State of California
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Acceptance of Greenhouse Gas Quantification Determination for the Butte County Association of Governments' SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy

Resolution 13-17

April 25, 2013

Agenda Item No.: 13-5-3

WHEREAS, SB 375 (Steinberg, Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008), also known as the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act, aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from passenger vehicle travel through improved transportation and land use planning at the regional scale;

WHEREAS, SB 375 requires each of the State's 18 federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), including the California portion of the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization, to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) or an Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) that meets the regional GHG emission reduction targets for passenger vehicles (targets) set by the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board);

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2010, the Board approved GHG emission reduction targets for 2020 and 2035, expressed as a per capita percentage reduction relative to 2005 levels, for each of the State's MPOs;

WHEREAS, the targets established for the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) region are a one percent per capita increase in 2020 and a one percent per capita increase in 2035 relative to 2005 levels;

WHEREAS, BCAG staff engaged the public by holding three rounds of public workshops between August 2011 and October 2012;

WHEREAS, in September 2012, BCAG published a draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) for 2012-2035 that stated it would achieve a two percent per capita reduction from 2005 in 2020 and a two percent per capita reduction from 2005 in 2035;

WHEREAS, ARB staff performed a technical evaluation of the draft SCS using ARB's methodology, published in July 2011, for review of GHG emission calculation procedures for SCS plans;

WHEREAS, ARB staff's evaluation found that BCAG used technical methodologies that would accurately quantify GHG reductions from the draft SCS;

WHEREAS, the BCAG Board of Directors adopted the final MTP/SCS at its public meeting on December 13, 2012;

WHEREAS, as required by California Government Code section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii), BCAG submitted the final SCS to ARB on December 17, 2012, for review of its GHG quantification determination of a two percent per capita reduction by 2020 and a two percent per capita reduction by 2035;

WHEREAS, section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii) of the California Government Code calls for ARB to accept or reject an MPO's determination that its submitted strategy would, if implemented, achieve the GHG emission reduction targets established by the Board;

WHEREAS, ARB staff's technical evaluation of BCAG's GHG reduction quantification determination is contained in Attachment A, "Technical Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Quantification for the Butte County Association of Governments' Sustainable Communities Strategies," dated April 2013; and

WHEREAS, ARB staff's evaluation affirms that BCAG's adopted 2012-2035 SCS would, if implemented, achieve more reductions than the GHG targets that the Board established for the region for 2020 and 2035.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to section 65080(b)(2)(J)(ii) of the California Government Code, the Board hereby accepts BCAG's quantification of the GHG emission reductions from the final SCS adopted by the BCAG Board of Directors on December 13, 2012, and the MPO's determination that the SCS would, if implemented, achieve a two percent per capita GHG reduction from 2005 levels in 2020 and 2035.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that ARB staff is directed to forward this Resolution to the BCAG Board of Directors and Executive Director.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution 13-17, as adopted by the Air Resources Board.

Tracy Jensen

Tracy Jensen, Clerk of the Board

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Identification of Attachment to the Board Resolution

Attachment A: "Technical Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Quantification for the Butte County Association of Governments' Sustainable Communities Strategy," April 2013.