

DRAFT -- PROPOSED LEGISLATION

**AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS FOR REGIONAL EIR AND
LOCAL SPECIFIC PLANS**

Section 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact a measure which will test strategies which promote infill development in urban areas identified as appropriate for increased density in the regional Sustainable Communities Strategies. This measure is a pilot program to facilitate the implementation of Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg, 2008), by allocating existing funds to Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to support local governments for the purpose of implementing growth in Priority Development Areas that have been adopted by ABAG.

Section 2. Section XXX is added to the XXX code to read:

XXX. (a) In recognition of the mandate contained in SB 375 to prepare and adopt a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) has focused the SCS on those areas adopted by ABAG as Priority Development Areas.

(b) "Priority Development Areas" means areas adopted by the ABAG Executive Board that meet ABAG's definition of sustainable development consistent with the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

(c) The Legislature finds that one goal of the Priority Development Areas is to reduce entitlement risks for entities seeking to develop infill projects consistent with the SCS.

(d) As a pilot measure to support the objectives of this section, the resources which would otherwise be expended in the San Francisco Bay region by the Environmental Justice and Community-Based Transportation Planning Grants awarded by the California Department of Transportation's Office of Community Planning pursuant to Section XX of the XX Code shall be allocated directly to ABAG for implementation of Sustainable Communities Strategies through granting of funds to local governments for the development and adoption of comprehensive specific plans and entitlement streamlining within Priority Development Areas, as identified in the SCS. Such grants may include an allocation to ABAG to support local governments in such endeavors through analysis of regional impacts, consistency with the SCS or the EIR for the SCS/RTP and related activities.

(e) The San Francisco Bay Area's 2010 total population of 7.15 million people is approximately 19% of the State of California's total population of 37.25 million. Thus, approximately 19% of the total annual State Highway Account funds granted through the Office of Community Planning grant program should be allocated directly to the Association of Bay Area Governments to be used exclusively for the purposes outlined in this section.

(f) In implementing this Section of law, the Association of Bay Area Governments shall keep the Strategic Growth Council created pursuant to Section 75121 of the Public Resources Code apprised so that the Strategic Growth Council may ultimately make recommendations to the Legislature as to whether this program should be extended to other regional agencies mandated to accomplish the regional planning required by Government Code Section 65080.