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October 15, 2009

To: Tony Boren, Executive Director
Barbara Steck, Deputy Director
Mike Bitner, Principal Planner

From Kristine Cai, Planner III

Re: Fresno COG Approach to SB 375 Compliance

On September 30, the Regional Target Advisory Committee (RTAC) made their final recommendation to the Air Resource Board (ARB). In the RTAC report, it was recommended that MPOs develop scenarios for target-setting purpose, and a draft target be proposed either by the MPOs or prepared by ARB through consultations with MPOs by March 1, 2010. ARB staff will recommend state-wide draft target to their Board on June 30, 2010, and the final target will be set on September 30, 2010.

As pointed out in the RTAC report, the scenario development for the target-setting process should be a bottom-up process. In Fresno County, stakeholder group meetings will be held to direct the scenario development for an “ambitious and achievable” target in our region. The SB 375 kick-off meeting will be launched on Nov. 12th. Modeling tools, specifically 4-D process, are being developed and will be in place for the target setting process. Fresno COG is planning on submitting target to ARB for the Fresno region.

Although we are facing a tight timeline for setting a regional target, staff strongly feels that the target setting process should not be separated from the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) process, as well as the overall implementation of SB 375. Once the target is set, the region has to work on developing a SCS that will meet the target. Since local land use, thus the general plans, are the key in the SB 375 efforts, Fresno COG has started an engagement process with our local land use planners, alongside with the target setting process. The purpose of the early engagement process is to, on one hand, inform our local agencies the start of the SB 375 efforts, and what is more important to ensure that if jurisdictions have plans to update their general plans in the near future, there will be coordinated efforts between SCS development and the general plan updates. If the SCS comes from the general plans already updated with sustainable growth features, our region will have less of SCS-general plan integration issue, and thus will be in a better position to meet the target and be SB 375 compliant.

Attached is a preliminary timeline and approach to address the requisites of SB 375.

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

Fresno COG Preliminary SB 375 Approach

I. Short Term Task: target setting process --- deadline March 1, 2010

Target setting process

1. Develop baseline based on adopted 2007 RTP – November/December, 2009
2. Develop scenarios with stakeholders group through community process – November-February (kick-off meeting scheduled on November 12th, 2009)
3. Analyze scenario data and submit the target - **March 1, 2010**
4. ARB considers feedback and considers target submittals
5. ARB recommend draft target to ARB Board ---- June 30, 2010
6. ARB & MPO continue to exchange information until final target set on September 2010

Preliminary thoughts on the alternatives scenarios: revised general plans, Blueprint, transit (BRT, etc.)

Informational Public Workshop (tentative, December/January)

- SB 375 legislation requires an informational public workshop for the general public after RTAC puts out its final recommendation on September 30, 2009.

II. Mid/Long Term Task: Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Development – 2013/2014 RTP

- What's SCS: a forecast land use pattern, integrated with transportation planning process that will achieve the GHG reduction goal set in the target.
- Work with local jurisdictions during their general plan update process.
- Monitor progress of the Public Transportation Infrastructure Study (PTIS)
- Develop more fine-grained tools to model land use development/growth at corridor level
- Extensive outreach
 - An adopted public outreach plan
 - A workshop with elected officials
 - 3 public workshops for counties with population over 500,000
 - 2 public hearings
 - outreach efforts consistent with federal Public Participation Plan
- Housing Elements
- Preliminary thoughts on SCS: combination of PTIS & Blueprint
 - SCS scenario development process could be somewhat built upon the PTIS corridor identification/selection process in the Metro area, and Blueprint elements could be used in the rest of the county.