

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: 02/08/10		Item Number: <u> D-1 </u>	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: Discussion of an Upcoming SCAG Sustainable Communities Strategy Roundtable on the Requirements of Senate Bill 375 (California's Sustainable Communities Strategy and Climate Protection Act).			
Contact Person/Dept.: Jose Mendivil and Susan Yun/CDD		Phone Number: 310-253-5757 and 310-253-5755	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☐	
Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒		Date: N/A	
Public Notification: Meetings and Agendas – City Council (02/03/10).			
Department Approval: Sol Blumenfeld (01/28/10)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (02/03/10)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Mark Scott (by M. Noller) (02/03/10)		City Manager Approval: Mark Scott (02/03/10)	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss the upcoming Southern California Association of Governments Sustainable Communities Strategy Roundtable Listening Session on SB 375 and direct the City Manager as deemed appropriate.

BACKGROUND:

On Thursday, February 25, 2010, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) will hold a roundtable listening session (“roundtable”) regarding the Sustainable Communities Strategy for the SCAG region as it relates to State Senate Bill (SB) 375 (Steinberg), also known as California’s Sustainable Communities Strategy and Climate Protection Act. According to SCAG, the primary goal of the roundtable is to solicit input and engage in a dialogue with decision makers of the Westside Cities subregion on potential strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The driving force for the February 25th roundtable date is the California Air Resources Board (CARB) request for input from SCAG on potential Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction strategies which CARB must consider as it calculates emission reduction targets for the SCAG region.

SB 375 requires SCAG to prepare a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) which will be incorporated into the 2012 Regional Transportation Plan with intent of complying with a State-determined regional GHG emissions reduction target.

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This roundtable is a first step in the “collaborative” process. Culver City, along with other Westside Cities, decided to participate in the collaborative process with SCAG in the development of a region-wide SCS with SCAG. Several other subregions within the SCAG region have also opted to work with SCAG through the collaborative process.

DISCUSSION:

The roundtable- is tentatively scheduled to be held at Greystone Park in **Beverly Hills on February 25, 2010** from 1:30 AM to 1:30 PM (SCAG will be sending out invitations with input from City staff with the exact time, location, and additional workshop information). This roundtable, which will be the first in a series of discussions that SCAG will hold, is intended for elected officials serving on the Westside Cities COG Board and the region’s City Councils and interested planning, transportation and public works staff.

SCAG is still drafting the roundtable materials. According to SCAG the structure of the roundtable is intended to be a "listening session" to gather valuable input from local jurisdictions and the subregion. The roundtable will begin with a brief staff presentation on:

- The regional target setting process for the reduction of GHG emissions; and
- A range of potential approaches (to reduce GHG emissions) for consideration.

This will lead into a facilitated group dialogue focused on hearing the local jurisdictions’ thoughts and recommendations and ways in which SCAG can further work with the subregion to develop next steps. Input from the roundtable will be shared with the SCAG Regional Council prior to making a final target recommendation to CARB. However, the roundtable discussion is not intended to reflect the official position of the Westside Cities subregion or member jurisdictions of the subregion.

The range of potential approaches to reduce GHG emissions will likely address the integration of transportation, land use, and housing planning. Some approaches could also touch upon mixed-use and multi-dwelling housing along commercial corridors and Transit Oriented Development areas such as the Expo Light Rail station area. Other approaches may include discussions on energy efficiency, sustainability plans, and Transportation Demand Management.

In addition to the SCAG region-wide SCS effort discussed above, Culver City, along with many local governments in California, has taken various steps to address GHG emission reduction initiatives.¹

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The February 25th roundtable represents the first in a series of actions intended to address the objectives of SB 375 and the reduction of GHG emissions. As stated above, Culver City is already engaged in or is developing local initiatives and programs with the purpose of addressing GHG emission reductions and sustainability in general. Some of these initiatives include staff and City Council subcommittees focused on sustainability, city ordinances that address conservation and energy efficiency, and staff level review and research of State laws and local development projects as they relate to GHG emissions and sustainability.²

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Because SCAG is responsible for organizing the roundtable including notification, the City will incur no direct costs. Participation of elected officials or city staff will not result in a fiscal impact to the City (other than staff time in attending event).

ATTACHMENTS:

None

MOTION:

That the City Council:

Discuss the upcoming Southern California Association of Governments Sustainable Communities Strategy Roundtable Listening Session Workshop on SB 375 and direct the City Manager as deemed appropriate.

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- Assembly Bill 32 (AB32), the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB 32 requires the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to establish regulations to reduce California's GHG emissions to a 1990 level by the year 2020, with the long-term goal of reducing GHG emissions below 1990 levels by 2050 (an 80 percent reduction). ARB adopted a *Scoping Plan* in December 2008, detailing strategies and measures that will achieve that goal through a set of actions designed to reduce overall GHG emissions. The legislation is intended to address both stationary and mobile sources of GHG emissions.
- Senate Bill 375 (SB 375), 2007. SB 375 was passed as a means of implementing a portion of AB 32, specifically the reduction of tail pipe emissions from passenger vehicles and small to midsize trucks. Through the integration of transportation, land use, and housing planning, that is, encouraging more compact, complete and efficient communities for the future, SB 375 hopes to reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT) thereby reducing carbon emissions. A SCAG region wide SCS will include strategies that result in integrated planning as described above with the goal of reducing GHG emissions.
- Senate Bill 97 (SB 97), 2009. Senate Bill 97 (SB 97) addresses the analysis of GHG emissions in CEQA documents. Pursuant to SB 97, amendments to the State CEQA guidelines have been recently adopted by the State which requires analysis of the potential effects of GHG emissions and corresponding mitigations in the CEQA documents. Activities in local jurisdictions that meet the CEQA definition of "project" such as site plans and use permits may result in GHG emissions.

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- Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance that addresses state mandates;
- Outreach and education on the City's Water Conservation Ordinance;
- Monitoring of AB 811 Loan Program that provides loans to homeowners with the goal of making homes more energy efficient;
- Staff training on the City's carbon footprint;
- Monitoring and review of grant opportunities to develop a Sustainable Community Plan for the City (this could incorporate a Climate Action Plan);
- Negotiations with energy service providers on City facilities with the goal of installing energy efficient lighting including City street lights;
- Residential and commercial solid waste recycling;
- Incorporation of recyclable materials collection and storage facilities within new developments;
- Development of the Green Building Ordinance that mandates environmental requirements for qualifying tenant improvements and new construction – such requirements include energy efficiency in heating and gas, roofing, glazing, interior and exterior lighting, water usage; incorporation of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified performance levels; and conservation of on-site and off-site trees;
- Development of a Solar Photovoltaics Ordinance that mandates incorporation of solar photovoltaics for qualifying tenant improvements and new construction;
- Environmental review of development projects as they relate to GHG emissions pursuant to SB 97 legislation; and
- On-going staff level review of State mandates that could potentially lead to a City-wide Sustainability and/or Climate Action Plan that would address at the *local level* such issues as reduction of transportation-related GHG emissions, energy efficiency, promotion of renewable energy sources, reduction of water usage, and enhancement/preservation of open space.