

Social Equity Working Group Agenda

Thursday, October 26, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Welcome to SANDAG. The Social Equity Working Group (SEWG) meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2023, will be held in person in the SANDAG Board Room. While SEWG members will attend in person, members of the public will have the option of participating either in person or virtually.

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Vision Statement: Pursuing a brighter future for all

Mission Statement: We are the regional agency that connects people, places, and innovative ideas by implementing solutions with our unique and diverse communities.

Our Commitment to Equity: We hold ourselves accountable to the communities we serve. We acknowledge we have much to learn and much to change; and we firmly uphold equity and inclusion for every person in the San Diego region. This includes historically underserved, systemically marginalized groups impacted by actions and inactions at all levels of our government and society.

We have an obligation to eliminate disparities and ensure that safe, healthy, accessible, and inclusive opportunities are available to everyone. The SANDAG equity action plan will inform how we plan, prioritize, fund, and build projects and programs; frame how we work with our communities; define how we recruit and develop our employees; guide our efforts to conduct unbiased research and interpret data; and set expectations for companies and stakeholders that work with us.

We are committed to creating a San Diego region where every person who visits, works, and lives can thrive.

Social Equity Working Group

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Comments and Communications

1. Non-Agenda Public Comments/Member Comments

Members of the public shall have the opportunity to address the Social Equity Working Group (SEWG) on any issue within the jurisdiction of SEWG that is not on this agenda. Public speakers are limited to three minutes or less per person. Public comments under this agenda item will be limited to five public speakers. If the number of public comments under this agenda item exceeds five, additional public comments will be taken at the end of the agenda. SEWG members and SANDAG staff also may present brief updates and announcements under this agenda item.

Consent

+2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Tessa Lero, SANDAG

Approve

The SEWG is asked to review and approve the minutes from its September 28, 2023, meeting.

SEWG Minutes - 092823.pdf

Reports

3. Anti-Displacement Strategy Update: Toolkit

Sara Toma, SANDAG

Discussion

Staff will present an overview of the Anti-Displacement Strategy project and accompanying toolkit supporting local jurisdictions and community stakeholders to adopt and implement anti-displacement policies.

Supporting Materials.pdf

+4. Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan Update

Maiten Mowreader, SANDAG

Information

Staff will present an overview on the Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan. Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan Update.pdf

Supporting Materials.pdf

5. 2025 Regional Plan Update

Antoinette Meier, SANDAG

Information

Staff will present an overview of recent outreach efforts and upcoming milestones of the Regional Plan.

Supporting Materials.pdf

6. Upcoming Meetings

The next SEWG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

7. Adjournment





October 26, 2023

September 28, 2023, Meeting Minutes

View Meeting Video

Chair Priya Bhat-Patel (Carlsbad) called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

1. Non-Agenda Public Comments/Member Comments

There were no public comments on this item.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Social Equity Working Group (SEWG) was asked to approve the minutes from its June 22, 2023, and July 27, 2023, meetings.

There were no public comments on this item.

<u>Action</u>: Upon a motion by Brian "Barry" Pollard (Urban Collaborative Project), and a second by Rosa Alcaraz (El Cajon Collaborative), the SEWG voted to approve the minutes from its June 22, 2023, and July 27, 2023, meetings.

The motion passed.

Yes: Rose Ceballos (Bayside Community Center), Jesse Ramirez (City Heights Community Development Corporation), Angela Tomlinson (Chula Vista Community Collaborative), Rosa Alcaraz, Belen Hernandez (MidCity CAN), Claire Groebner (Olivewood Gardens), Fe Seligman (Operation Samahan), Barry Pollard, and Jennifer Gil (Vista Community Clinic).

No: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Casa Familiar and SBCS Corporation.

Reports

3. Chair's Report

Chair Bhat-Patel presented an update on agency initiatives.

There were no public comments on this item.

Action: Information only.

