



Agenda Item No. _____

File Code No. 630.02

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 18, 2011
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Planning Division, Community Development Department
SUBJECT: Status Briefing On Senate Bill 375 Implementation

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive a status briefing on Senate Bill 375 (*Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008*) regional implementation efforts to date.

DISCUSSION:

The *Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008* requires regional planning agencies and local governments to develop strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles by reducing per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT). In Santa Barbara County, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) is tasked with taking the lead to implement this state mandated program. On October 18, 2011, Deputy Director Peter Imhof will present a project overview to the City Council.

A key component of Senate Bill (SB) 375 is to better coordinate land use and transportation planning. City Staff from the Community Development and Public Works Departments have already begun working on this effort through their respective SBCAG Advisory Committees, the Technical Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC) and the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC). At the direction of the SBCAG Board, these two advisory committees have recently formed an ad hoc committee to provide SBCAG staff with technical feedback and direction on this multi-year process.

SB 375 attempts to integrate the existing Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) process with the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process, into a new Sustainable Communities Strategy. In order to accomplish this objective, the timing of these two processes need to be synchronized, new goals, policies and actions need to be established, and a number of other supporting documents, such as the Regional Growth Forecast need to be updated. In addition, given the need to develop one joint land/transportation model to test various scenarios, data sharing protocols need to be developed.

The Public Policy Institute of California prepared a report in 2011, entitled “Driving Change, Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled in California,” that is a useful primer for this complicated process. The report is recommended for your review prior to the presentation to Council by SBCAG. As such, please view the hyperlink below. Deputy Director Imhof’s presentation will include: a brief overview of SB 375, key components, an approach, and a schedule.

Note: The report, [Driving Change, Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled in California](#) (Public Policy Institute of California, 2011), has been sent to the City Council and is available for public review at the City Clerk’s Office at City Hall; 735 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

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