



Climate & Air Quality Committee

Item #09-12-3 Information

November 25, 2009

Update on Methodology for Regional Greenhouse Gas Targets

Issue: Regional greenhouse gas targets will be set as part of the update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). A methodology is being developed in preparation of these targets.

Recommendation: None, this item is for information only.

Discussion: With the update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, greenhouse gas targets for light and medium duty vehicles will be set for the years 2020 and 2035. The targets will be set by the Air Resources Board (ARB), but the process established in SB 375 allows significant regional input into the process. The targets will become the benchmarks for the MTP's Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), or an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) and, when met, will allow the region to take advantage of some CEQA streamlining options for residential development.

The GHG target's methodology is, in its most basic form, an extension of the performance-based planning process used in the MTP for 2035 (adopted in March 2008). All parts of the region's land use and transportation systems that contribute to vehicular GHG will be included in a series of scenarios to find a future transportation and development pattern that minimizes GHG. The scenarios will focus on:

- the amount, location, and type of residential and commercial growth;
- the mix of road, transit, and non-motorized system investment; and
- the cost of travel by transit and by autos.

Other ARB programs under the global warming program on vehicle and fuels technology will be included. These scenarios will also be evaluated with all the performance metrics from the MTP for 2035 on transportation and growth to keep the GHG target process in balance with other regional objectives.

The first scheduled date to report to the ARB will be in March 2010, so scenario results will be presented in January to the Board of Directors, or the Strategic Planning Committee if they meet. The ARB will set draft targets in June 2010 and final targets by September 2010. Staff will present regular reports and recommendations to the Committee and the Board of Directors as the process proceeds.

Approved by:

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