4. Regional Safety Planning Updates

Senior Regional Planners Samuel Sanford and Marisa Mangan presented an update on the Regional Vision Zero Action Plan and the Regional Active Transportation Plan.

The OriginalDra, member of the public, spoke regarding the dangers of lithium batteries.

Action: Information only.

5. Zero-Emission Vehicle Incentive Program Development

Regional Planner Samaya Elder presented an overview of the project and sought input on the proposed engagement plan.

The OriginalDra, member of the public, spoke in opposition to this item.

Action: Information only.

6. EPA Regional Climate Action Planning Grant

Regional Planning Program Manager Susan Freedman presented information on a new planning grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and ways to coordinate with Community Based Organizations on this and future climate efforts.

The OriginalDra, member of the public, spoke in opposition to this item.

Action: Discussion only.

7. Possible Topics for Future Agendas

The SEWG members submitted possible topics for future agendas.

The OriginalDra, member of the public, commented on future agenda topics.

Action: Discussion only.

8. Upcoming Meetings

The next SEWG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

9. Adjournment

Chair Bhat-Patel adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Confirmed Attendance at Social Equity Working Group Meeting

Jurisdiction	Name	Attended
Chair	Mayor Pro Tem Priya Bhat-Patel	Yes
Bayside Community Center	Rose Ceballos	Yes
	Kim Heinle, Alternate	No
Casa Familiar	Lisa Cuestas	No
	Monica Hernandez, Alternate	No
	Goyo Ortiz, Alternate	No
City Heights CDC	Jesse Ramirez	Yes
	Rosa Olascoaga, Alternate	No
Chula Vista Community Collaborative	Angela Tomlinson	Yes
	Jovita Arellano, Alternate	No
	Christina Ross, Alternate	No
El Cajon Collaborative	Rosa Alcaraz	Yes
	Carol Lewis, Alternate	No
MidCity-CAN	Belen Hernandez	Yes
	Ariana Federico, Alternate	No
SBCS Corporation	Kathie Lembo	No
	Mauricio Torre, Alternate	No
	Jose Mirelas, Alternate	No
Olivewood Gardens	Jen Nation	No
	Claire Groebner, Alternate	Yes
	Rocina Lizarraga, Alternate	No
Operation Samahan	Fe Seligman	Yes
	Paul Ecado, Alternate	No
Urban Collaborative Project	Brian "Barry" Pollard	Yes
	Carmina Paz, Alternate	No
Vista Community Clinic	Jennifer Gil	Yes
	Nanette Stam	No
	Carmela Muñoz, Alternate	No



Anti-Displacement Strategy Update: Toolkit

Social Equity Working Group | Item 3 Sara Toma, Senior Regional Planner Thursday, October 26, 2023

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Project Recap and Deliverables Overview of Existing Conditions and Best Practices – Completed Toolkit: Review of Draft Policy Briefs Feedback on Draft Policy Briefs

Project Recap

What is residential displacement?

The involuntary relocation of existing residents, whether relocation is forced or responsive

Drivers of displacement

- · Drastic rent increases
- · Revitalization efforts
- Eviction and foreclosure
- Climate impacts

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Project Recap and Deliverables



Existing Conditions Assessment Report

- Complete
- Where is displacement occurring?
- Where is there risk of displacement?



Best Practices Research Report

- Complete
- Best practices of antidisplacement policies that:
 - · Create more homes
 - Preserve affordability
 - Support long-term stability for renters and homeowners



Anti-Displacement Toolkit

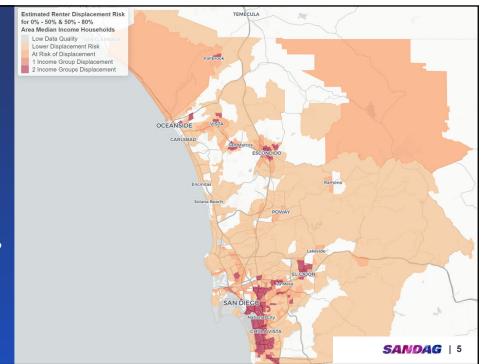
- In progress
- Toolkit to provide locallyoriented guidance
- Toolkit tailored to the needs and conditions of the San Diego region's communities

Public Engagement

Δ

Existing Conditions Assessment Report

- Why is displacement occurring?
- Who is impacted by displacement?
- Where is there risk of displacement?



