

SB XXX Fact Sheet

Rationale: SB XXX Provides Funding to Implement SB 375

1. SB XXX is a pilot funding bill related to implementing the policies adopted by the Bay Area in accordance with SB 375 (Steinberg, 2008). SB 375 mandated that regions plan for “Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS)” without providing funds to address obstacles to the implementation of regional sustainability plans.
2. A number of obstacles at the local level make impractical the type and scale of development required to implement sustainability plans. Funding under SB XXX facilitates SCS implementation through the following methods:
 - grants funds to local jurisdictions to assist them with entitlement streamlining in Priority Development Areas identified in the SCS;
 - grants funds to local jurisdictions to prepare and adopt environmental impact reports for specific plans in Priority Development Areas;
 - allocates funds to ABAG for activities supportive of the above, such as analysis regional impacts of projects within PDAs that are consistent with the SCS, or the EIR for the SCS/RTP, and the like

Method of Funding: Re-allocate Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants to SB 375 Implementation

1. Under SB XXX the portion of the California Department of Transportation’s Environmental Justice and Community-Based Transportation Planning Grants funded through the State Highway Account that would otherwise be spent in the region covered by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) – or Caltrans’ District 4 – is allocated directly to ABAG for granting of funds to local governments for assistance in developing comprehensive specific plans, program-level environmental review, or work associated with entitlement streamlining.
2. The portion of funding available to ABAG is calculated as a percentage of total funds that matches the region’s percentage of the total population of the State of California (for example in 2010 the San Francisco Bay Area’s population was about 19% of the total State population, thus in 2010, 19% of the total State Highway Account funds distributed through the Caltrans Environmental Justice and Community Based Transportation Planning Grants would be directed to ABAG).
3. This bill is a pilot measure to support the objectives of SB 375. In implementing SB XXX, ABAG shall keep the Strategic Growth Council apprised so that the Council may ultimately make recommendations to the Legislature as to whether this program should be extended to other regional agencies mandated to accomplish the purposes of SB 375.

Beneficiaries of SB XXX Funding

1. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) will be the direct beneficiary of the funding allocated to it under SB XXX. The revenues retained by ABAG will be used exclusively for supporting local governments in the endeavors described in 2 by providing analysis of regional impacts of projects within Priority Development Areas that are consistent with the SCS, or the EIR for the SCS/RTP, and the like.
2. Local jurisdictions (cities, cities and counties, and counties) will be beneficiaries of SB XXX funding awarded to them based on a competitive grant process for the purposes of developing entitlement streamlining in Priority Development Areas (PDAs). Entitlement streamlining will attract private investment and jobs to PDAs.