



City of Ceres • City of Hughson • City of Modesto • City of Newman • City of Oakdale • City of Patterson
City of Riverbank • City of Turlock • City of Waterford • County of Stanislaus

NEXT MEETING OF THE:

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 6, 2011•TUESDAY•1:00 PM

STANCOG BOARD ROOM

1111 I STREET, SUITE 308

MODESTO, CA

Committee Agendas and Minutes: Committee agendas, minutes and copies of items to be considered by the StanCOG Committees are available at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at the StanCOG offices located at 1111 "I" Street, Suite 308, Modesto, CA during normal business hours. The documents are also available on StanCOG's website at www.stanog.org/committees.shtm.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the address listed above during normal business hours. These documents are also available on StanCOG's website, subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

Public Comment Period: Matters under the jurisdiction of the Committee, and not on the posted agenda, may be addressed by the general public at the beginning of the regular agenda and any off-agenda matters before the Committee for consideration. However, California law prohibits the Committee from taking action on any matter which is not on the posted agenda unless it is determined to be an emergency by the Committee. Any member of the public wishing to address the Committee during the "Public Comment" period will be limited to 5 minutes unless the Chair of the Committee grants a longer period of time. At a Special Meeting, members of the public may address the Board on any item on the Agenda at the time the item is considered by the Board.

Public Participation on a Matter on the Agenda: Please step to the podium at the time the agenda item is announced by the Chairperson. In order to ensure that interested parties have an opportunity to speak, any person addressing the Committee will be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes unless the Chair of the Committee grants a longer period of time.

Reasonable Accommodations: This Agenda shall be made available upon request in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12132) and the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code § 54954.2). Persons requesting a disability related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact Cindy Malekos at (209) 525-4600 during regular business hours at least 72 hours prior to the time of the meeting to enable StanCOG to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Notice Regarding Non-English Speakers: StanCOG Committee meetings are conducted in English and translations to other languages is not provided. Anyone wishing to address the Committee is advised to have an interpreter or to contact Cindy Malekos at (209) 525-4600 during regular business hours at least 72 hours prior to the time of the meeting so that StanCOG can provide an interpreter.

Aviso con Respecto a Personas que no Hablan el Idioma de Inglés: Las reuniones del los Comités del Consejo de Gobiernos de Stanislaus son conducidas en Inglés y traducciones a otros idiomas no son disponibles. Cualquier persona que desea dirigirse al Comité se le aconseja que traiga su propio intérprete o llame a Cindy Malekos al (209) 525-4600 durante horas de oficina regulares o a lo menos 72 horas antes de la reunión del Consejo de Gobiernos de Stanislaus, para proporcionarle con un intérprete.

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

These matters may be presented only by interested persons in the audience. Discussion is limited to five minutes or at the discretion of the Chair.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Motion to Approve Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Steering Committee Minutes of 8/2/2011

5. PRESENTATION

- A. San Joaquin Valley Transportation Model Improvement Program (MIP) and StanCOG Transportation Model Update Presentation

6. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- A. Nomination of SCS Steering Committee Chair and Vice Chair
- B. Continued Discussion regarding SCS Public Participation Plan Kick-Off
- C. Discussion regarding Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets from the Air Resources Board (ARB)
- D. Discussion regarding Description of Methodology for ARB Review of Greenhouse Gas Reductions from Sustainable Communities Strategies

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Future Meeting Topics

8. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Sustainable Communities Committee Meeting:

October 4, 2011 (Tuesday) @ 1:00 pm
StanCOG Board Room
1111 I Street, Suite 308
Modesto, CA 95354



CONSENT CALENDAR



*City of Ceres • City of Hughson • City of Modesto • City of Newman • City of Oakdale • City of Patterson
City of Riverbank • City of Turlock • City of Waterford • County of Stanislaus*

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY (SCS) MEETING
StanCOG Board Room
1111 I Street, Suite 308
Modesto, CA**

**Minutes of August 2, 2011 (Tuesday)
10:00 am**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Carlson (Stanislaus County); Tom Westbrook (City of Ceres); Patrick Kelly (City of Modesto); Danelle Stylos (City of Oakdale); Joel Andrews (City of Patterson); J.D. Hightower (City of Riverbank); Debbie Whitmore (City of Turlock); Matt Erickson (City of Waterford); Stephen Bonrepos (CAC); Marjorie Blom (LAFCo)