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Best Practices Research Report

Best practices of anti-displacement policies that:

- **Produce**
- Preserve
- Stabilize



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Project Recap and Deliverables



Existing Conditions Assessment Report



Best Practices Research Report



Anti-Displacement Toolkit

- In progress
- Toolkit to provide locallyoriented guidance
- Toolkit tailored to the needs and conditions of the San Diego region's communities

7

Central Element of Toolkit: Policy Briefs

- Anti-Displacement Toolkit will include 10 policy briefs
- Detailed, locally-tailored guidance on how to implement antidisplacement policy
- Policies drawn from Best Practices Report
- Policy Brief Structure reviewed by Local Jurisdiction staff
 - HAP TA Anti-Displacement Workshops
 - July 25, 2023
 - September 13, 2023

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10 Priority Policy Briefs

- Alternative Ownership Policies
- Community Land Trust Support
- Rent Stabilization Ordinances
- Tenant Protections
- Housing on Land Owned by Faith-Based Organizations and Educational Institutions
- Affordable ADU Financial Incentives
- Dedicating Local Affordable Housing Preservation Staff
- Expanding Affordable Homeownership
- Zoning for Affordable-by-Design Housing
- Targeted Emergency Rental Assistance

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Policy Brief Structure

- Summary of Policy
 - Goal
 - Description
 - · Target population & key stakeholders
- Policy Impact Timeframe
- Special Considerations
 - · Potential benefits & drawbacks
 - Financial & political considerations
- Steps to Implementing the Policy
- Case Studies

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October 26, 2023

Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan Update

Background

On December 17, 2021, the Board of Directors adopted the Regional Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan to spur rapid broadband deployment and adoption in the San Diego region. The Strategy and Action Plan was developed with input from the Regional Digital Divide Taskforce, which consists of representatives from public agencies, broadband providers, and non-profit organizations that are actively working to bridge the digital divide.

Action: Information

Staff will present an overview on the Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Schedule/Scope Impact:

None.

Overview

The Digital Divide in San Diego

Staff conducted a regional gap analysis to identify where there are disparities in broadband infrastructure and service. The analysis revealed that only 66% of rural households have access to fixed broadband in the San Diego region. In urban areas, 94% of households have fixed broadband service available. However, service is not affordable, leading to low adoption especially among households earning less than \$50,000 per year. In some communities, more than 20% of low-income households do not have a broadband subscription or computer at home. This makes it difficult to participate in virtual learning, remote work, telehealth, and access to other critical online services. The Digital Divide in the San Diego Region Open Data Portal provides more information on the state of the digital divide in the San Diego region.

Completed and Current Digital Equity Actions

The Regional Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan identifies strategies and actions for improving broadband access and adoption in San Diego County. SANDAG staff continues to implement the plan by collaborating with local partners and stakeholders on various projects and efforts. The following is a summary of recent efforts.

Get Connected Campaign

Status: SANDAG partnered with various local agencies and organizations to launch the "Get Connected" Campaign in April 2022. This campaign aims to increase awareness of regional digital equity resources including subsidies for broadband service (e.g., FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program), digital literacy programs, accessibility and device technical assistance. Partner outreach toolkits were developed to enable collaboration among trusted community partners with outreach focusing on communities with low broadband adoption rates. As part of the campaign, a regional database of digital equity resources was created. It is available at sandag.org/getconnected.

