

**SENATE BILL No. 375****Introduced by Senator Steinberg**

February 21, 2007

An act to amend Sections 14527, 65080, and 65584.01 of, and to add Sections 14522.1, 14522.2, and 65080.01 to, the Government Code, and to amend Sections 21061.3 and 21094 of, and to add Chapter 4.2 (commencing with Section 21155) to Division 13 of, the Public Resources Code, relating to environmental quality.

**Legislative counsel's digest**

SB 375, as amended, Steinberg. Transportation planning: travel demand models: sustainable communities strategy: environmental review.

(1) Existing law requires certain transportation planning activities by the Department of Transportation and by designated regional transportation planning agencies, including development of a regional transportation plan. Existing law authorizes the California Transportation Commission, in cooperation with the regional agencies, to prescribe study areas for analysis and evaluation.

This bill would require the commission, by July 1, 2008 2009, to adopt guidelines for travel demand models used in the development of regional transportation plans by certain transportation planning entities.

The bill would require the Department of Transportation to assist the commission, on request, in this regard, and would impose other related requirements.

This bill would also require the regional transportation plan for specified regions to include a sustainable communities strategy, as specified, designed to achieve certain goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks in a region.

The bill would require the State Air Resources Board, working in consultation with the affected transportation agencies, to provide each affected region with greenhouse gas emission reduction targets from the automobile and light truck sector for 2020 and 2035 by January 1, 2009 2010, and to update the regional targets, as specified, until 2050.

The bill would require certain transportation planning and programming activities by affected regional agencies to be consistent with the sustainable communities strategy contained in the regional transportation plan, but would state that certain transportation projects programmed for funding on or before December 31, 2011, are not required to be consistent with the sustainable communities strategy. To the extent the sustainable communities strategy is unable to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, the bill would require affected regional agencies to prepare a supplement to the sustainable communities strategy that would achieve the targets through alternative development patterns or additional transportation measures. The bill would also require an affected regional agency to submit a report *statement* to the California Transportation Commission on *describing* the relationship of each project in the



regional transportation improvement program to the regional transportation plan and supplement adopted by the regional agency. The bill would enact other related provisions. Because the bill would impose additional duties on local agencies, it would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of, an environmental impact report (EIR) on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment.

This bill would require the environmental document prepared pursuant to CEQA to only examine the significant or potentially significant project specific impacts of a project located in a local jurisdiction that has amended its general plan so that the land use, housing, and open-space elements of the general plan are consistent with the sustainable communities strategy most recently adopted by the transportation planning agency, pursuant to the requirements specified in the bill, if the project meets certain requirements.

The bill would provide that no additional review is required pursuant to CEQA for a project if the legislative body of a local jurisdiction that has amended its general plan, as provided above, finds, after conducting a public hearing, that the project meets certain criteria and is declared to be a sustainable communities project.

The bill would also authorize the legislative body of a local jurisdiction to adopt traffic mitigation measures for future residential projects that meet specified criteria. The bill would exempt such a residential project seeking a land use approval from compliance with additional measures for traffic impacts, if the local jurisdiction has adopted those traffic mitigation measures.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

*Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.*

