

## **Alternative Planning Strategy (APS) Steering Committee – Meeting Notes**

Friday, April 3, 2015

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### **ACRONYMS**

APS - Alternative Planning Strategy

RTP – Regional Transportation Plan

SCS – Sustainable Communities Strategy

ARB – Air Resources Board

GHG – Greenhouse gas

### **QUESTIONS – CLARIFICATIONS**

*The APS isn't part of the RTP?*

- The APS is based on the existing RTP but is a separate document. The APS will look to bridge the gap in GHG reductions that was not achieved in the 2014 RTP/SCS.
- ARB has not specified a timeline for the APS process.

*Will there be a valleywide or tri-county-wide 2018 SCS?*

- This is yet to be determined. The regional approach of aggregating the Green House Gas reductions on a valleywide basis was the original plan for the 2014 SCS until direction was provided by the ARB in December 2013 that required targets to be met on a county by county basis.

*Did the combined approach meet the 2020 and 2035 targets?*

- Yes, the valley would have met the targets collectively.

*Why isn't the SCS/APS considered a land use plan?*

- The document includes land use assumptions but it is not a land use plan. MCAG has no land use authority. Land use authority remains at the local jurisdiction level.

*Are we ineligible for cap and trade funding because we didn't meet the targets in our SCS?*

- Under current guidelines, eligible applicants are required to be included in a region that has an adopted SCS but it did not have to meet the targets.

*Why didn't staff offer a scenario that met the law?*

- The law provides the option of pursuing an APS if you are unable to meet the targets within the constraints articulated in regards to funding and consistency with general plans. Options A, B, C met those constraints but didn't achieve the target reductions. Option D was discussed but not considered as it didn't stay within the constraints set by federal law that we base our plans on the most recent and reasonable planning assumptions.

### *What happens to the APS after it is submitted to the state?*

- ARB will review the document and determine, if implemented, would it meet the target reductions. This process has taken about 6 months for SCSs. If we submit the APS in September 2015, we would hope to hear a response in early 2016 in order to help inform the next RTP process.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

- Two primary phases:
  - 1) Survey roadshow: May-June, 2015  
Use a simple survey tool to receive community input on preferences for investments, priorities and changes needed in order to reduce GHG emissions. The survey will be available electronically, on the APS webpage, via social media, and will be facilitated at meetings of various community groups and organizations. Staff will facilitate the survey, and will ask committee members to do the same. A draft survey and a proposed list of organizations will be made available for review prior to the May meeting.
  - 2) Public comment period: July-August, 2015  
Members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comment at every steering committee meeting and at Governing Board meetings as updates are being provided monthly. Once a draft is released, hearings will be held with opportunities for public comment. Comments can also be received by email, and via the website.
- The MCAG website will host an APS page that will serve as a repository of information for the public and the committee.
- Staff will be available by phone, email or for one-on-one meetings throughout the process for committee members and the general public.

### **SUGGESTIONS/IDEAS**

- During the next update of the RTP/SCS, update the SCS/GHG slide in the presentation to include more information; it is oversimplified and should reflect the plans behind the numbers, and details such as where the jobs/housing are located; Voting on growth scenarios alone is too simplified
- Utilize community events for outreach purposes –*Stacie indicated this will be a key part of the outreach strategy*
- Present information in survey as tradeoffs/choices
- Provide the survey in multiple languages (Spanish/Hmong) – *Isai offered to identify translation services*
- Reach out to high schools with survey
- Consider funding community based / non-profit organizations to assist with outreach
- Survey suggestions:
  - Ask respondents to prioritize options (not likely – very likely)
  - Ask “what are you willing to do?”

- People would be willing to bike to work/school but there are obstacles including safety – what would it take to make it a viable option for people? Would they be willing to do it once a week? Seasonally?
- Include carpooling, vanpooling
- Avoid yes/no questions and provide comment box
- Ask a questions that gets to the issue of investing in existing communities or subsidizing development on farmland
- Getting people to change their behavior is the key
- Ask about preferences in regard to proximity to schools, services, jobs, etc
- Provide examples of what other areas have done
- When possible, provide the opportunity for small group dialogue before you ask people to complete the survey
- Ask about signal synchronization in Merced

#### **ACTIONS TAKEN**

- Approved the APS Steering Committee Governing Procedures
- Selected a committee chair (Adam Cox) and vice-chair (Isai Palma)

#### **HOMEWORK**

- Staff will provide notes, draft survey and next agenda by April 24<sup>th</sup> via email
- Committee members will provide ideas of events, groups, organizations, etc that can be included in the public outreach effort (May/June) – *submit by email or at 5/1 meeting*