

What Is SB 375?

SB 375 is California state legislation that became law effective January 1, 2009. It prompts the State's 18 regional planning agencies to prepare strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from cars and light trucks through changes in transportation and land use related policies. The goal is to promote communities providing residents with alternatives to using single occupant vehicles by:

- Reducing vehicle miles travelled; and
- Promoting more compact development.

Background

SB 375 is related another State law, AB 32, which focuses on reducing vehicle miles traveled and urban sprawl. AB 32 was the nation's first law to limit GHG emissions and SB 375 was enacted to more specifically address the transportation and land use components of GHG emissions. The law requires the State Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop regional GHG emissions reduction targets. The regions are responsible to create "sustainable communities strategies" (SCS) which combine transportation and land use elements in order to achieve the targets.

How Does SB 375 Affect Signal Hill?

SCAG, the Southern California Association of Governments, is the regional planning agency for our community. It is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties (Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura and Imperial), 190 cities and more than 19 million residents. SCAG is responsible to direct the development of the SCS for the region. CARB has set the following reduction targets for the SCAG region:

- By 2020, reduce per-capita GHG emissions 8% below 2005 levels
- By 2035, reduce per-capita GHG emissions 13% below 2005 levels.

The law allows sub-regions to prepare their own SCS documents. Signal Hill is part of the Gateway Cities COG which represents 27 cities in the southeast portion of Los Angeles County with a combined population of over two million. In January 2010, the Gateway Cities COG elected to prepare its own subregional SCS.

What does the Gateway Cities SCS Say?

The SCS has been developed over the past several months through a series of technical workshops with the Planning Directors and Public Works Officers of the Gateway Cities, hosted by the COG. The COG's consultant, Cambridge, has worked closely with the cities to collect information in three major groupings: transportation projects that reduce GHG; travel demand management (TDM) programs; and land use plans. Each of these areas is expected to contribute to the overall reduction of GHG in the Gateway Cities, and together they comprise the scope of activities included under SB 375. (Emissions from heavy-duty trucks, emission

reductions from changes in vehicle fuels or technology, energy efficiency measures, and green building standards are not part of the scope of SB 375.)

Because estimating and reducing GHG emissions are relatively recent requirements, methods to model and estimate reductions are still new and evolving. The COG consultants are using a combination of methods to estimate the reductions resulting from each of the categories of city efforts. It is expected that transportation and TDM projects will have more, and faster, success in reducing GHG emissions than land use changes.

The consultants have prepared a draft document and are currently conducting public outreach efforts. The key remaining milestones in implementing SB 375 are as follows:

April 2011: Draft Gateway subregional SCS due to SCAG

Spring 2011: SCAG finalizes growth forecasts for inclusion in 2012 SCS, taking into account the preliminary 2010 Census figures.

June 2011: Subregional SCS due from the GCCOG to SCAG

Fall 2011: SCAG releases draft SCS for public comment

April 2012: SCAG approves final 2012 SCS.

How Can I Get More Information?

- Visit the SCAG SB 375 website [here](#)
- Visit the Gateway Cities SB 375 website [here](#)