ALSO PRESENT: Vince Harris, Carlos Yamzon, Jaylen French, Rosa Park, Mike Costa, and Cindy Malekos (StanCOG)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
Jaylen French called the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Steering Committee meeting to order at 10:06 am.
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS - None**
4. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
 - A. **Motion to Approve Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) Steering Committee Minutes of 5/31/2011**

*By Motion (Debbie Whitmore/Danelle Stylos), and unanimous vote, the Sustainable Communities Strategy Steering Committee approved the Minutes from the May Steering Committee Meeting.
5. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**
 - A. **Discussion regarding Performance Targets for the SCS**
StanCOG staff provided information regarding the concept of adopting voluntary Performance Targets which can measure and evaluate the identified land use scenarios developed for the SCS. This was a discussion item and the issue will be further discussed at future meetings. Comments from the Committee regarded:

- A statement upfront in the document regarding our region's priorities is a good idea, but this may not need specific target numbers attached, just a list of priorities.
- Change the title to Performance Goals, not targets, as targets makes it appear regulatory and these are voluntary. Also, they could be confused with the GHG emission reduction targets set by CARB.
- Could the setting of performance 'goals', help us in explaining why we could not meet the GHG targets in the Alternative Planning Scenario (APS), if we have to adopt an APS? As stated in the legislation, the APS must identify any impediment which prevented achieving the emission target.
- It is difficult to set targets/goals, without having adopted strategies. The Committee feels more comfortable making a decision about goals further into the process.
- StanCOG should hold Informational Workshops with the Committee to provide information and to allow further discussion on key topics.

B. Discussion regarding Priority Development Areas (PDAs)

StanCOG staff provided information regarding the concept of adopting voluntary Priority Development Areas (PDAs) at the local level. The PDAs could help shape the way the region grows and develops by promoting a more compact land use pattern. This was a discussion item and the issue will be further discussed at future meetings. Comments from the Committee regarded:

- Priority may not necessarily mean infill; right now many agencies' priority is jobs.
- Agencies struggle with implementing infill development due to the higher cost of construction. Regional funding as an incentive is encouraged.
- The local agencies may already be doing something similar, so we should take credit for this in the SCS.
- Need more details on how this concept would be applied.

C. Discussion regarding an Alternate Meeting Time for the SCS Steering Committee

StanCOG staff opened the discussion regarding potentially moving the date and/or time of the Committee meetings due to concerns raised about conflicts. There was general consensus regarding moving the meeting to the afternoon. Staff will conduct a straw vote to verify the meeting time.

D. Initial Discussion regarding Population and Housing Forecast Methodology for the SCS

StanCOG staff opened the discussion regarding comments received from committee members regarding typical population, housing and employment forecasting methodology. Staff's intent was to share comments received with the entire committee to assist in the future development of a forecasting methodology for the SCS process. Several comments were received:

- How will HCD review forecast, since SB 375 states that housing element numbers should be taken from SCS, but HCD is still wielding authority in how numbers are set.
- The University of Pacific (UOP) Business Forecasting Center can perform a thorough forecast for the region (approximately \$25K).

E. Discussion regarding San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Toolkit Launch

StanCOG staff informed the group that the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Toolkit is now available for the agencies to use as a resource to implement smart growth strategies. The Toolkit can be found at: <http://toolkit.valleyblueprint.org/>.

- F. Discussion regarding SCS Public Participation Plan Preparation Kick-off**
StanCOG staff informed the group that we will adopt a standalone Public Participation Plan for the SCS, as opposed to a section regarding the SCS in the agency-wide PPP. We will seek input from the Committee in future meetings regarding outreach strategies, etc.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Future Meeting Topics

StanCOG Staff informed the group of topics to be addressed at future meetings. This will be a standing item on each agenda to notify the committee of upcoming topics.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Jaylen French adjourned the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Steering Committee meeting at 11:05 am.

