

OneBayArea

Date: June 29, 2010
To: Regional Advisory Working Group
From: Doug Kimsey, MTC
Subject: **California Air Resources Board's Greenhouse Gas Target-Setting Process: Update**

Background

At your April and May meetings, staff provided a summary of MTC's and the other region's data-exchange activities among ourselves and with CARB. By law, CARB is required to release draft 2020 and 2035 GHG reduction targets for the State's 18 regions by June 30, 2010 and final targets by September 30, 2010.

Several of the regions have completed a number of scenario assessments that are intended to narrow to an achievable range of GHG emission reductions (measured in % reduction of weekday pounds per capita compared to a 2005 base year in 2020 and 2025). For our target-setting scenario assessments, MTC/ABAG has mostly relied on recent analyses done for the 2009 RTP, adopted by the Commission in April 2009.

Recent Target-Setting Activities

MPO staffs continue to work with CARB staff to provide the board with sufficient data to help inform the statewide target-setting process. A number of regional and CARB activities have occurred, are ongoing, or have been planned since our May 2010 RAWG meeting:

- The four large MPOs submitted a summary report of data to the Regional Targets Advisory Committee (RTAC), which is advising CARB on GHG target-setting methodology, on May 25, 2010 in Sacramento. The purpose of the report was show that there are broad differences among the large MPOs, and that these differences need to be taken in consideration when setting GHG targets (see CARB's website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/sb375/mpo/prelimreport.mtc.sacog.sandag.scag.pdf>)
- CARB has announced that it will hold several SB 375 target-setting workshops during mid- to late July 2010. A Bay Area workshop is scheduled for July 21, 2010 in Oakland (exact time and location still TBD). See CARB's website at <http://arb.ca.gov/cc/sb375/meetings/meetings.htm> for future workshop details
- The four large MPO Executive Directors will be presenting SB 375 target-setting details to CARB at its June 24, 2010. See: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/board/ma/2010/ma062410.htm> for more details.
- The MPOs continue to work with CARB on data sharing and target setting details. The basic messages heard from CARB staff at this time include:



- while the MPOs have developed a lot of good information to help with the target-setting process, there are still some outstanding questions about the data that need to be sorted out
- CARB staff seem to be inclined to release a draft range of GHG emission targets on June 30, 2010 based on data the MPOs have submitted thus far; the range is intended to give CARB staff and the MPOs more time to sort out remaining data questions
- CARB is still on track to adopt final GHG targets by September 30, 2010 as required by law. While we believe that the law would prohibit adopting ranges, CARB staff is considering adopting group targets for MPOs that share similar attributes (e.g. fast vs. slow-growing regions)

Next Steps

MPO and CARB staff have agreed that ongoing data development/comparisons have been very helpful in understanding how the MPOs are different and what some of the key drivers are in setting GHG reduction targets (e.g. population and employment growth, transportation investment strategies, severity of traffic congestion). No matter what the outcome with the target-setting process, CARB and MPO staff agree with several findings from the data development:

- Current RTPs move us in the right GHG direction, and also provide important health, mobility and social equity co-benefits
- Each MPO can improve GHG reductions from our existing RTPs
- Existing highway and transit maintenance and operations obligations limit funding flexibility
- GHG reduction results for some of the alternative scenarios are overly ambitious:
 - “Fiscally constrained” revenue test not met
 - Widespread application of some strategies (e.g., pricing, land use policies) are politically infeasible
- Staffs will continue to work over the next several weeks to refine target setting analysis
- The time between June 30 and September 30 will allow time to share results with our policy boards and stakeholder groups

To the last point above, several bites at the apple exist to provide your input on proposed GHG targets:

- July 9, 2010 MTC Planning Committee, with ABAG’s Administrative Committee and Joint Policy Committee members
- July 21, 2010, CARB target-setting workshop in Oakland
- July 28, 2010 MTC meeting
- July 29, 2010 SCS Executive Working Group
- August 3, 2010 RAWG meeting
- September 10, 2010 MTC Planning Committee, with ABAG’s Administrative Committee and Joint Policy Committee members
- September 22, 2010 MTC meeting
- September 30, 2010 CARB adopts target





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