

October 23, 2024

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Dear Executive Directors Fremier, Ajise, and Corless, and Chief Executive Officer Orso:

Thank you for your letter dated September 20, 2024, regarding the desire to holistically review the SB 375 framework. CARB agrees that SB 375 is an important foundation for planning and envisioning a future that better supports our climate goals and community needs, and we appreciate your agencies' ongoing work and collaboration with our team to help make it a success. We agree that it is of crucial importance to ensure that the strategies identified in the plans developed under SB 375 are implemented.

CARB was recently invited to participate in a dialogue between State agencies and regional metropolitan planning organizations. Our understanding is that this effort is intended to facilitate and further the dialogue you have proposed. We are committed to participating and would welcome your participation in this effort. In addition to the workgroup, we would

be happy to meet with any of your organizations or consider any data or recommendations that you may wish to provide for the target update or evaluation guidelines.

In your letter, you requested that CARB pause our current processes to update the regional greenhouse gas reduction targets and the Sustainable Communities Strategies Program and Evaluation Guidelines to allow time for such dialogue to occur. CARB values MPO input and has been inviting MPO input on the guidelines and target-setting processes since late 2023. Given the statutory requirements for target setting and the need to update the Evaluation Guidelines in time for the fifth round of sustainable communities strategies, we cannot commit to pausing the process. CARB must continue advancing our analytical staff work, support an inclusive public dialogue, and conduct an environmental review on these topics.

There is still time to shape the process, however, and we welcome any input your agencies may have. If there is a specific recommendation on how to best solicit your input, please share as we greatly value your input. Additionally, we commit to considering any input or concepts developed during the aforementioned dialogue as we undertake our work.

We look forward to continuing dialogue with your agencies about all of these important topics and doing so at a pace that will allow us to meet the requirements established by law. Thank you again for your letter. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me or Dr. [Jennifer Gress](#), Chief of CARB's Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division.

Sincerely,



Steven S. Cliff, Ph.D., Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board

cc: Chanell Fletcher, Deputy Executive Officer - Equity, Communities & Environmental Justice, CARB
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