

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: January 18, 2011

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Staff Presentation on the “Sustainable Communities Strategy” Regional Planning Initiative

REPORT BY: Jeff Bond, Planning & Building Manager

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

For information only.

**BACKGROUND**

The Association of Bay Area Governments and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission has asked city planners in the Bay Area to make presentations to their city councils regarding the “Sustainable communities Strategy” regional planning initiative.

**DISCUSSION**

In recent years, the State of California has adopted several major legislative efforts to address climate change. In particular, AB 32 established statewide goals to reduce green house gas production to 1990 levels by 2020. In addition, SB 375 was passed in 2008, which established a new framework for regional land use planning and transportation funding.

As a part of SB 375, regional planning agencies such as ABAG and MTC are required to prepare a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) in all metropolitan regions in California. The SCS initiative is an effort to integrate demographic & economic projections with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and affordable housing mandates. The end product will be a regional plan that identifies where housing and employment growth should occur to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets, and insures that investments in transportation are targeted to these areas.

The analysis is currently on going, and no conclusions have been reached at a city-by-city level of detail. Many communities have proactively designated priority development areas (PDAs) where they are actively seeking infill development. The anticipated challenge of the SCS is that PDA areas appear to accommodate about half of the anticipated growth in the region. Thus, as part of the SCS, locations for additional development will need to be established.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

Successful implementation of the SCS will lead to reduction in greenhouse gas production in the Bay Area, and will complement local policy initiatives established in the City's Climate Action Plan.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is staff time associated with participating in regional planning efforts. No direct expenses are anticipated as part of the SCS process.

### **Attachments:**

1. "One Bay Area" Brochure & Timelines
2. "One Bay Area" Factsheet