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**FRESNO COUNTY SB 375 TASK FORCE  
Kick-off Meeting  
MEETING NOTES**

**Date:** Thursday, November 12, 2009  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Place:** COG Sequoia Conference Room  
2035 Tulare St., Suite 201, Fresno, CA

**ATTENDANCE:**

Sean Brewer, City of Coalinga	David Fey, City of Clovis
Gerald Forde, City of Huron	Bill Robinson, Sol Development Associates
Luis Patlan, City of Kerman	Lynn Gorman, County of Fresno
Mike Prandini, Building Industry Association	Patrick Smith, Harris Ranch
Paul Marquez, Caltrans	Jeff O'Neal, City of Mendota
J. P. Sweeney, CTDC	John Wright, Planner
Ralph Kachadourian, City of Sanger	Elizabeth Wright, Tulare County Association of Governments
Keith Bergthold, City of Fresno	Charlie Alexander, Fehr & Peers
John Dugan, City of Fresno	Bruce O'Neal, Consultant
Scott Tyler, City of Fresno	Tony Boren, Fresno COG
Tom Jordan, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Barbara Steck, Fresno COG
Karl Schoettler, City of Firebaugh	Mike Bitner, Fresno COG
Beverly Baucher, Caltrans	Kathy Chung, Fresno COG
David Roberts, City of Reedley	Kristine Cai, Fresno COG
Terry Schmal,, City of Kingsburg	Laural Fawcett, Fresno COG
Dwight Kroll, City of Clovis	Lindsey Monge, Fresno COG
Renee Mathis, City of Clovis	Tom Webster, Fresno COG
Ryan Burnett, City of Clovis	Suzanne Martinez, Fresno COG

**I. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda. **Note: Prior to action by the Committee on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.**

There were no public presentations.

**II. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Welcome and Introductions**

Tony Boren (Fresno COG) welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves. Mr. Boren gave a brief description of SB 375 and the goals of the Task Force.

Barbara Steck (Fresno COG) explained how SB375 fits in with the Blueprint. Ms. Steck announced that Luis Patlan (City of Kerman) has agreed to facilitate the SB375 Task Force Meetings.

Luis Patlan (City of Kerman) introduced himself and stated that he welcomed the opportunity to participate in this endeavor. Mr. Patlan stressed the importance of working together to achieve goals.

**Member Agencies:** The cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma & Fresno County

## **B. Overview of SB 375**

Kristine Cai (Fresno COG) gave an PowerPoint presentation on SB 375. This information is available on our website at [www.fresnocog.org](http://www.fresnocog.org). The bill was signed into law in September 2008 and became effective January 1, 2009. Ms. Cai discussed AB32 and its scoping plan, which involves greenhouse reductions. She discussed three major components of SB375; green house reductions, CEQA exemption and streamlining, and SB375's effect on Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA).

Ms. Cai discussed setting targets for SB 375 and Clark Thompson (Fresno COG) gave an in-depth description of RHNA and the effect that SB375 will have on it. The RHNA is updated every five years. This is an opportunity to bring consistency in planning processes. Lastly, Ms. Cai presented an overall summary of SB375, emphasizing that it will provide local flexibility for AB32, it is a bottom-up process, local governments and general plan play critical roles, and the funding challenges associated with SB375.

Mike Prandini (BIA) had a comment on zoning provisions and how local Councils are reluctant to approve higher density projects. Once the rules are set, it should be easier for projects to be started.

A question was raised about the sanctions that may be involved if the zoning timeline is not met. Mr. Thompson read language from the SB 375 bill that addresses the sanction topic. Further discussions ensued regarding the possibility of having to rezone land because of the bill and the difficulties involved in doing so.

Jeff O'Neal City of Mendota asked if a city wants to change a general plan, would the city have to go to COG to amend the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) in order to maintain consistency?

In response, Ms. Cai stated that local general plans are not required to conform to SCS. Would be required to go back and revisit the targets.

Greg Martin, City of Selma, asked if the fact that RHNA and SCS will be tied together, will it have an effect on the targets for the housing elements? Will the new RHNA take into account that there really hasn't been any building in the last five years and that the urban areas will most likely be taking on most of the future housing.

Mr. Thompson addressed his concern and emphasized that the targets are not construction targets. They are zoning targets.

## **C. Regional Target Advisory Committee (RTAC) Final Report**

Mike Bitner (Fresno COG) gave a PowerPoint presentation on (RTAC). Mr. Bitner discussed the role of RTAC and the actions taken by the Committee. The RTAC recommended a uniform Statewide Metric preference, "ambitious achievable" targets, use of existing travel demand models, creation of a Best management practice (BMP) list, as system that encourages high levels of public engagement. The RTAC also recommended that the state allocate resources to support SB 375 goals. Mr. Bitner outlined a seven-step process for target setting and informed the Committee that all information given at the meeting was available on the Fresno COG website at [www.fresnocog.org](http://www.fresnocog.org).

Fresno COG staff fielded various questions from meeting attendees.

## **D. Target-setting – Fresno COG Approach**

Kristine Cai (Fresno COG) reported on the target-setting processes that Fresno COG will be monitoring. Ms. Cai presented an SB375 target-setting process timeline that outlined when the Committee would address issues such as background & approach, baseline modeling, scenario development, scenario modeling output-draft target, final draft target, COG Board adoption of the final draft target, and ultimately the target submittal to ARB on March 1, 2010.

A brief discussion ensued regarding private fund usage for a light rail project in Fresno County.

Further discussion ensued regarding the importance of alternative energy sources as a way to reduce emissions, as it may be easier to get the public to switch to lower emission vehicles than it would to switch them over to mass transit.

Ms. Cai emphasized that the next meeting will be dedicated to scenario development and the committee members should be prepared to provide input at that meeting.

**E. OTHER**

**A. Items from Members**

David Fey (City of Clovis) – commented that the CEQA thresholds are not matched to the requirements of SB 375. He also stated his perception that SB 375 does, in fact, diminish local authority. He expressed his concern with using the RHNA as a model. Lastly, he cautioned that modeling does not equal planning.

**B. Items from Staff**

None.

**F. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Luis Patlan (City of Kerman) announced that future meetings were scheduled for the second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. in the Fresno COG Sequoia Conference Room. He confirmed dates for meetings to take place in the next three months: December 9, 2009, January 13, 2010, and February 10, 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Cai,  
Planner III  
Fresno COG

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