



Land Use & Natural Resources Committee

February 25, 2016

Mega-Region Study of MTP/SCS in Cooperation with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the San Joaquin Council of Governments and the RAND Corporation

Issue: SACOG has the opportunity to broaden our knowledge on regional planning impacts related to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy through a cooperative study with two adjacent MPOs and the RAND Corporation.

Recommendation: None. This item is for information only.

Discussion:

The RAND Corporation, a nationally renowned research organization, has received funding to develop state of the practice climate adaptation tools and techniques. The project is selecting three pilot studies across the country and contacted SACOG staff due to our work on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy. After some initial discussion with RAND staff, we proposed a study to be done in cooperation with two adjoining MPOs, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the San Joaquin Council of Governments.

The study would examine a broader range of policies and projects than have been included in our respective MTP/SCSs to see if greater GHG reductions are possible, and if so, what would be required within and between the regions and what possible actions would be required from the state of California. Several tasks are included. The climate adaptation analysis will include a range of metrics SACOG uses in our regional planning because they must work within the context of the region's livability goals.

Initially RAND will examine the three regions' MTP/SCSs, both within each region and across the three regions. The second task will "stress test" SACOG's just adopted MTP/SCS by combining RAND and SACOG analytical tools. The integrated tools will be able to run dozens, if not hundreds, of scenarios to test the impacts of many more important variables on the performance metrics we have used in the MTP/SCS development. The third task will identify potential robust options that could maximize regional benefits and contribute toward meeting State climate change legislation and executive orders.

The timing for this study fits well with the review of the GHG targets that the MTP/SCS must meet. SB 375 requires the Air Resources Board to reevaluate the GHG targets in 2017, prior to our next MTP/SCS plan adoption in 2020. ARB is proposing a set of tests to be done in cooperation with the MPOs across the state in preparation to the new GHG targets. The RAND study will provide useful information to this target setting process.

The project is scheduled to be completed by December 2016. The SACOG staff's time is limited to assisting in setting up the study, providing data and access to our tools, then review and comment on reports. We will bring draft findings and possible conclusions back to the Board of Directors as they become available.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

MM:KL:ts

Key Staff: Kacey Lizon, Planning Manager, (916) 340-6265
Gordon Garry, Director of Research & Analysis, (916) 340-6230