Next Regularly Scheduled Sustainable Communities Strategy Steering Committee Meeting:

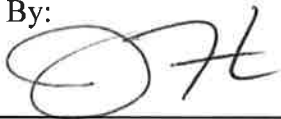
September 6, 2011 (Tuesday) @ 10:00 am

StanCOG Board Room

1111 I Street, Suite 308

Modesto, CA 95354

Minutes Prepared By:



Jaylen French

Associate Planner / SCS Project Manager



PRESENTATIONS



Item 5A

*City of Ceres • City of Hughson • City of Modesto • City of Newman • City of Oakdale • City of Patterson
City of Riverbank • City of Turlock • City of Waterford • County of Stanislaus*

TO: Sustainable Communities Strategy Steering Committee **Staff Report**
THROUGH: Vince Harris, Executive Director **Presentation**
FROM: Carlos Yamzon, Senior Regional Planner *cy*
Jaylen French, Associate Planner *JCF*
DATE: August 26, 2011
SUBJECT: San Joaquin Valley Transportation Model Improvement Plan (MIP) and
StanCOG Transportation Model Update

Background

In 2009, the Strategic Growth Council awarded the eight (8) Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in the San Joaquin Valley \$2.5 million of Proposition 84 funds for model improvements. The funds were allocated for model development and data gathering and are primarily intended to ensure the valley MPOs successfully model the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Staff will provide an update on the status of this program and also the progress being made on the StanCOG transportation model, independent of the MIP.

jcfrench@stancog.org



DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS



City of Ceres • City of Hughson • City of Modesto • City of Newman • City of Oakdale • City of Patterson
City of Riverbank • City of Turlock • City of Waterford • County of Stanislaus

TO: Sustainable Communities Strategy Steering Committee **Staff Report**
THROUGH: Vince Harris, Executive Director *VH* Discussion
FROM: Carlos Yamzon, Senior Regional Planner *CY*
Jaylen French, Associate Planner *JCF*
DATE: August 26, 2011
SUBJECT: Nomination of SCS Steering Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Recommendation

By Motion:

Nominate a Chair and Vice Chair of the SCS Steering Committee.

Background

Currently, StanCOG is crafting bylaws for all our Standing Committees which do not currently have a set including the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Committee and updating the bylaws for the committees which do have a set. These are currently in draft form.

Discussion

The StanCOG Sustainable Communities Strategies Steering Committee DRAFT Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1 states, ‘The SCS shall elect from among its membership a chairperson and vice chairperson. The term of office for each shall be one year.’ Further, Article VIII states, ‘An appointed staff member of StanCOG shall serve as the liaison between the Policy Board, the members of the Sustainable Communities Strategy Steering Committee and shall provide that Committee with appropriate staff assistance.

jcfrench@stancog.org



City of Ceres • City of Hughson • City of Modesto • City of Newman • City of Oakdale • City of Patterson
City of Riverbank • City of Turlock • City of Waterford • County of Stanislaus

TO: Sustainable Communities Strategy Steering Committee **Staff Report**
THROUGH: Vince Harris, Executive Director *VH* Discussion
FROM: Carlos Yamzon, Senior Regional Planner *cy*
Jaylen French, Associate Planner *JCF*
DATE: August 26, 2011
SUBJECT: Discussion regarding SCS Public Participation Plan Preparation Kick-Off

Background

According to Senate Bill 375, ‘each Metropolitan Planning Organization shall adopt a public participation plan, for development of the sustainable communities strategy’. Similarly, MPOs can include a section in the agency-wide public participation plan to address the development of the SCS. However, as this is a very important topic, one of expressed concern of our Steering Committee, StanCOG, in conjunction with the Committee, will undertake the development of a stand alone PPP for the SCS process. As outlined in the Draft Schedule of Activities, this task was scheduled to begin in July and take approximately four months to complete.

Discussion

The intent of the SCS PPP is to establish a process and outline specific activities for communicating with the public throughout the SCS development. The StanCOG SCS PPP will be rooted in the principles that are included in our federally required, agency-wide public participation plan. The concept of the SCS PPP is to promote an open, transparent process that encourages the ongoing and active participation of local governments and a broad range of stakeholders. It is our goal to ensure that those with a stake in the outcome have the opportunity to be involved.

