

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 3, 2008

TO: MCAG GOVERNING BOARD

FROM: CANDICE STEELMAN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

**RE: SB 375 (STEINBERG) – TRANSPORTATION PLANNING: TRAVEL
 DEMAND MODELS**

BACKGROUND

The Assembly floor analysis, as of 8/22/08 states that SB 375 (Steinberg) requires metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to include sustainable communities strategies (SCS), as defined, in their regional transportation plans (RTPs) for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, aligns planning for transportation and housing, and creates specified incentives for the implementation of the strategies.

When the bill was first introduced, it received strong opposition. Over the past two years, the author and staff have worked to reach a compromise with groups such as the League of Cities, California State Association of Counties, and the Building Industry Association, as well as a plethora of environmental groups. These groups, once opposed, now support SB 375.

However, there is still some opposition, mainly from Orange County and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. (See attached letter and analysis.)

DISCUSSION

On February 1, 2008, the MCAG Governing Board sent a letter of opposition. Since that date, the bill has been amended numerous times, making the majority of original arguments no longer valid. Additionally, with the reversed positions of the above-mentioned organizations, the bill has gained legislative support and, most likely, will have passed both Houses by the time of the Governing Board meeting.

SB 375 is a significant bill that has garnered, through tireless compromise, significant support groups. In addition:

- Numerous amendments have been made which address our major concerns with the bill.
- SB 375 supports regional Blueprints. The San Joaquin Valley will finalize their Blueprint in 2009.
- The rewritten bill removes language that would have seriously diminished local control over land use planning.

However, the bill does not address the additional cost that will be imposed on Regional Transportation Planning Authorities in preparing the required analyses. Also, there is still some defining to be done via trailer bills, the nature of which bills we will not know until the next legislative session.

Taking into consideration the positive points about SB 375 and the areas that need refining, staff requests that the initial position be reviewed.

In September meetings, the TPC recommended support, although staff feels they might have meant “neutral”, as the motion followed a discussion about stating a neutral position; the CAC recommended neutral, and also asked that, in the letter, staff state our continuing areas of concern; and the TRB recommended to continue opposing SB 375.

REQUESTED ACTION

Recommend the MCAG Governing Board review its position to either maintain opposition or issue a letter stating a neutral or support position.

Attachment: Senate Summary and Analysis of SB 375
CalCOG letter of support
Contra Costa Transportation Authority letter of oppose
Contra Costa Transportation Authority analysis