
Press Release

CONTACT: Angela Rushen, Manager of Media and Public Affairs
(213) 236-1809
rushen@scag.ca.gov



SCAG PLEDGES TO WORK WITH AIR RESOURCES BOARD ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TARGETS

LOS ANGELES – September 23, 2010 – The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has pledged to work in partnership with the California Air Resources Board (ARB) in response to ARB’s decision today on greenhouse gas emission targets for the state. The ARB Board conditionally approved a 13% target in 2035 for the SCAG region and will hold a series of discussions with SCAG between now and its meeting in February 2011 on 11 SCAG-recommended conditions aimed primarily at restoring previous levels of State funding for transportation, especially transit.

“We are committed to working in partnership with ARB and other stakeholders throughout the region and state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the SCAG region,” said SCAG President Larry McCallon. “The Regional Council believes that certain conditions – namely funding support to help implement the provisions of SB 375, must be in place to achieve the target goals. Over the next few months, while our two boards hold discussions, we will make the case for the conditions we have proposed,” McCallon said.

The overall goal of the targets is to comply with enacted SB 375 goals for cleaner air, more transportation choices, improved transit and less traffic congestion for California residents and businesses.

“ARB was required by law to set the regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets by September 30th. Now that those targets are set, the real work for the region begins,” McCallon said.

That work includes drafting a plan due to the state legislature and ARB in April 2012. The SCAG Regional Council and staff will begin working with the county transportation commissions, six counties, 190 cities and 15 subregions to develop specific actions for the region.

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 190 cities and more than 19 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG's regional efforts, please visit www.scag.ca.gov.