At this point, StanCOG staff would like to hear from the Committee on next steps and content of the SCS PPP. Staff will seek input on the following topics and any others that the Committee deems appropriate.

- Goals
- Objectives
- Public Outreach Activities (number and type of workshops, presentations, etc.)
- Public Participation Techniques (secondary outreach partners, noticing, media, etc.)
- Stakeholder Outreach Efforts (including the public in the SCS planning process)
- Others?

jcfrench@stancog.org



City of Ceres • City of Hughson • City of Modesto • City of Newman • City of Oakdale • City of Patterson
City of Riverbank • City of Turlock • City of Waterford • County of Stanislaus

TO: Sustainable Communities Strategy Steering Committee **Staff Report**
THROUGH: Vince Harris, Executive Director *[Signature]* Discussion
FROM: Carlos Yamzon, Senior Regional Planner *cy*
Jaylen French, Associate Planner *JCF*
DATE: August 26, 2011
SUBJECT: Discussion regarding Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets from the Air Resources Board (ARB)

Background

In September 2010, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) took action to adopt greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets—pursuant to the passage of Senate Bill 375 (SB 375)—for each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) within the state. Based on the concerns raised by our agencies regarding our ability to effectively measure emissions and reductions, the eight (8) San Joaquin Valley MPOs were provided ‘placeholder’ targets of 5% in 2020 and 10% in 2035. As part of this action, CARB committed to working with the valley to provide provisional targets in calendar year 2012, after the completion of the Prop 84 funded Valley Model Improvement Plan.

ARB will be looking at what new technical information is available and how/if the valley MPOs intend to work together on the SCS development. These two factors will impact ARB’s recommendation on the 2012 Provisional Targets.

Discussion

The following is an excerpt from the ARB Staff Report: Proposed Targets, dated August 9, 2010.

‘The placeholder target for 2020 lies within the range of potential reductions submitted by the MPOs of 1 to 6 percent; the proposed target for 2035 is well beyond the 2035 scenario estimates provided by the MPOs and reflects the significant technical improvements and policy discussions that are needed to impact this rapidly growing region. ARB staff is proposing this placeholder target with a commitment to revisit the target in 2012 prior to development of the first SCS. While a 10 percent reduction appears very challenging when compared to the results of current modeling efforts, it is consistent in concept with the target recommendations for the four major MPOs, where the 2035 target is substantially higher than the 2020 target. ARB staff expects that with anticipated modeling improvements and more focus on long-term planning issues, the 2012 review will incorporate significant new information critical to target setting for the Valley.’

'The 2012 informational update (MIP update) would provide a public forum for discussing the progress the Valley MPOs have made in improving the available data, building their modeling capability, addressing residential and employment growth patterns, and exploring alternative target setting scenarios. As part of the 2012 update, ARB staff expects that the Valley MPOs would provide an update on their [model improvement] efforts, and, if available, provide regional target recommendations based on new modeling and scenario information.

The 2012 informational update should include a report by the Valley MPOs on how they intend to address the statutory option to work together, i.e. will the Valley MPOs work together to develop or more multi-county SCS? This is a key question to be answered since the proposed 2010 placeholder targets are valleywide, and consider a wide range of projected GHG emission estimates provided by each of the valley MPOs. If the valley MPOs ultimately decide to develop individual or multi-county SCSs that cover smaller portions of the eight county region, that would need to be considered when revisiting the targets.

Under the process ARB staff is proposing, new provisional targets would be identified for use in developing the valley's 2014 RTPs unless the 2012 review indicates that the placeholder targets are appropriate. The provisional targets would be formally adopted in 2014.

With the provisional targets as a starting point, ARB staff would continue to work closely with the valley MPOs to coordinate their RTP development efforts in parallel with ARB's overall reassessment of targets in 2014. This way as the valley MPOs begin development of 2014 RTPs, they would have the benefit of provisional targets to guide the process.'

jcfrench@stancog.org



City of Ceres • City of Hughson • City of Modesto • City of Newman • City of Oakdale • City of Patterson
City of Riverbank • City of Turlock • City of Waterford • County of Stanislaus

TO: Sustainable Communities Strategy Steering Committee **Staff Report Discussion**

