Commission
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Toxic Substances Control, Department of
- University of California
- Water Resources, Department of

- Building Standards Commission
- Department of Public Health
- Tahoe Nature Conservancy
- Sierra Nevada Nature Conservancy
- Delta Conservancy
- Other:
- Other:

AIR DISTRICTS

- Amador County APCD
- Antelope Valley AQMD
- Bay Area AQMD
- Butte County AQMD
- Calaveras County APCD
- Colusa County APCD
- County of El Dorado AQMD
- Eastern Kern APCD
- Feather River AQMD
- Glenn County APCD
- Great Basin Unified APCD
- Imperial County APCD
- Lake County AQMD
- Lassen County APCD
- Mariposa County APCD
- Mendocino County AQMD
- Modoc County APCD
- Mojave Desert AQMD
- Monterey Bay Unified APCD
- North Coast Unified AQMD
- Northern Sierra AQMD
- Northern Sonoma County APCD
- Placer County APCD
- Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD
- San Diego County APCD
- San Joaquin Valley APCD
- San Luis Obispo County APCD
- Santa Barbara County APCD
- Shasta County AQMD
- Siskiyou County APCD
- South Coast AQMD
- Tehama County APCD
- Tuolumne County APCD
- Ventura County APCD

Yolo-Solano AQMD

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

- Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
- Butte County Association of Governments
- Council of Fresno County Governments
- Kern Council of Governments
- Kings County Association of Governments
- Madera County Transportation Commission
- Merced County Association of Governments
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission & Association of Bay Area Governments
- Sacramento Area Council of Governments
- San Diego Association of Governments
- San Joaquin Council of Governments
- San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
- Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
- Shasta Regional Transportation Agency]
- Southern California Association of Governments
- Stanislaus Council of Governments
- Tulare County Association of Governments

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

A copy of an Initial Study is not attached because CARB complies with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) through its regulatory program certified by the California Secretary for Natural Resources under Public Resources Code section 21080.5 (14 CCR 15251(d)). Public agencies with certified regulatory programs are exempt from certain CEQA requirements, including but not limited to, preparing environmental impact reports, negative declarations, and initial studies (14 CCR 15250).

The Environmental Impact Analysis (EIA) will evaluate the potential for impacts to the environment as a result of the proposed project: Proposed Update to the Senate Bill 375 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets. The project and the nature of potential impacts that could result from the project are described below.

- **PROJECT TITLE:**

Proposed Update to the Senate Bill 375 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets

- **PROJECT LOCATION:**

The project has statewide applicability.

- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Senate Bill (SB) 375 designates the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as the lead agency in establishing region-specific greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets (targets) for each metropolitan planning organization (MPO). SB 375 mandates that CARB updates the targets every eight years. CARB would consider the latest technical information and any target recommendations provided by MPOs, becoming effective in 2026. The targets update will support achievement of the State's current climate, public health, and air quality goals. To achieve this, CARB staff propose to enhance the current targets that consider statutory, technological, and other policy factors that have changed since 2018, when the targets were last adopted (e.g., progress made to implement SCSs, new funding programs, updated regulatory efforts, and new research).

- **PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:**

The EIA will evaluate the potential for impacts on the environmental resource areas found in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Potential adverse impacts would be associated with the reasonably foreseeable compliance responses related to the targets update, which may include (1) land use strategies aimed at reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and associated GHG emissions including, but not limited to location-appropriate changes that are known to reduce VMT by shortening vehicle trip length; facilitating non-auto travel compared to historical development patterns; focusing growth within existing urban centers or along transit corridors to improve the efficiency of the transportation system; increasing multi-family and small-lot housing, average densities, mixed land use, and infill development; focusing development in the vicinity of transit services; new parking requirements or standards; preservation of open space and natural and working lands; and (2) transportation strategies designed to reduce VMT and GHG emissions including, but not limited to development of complete streets; increasing transit efficiency and frequency; expansion and improvement of transit systems; clean vehicle rebates; zero emission and plug-in hybrid electric vehicle charging infrastructure; and use of transportation demand management and transportation system management strategies.

The reasonably foreseeable compliance responses associated with the Proposed Update to the SB 375 GHG Emissions Reduction Targets could potentially adversely or beneficially affect the following resource areas, which will be further evaluated in the EIA:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural and Forest Resources
- Air Quality and Odors
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology, Seismicity, and Soils
- Greenhouse Gases
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services

- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

Potential cumulative impacts and potential for growth inducement will be evaluated in the EIA, as well as alternatives, including the No Project Alternative.

Upcoming Virtual Public Workshop: 2026 SB 375 Regional Target Update and Updates to CARB's Sustainable Communities Strategy Evaluation Process

July 23 Virtual Workshop Announcement

[en español](#)

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) invites you to participate in a virtual public workshop to learn more about and provide input on two ongoing processes at CARB:

2026 SB 375 Regional Target Update

SB 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, requires each metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to prepare a sustainable communities strategy (SCS) as part of its regional transportation plan. The purpose of the SCS is to integrate land use and transportation planning to support the State's climate goals. To help guide these regional planning efforts, CARB is required to establish regional [greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emission reduction targets](#) for 2020 and 2035 and to evaluate each SCS to determine whether the SCS, if implemented, would meet the targets.

Pursuant to SB 375, CARB last updated the GHG emission reduction targets in 2018 and is required to update them again no later than 2026. CARB staff intends this workshop to provide information to the public about the target update process and timeline as well as to receive input from the public about what factors to consider as it develops target recommendations for the CARB Board.

Updates to CARB's Sustainable Communities Strategy Evaluation Process

Relatedly, CARB staff last updated the [program guidelines](#) ("Guidelines"), which set out expectations and CARB's review process for SCSs, in 2019. Since the release of the 2019 Guidelines, most MPOs have completed their 3rd cycle of SCSs, and some MPOs have begun their 4th cycle. CARB staff held a [workshop in January 2024](#) to discuss the existing Guidelines, communicate expectations for the upcoming 4th Cycle SCS, and discuss the

process moving forward for updating the Guidelines. In this workshop, CARB staff will discuss and receive input from the public on proposed medium-term changes to the Guidelines.

How to Participate

The virtual public workshop will be held via Zoom webinar at the following date and time.

Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time
Location: Virtual Workshop

The registration link for the workshop will be available on the CARB [Regional Plan Targets webpage](#) by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 10, 2024.

Once the link is available, please register before the workshop begins to ensure that you are able to enter the workshop from the beginning. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information to join the Zoom webinar through a computer, digital device, or phone. During the workshop, participants will be able to ask questions and provide comments through the Zoom “raise hand” feature or via phone line.

This meeting will be recorded. Approximately two weeks after the meeting date, CARB staff will post a link to the recording on the [Sustainable Communities | California Air Resources Board](#) webpage.

Contact

If you have questions about the workshop or would like more information about CARB’s SB 375 program, please email SustainableCommunities@arb.ca.gov.

Special Accommodation Request

Consistent with California Government Code section 7296.2, special accommodation or language needs may be provided for any of the following:

- An interpreter to be available at the hearing;
- Documents made available in an alternate format or another language; and

- A disability-related reasonable accommodation.

To request these special accommodations or language needs, please contact [John Beutler by email](#) or +1 279-208-7676 as soon as possible, but no later than July 9, 2024.

TTY/TDD/Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.