THROUGH: Vince Harris, Executive Director *VH*

FROM: Carlos Yamzon, Senior Regional Planner *CY*
Jaylen French, Associate Planner *JF*

DATE: August 26, 2011

SUBJECT: Discussion regarding Description of Methodology for ARB Review of Greenhouse Gas Reductions from Sustainable Communities Strategies

Background

The first round of SCS development is underway reflecting the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets adopted by the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) in 2010. In July 2011, ARB released a document called Description of Methodology for ARB Staff Review of Greenhouse Gas Reductions from Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) Pursuant to SB 375. The purpose of the document is inform the public about the methodology ARB staff will use to evaluate GHG reductions from SCS, consistent with ARB’s role in SB 375.

Discussion

Now that the Board has adopted the GHG emission reduction targets for each region, ARB’s next task is to determine whether an adopted SCS, if implemented, would meet the assigned target. According to SB 375 Legislation, ‘Review by the State Board shall be limited to acceptance or rejection of the MPO’s determination that the strategy submitted would, if implemented, achieve the GHG emission reduction targets established by the State Board.’

Generally, ARB staff will:

- complete a technical evaluation and recommend to the Board whether the SCS can be expected to achieve the target if implemented,
- focus on the technical aspect of the regional model and supporting analyses,
- take into account the need for supplemental out-of-model analyses,
- evaluate the four components of a travel model program: modeling tools, model data inputs and assumptions, sensitivity analyses and performance indicators.

Modeling Tools

- ARB staff will evaluate each MPOs travel model to assess how well it demonstrates the relationship between land use and transportation changes and reductions in GHG.

- ARB will review outputs of each of the four-steps and compare those with independent data sources, observed traffic counts and industry standards.
- ARB will evaluate whether the MPOs used a model that is validated, calibrated and peer reviewed.
- ARB will evaluate whether each MPO is employing the most appropriate off-model tools and comparing the elasticities in these tools with existing literature.
- ARB will review the use of the EMFAC post-processing tool to ensure that it is applied appropriately.

Model Inputs

- ARB staff will check the input data sets and assumptions to confirm they were appropriately used for the specific model, and that they represent current and reliable data. ARB will analyze the underlying data source, assumptions and forecasts using publicly available source of information, ITE, Caltrans, PeMS, etc.
- In examining a MPOs data, ARB will review assumptions for reasonableness and consistency with empirical evidence and assumptions used by recognized organizations that generate similar information.
- ARB will review forecast calculations to see if they are reasonable, comparing them to indep. data sources

Sensitivity Analysis

- ARB staff will use sensitivity analyses provided by the MPO to understand a model's capacity to capture emissions impacts of the SCS on key model outputs. ARB will also review off-model tool analyses along with modeling results
- ARB staff will determine the most relevant variables or groups of variables to provide information on the resulting elasticities, and request that each MPO conduct sensitivity analyses. ARB may also request MPO specific sensitivity tests of either individual strategies or groups of strategies. Staff will then review the model sensitivity results, and compare them with available empirical literature to determine if elasticities fall within a reasonable range. If empirical literature does not exist, ARB will base its review on best available information of travel behavior.
 - o ARB staff will rely upon a variety of specific information sources to help inform the sensitivity analysis portion of the evaluation, including UCI/UCD, CAPCOA, RTAC, VTPI

Performance Indicators

- ARB staff will review a MPOs performance indicators to determine whether they provide supportive, qualitative evidence that the SCS could meet its GHG targets. ARB staff will examine whether selected regional performance indicators are directionally consistent with the MPOs modeled emission reductions.

jcfrench@stancog.org



INFORMATION ITEMS



Item 7A

*City of Ceres • City of Hughson • City of Modesto • City of Newman • City of Oakdale • City of Patterson
City of Riverbank • City of Turlock • City of Waterford • County of Stanislaus*

TO: Sustainable Communities Strategy Steering Committee

Staff Report
Information

THROUGH: Vince Harris, Executive Director *VH*

FROM: Carlos Yamzon, Senior Regional Planner *cy*
Jaylen French, Associate Planner *JCF*

DATE: August 26, 2011

SUBJECT: Future Meeting Topics

Discussion

- SCS Schedule of Activities Update
- Complete Streets Discussion