Federal Funding Account

Status: The Federal Funding Account (FFA) is a \$2 billion grant program to fund digital infrastructure projects connecting unserved Californians to broadband internet. In an effort to collaborate with local Internet Service Providers (ISP's) in applying for FFA funding, SANDAG initiated a request for offers to ISPs in the San Diego Region. SANDAG received multiple proposals and following an evaluation and negotiation process, entered a cooperative agreement with Zito Media. Zito Media's proposal

would reach more than 3,500 unserved households around Ramona-Julian area. This cooperative effort will serve as a model for how SANDAG will pursue future grant opportunities.

Digital Infrastructure Master Plan

Status: In October of 2022, SANDAG began developing a regional Broadband Master Plan to assess digital infrastructure needs of the communities and public agencies in the region and design a phased digital infrastructure network for implementation.

Tribal Digital Village

Status: In December of 2022, SANDAG partnered with the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association on a grant application to improve internet connectivity for Tribal Digital Village, a tribal-led internet network that serves 105 tribal buildings and up to 500 tribal households. The project will develop an internet connectivity plan to provide high-quality internet service to tribal lands and an implementation strategy.

• Digital Skills Classes

Status: SANDAG was awarded \$150,000 in funding through the California Advanced Services Fund to provide digital skills classes across the region in collaboration with 2-1-1 San Diego and the San Diego Futures Foundations. Twelve classes will take place in rural and tribal areas of the region. Classes will cover subjects including internet safety, smartphone use, and basic computer skills.

Affordable Connectivity Program Enrollment

Status: SANDAG continued to provide assistance to various organizations to increase enrollment rates in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) for the San Diego region. SANDAG has helped organize enrollment events, messaging to the public, and coordinating efforts between different organizations. Most recently SANDAG helped to coordinate an ACP enrollment event in the City of Chula Vista with its partners, having more the 150 attendees. Of the 453,454 households eligible for ACP in our region, only 42% are currently subscribed to the benefit.

• Taskforces and Working Groups

Status: SANDAG continues to host the Digital Divide Taskforce, SoCal Transformation Working Group, and Regional Digital Infrastructure Taskforce. These groups focus on sharing best practices, resources, and coordinating regional initiatives.

Next Steps

To meet the goals of the Strategy and Action Plan, SANDAG staff continuously monitors potential funding opportunities for regional digital equity projects. Two opportunities SANDAG is focused on for the near future are:

1. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) brings \$1.86 billion in funding to California to be used to expand broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved households. The grants will be administered by the CPUC with the NOFO expected mid-2024.

2. Digital Equity Act Grants

The Digital Equity Act consists of three different federal grant programs that promote digital equity and inclusion.

1. Planning Grant (\$60 million)

a. Funds should be used to develop a statewide digital equity plan. The State of California has submitted a plan that is currently under review by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

2. Capacity Grant (\$1.44 billion)

a. Funds should be used to pursue digital inclusion activities consistent with the State Digital Equity Plan.

3. Competitive Grant (\$1.25 billion)

a. Funding may be used for a wide variety of projects including digital skills classes, workforce development programs, provision of free or low-cost equipment and networking capabilities, building new or upgrading existing public access computing centers and more.

Antoinette Meier, Senior Director of Regional Planning

Key Staff Contacts: Maiten Mowreader, (619) 699-1973, maiten.mowreader@sandag.org

Michael Terlep, (619) 699-1933, michael.terlep@sandag.org



Digital Equity Strategy and Action Plan Update

October 28, 2023

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SANDAG's Comprehensive Approach



Adoption

- Digital Literacy Training Program
- ACP 40% eligibility



Access

- Last Mile Funding
- Digital Infrastructure Inventory & Masterplan
- · Dig Smart Initiatives



Advocacy

- Better public data
- · Sustainable funding
- · Outreach and Education

Regional Coordination











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Taskforce and Working Groups

Digital Divide Taskforce

Local cities, internet service providers, community-based organizations and other stakeholders provide input on digital equity initiatives and discuss opportunities for collaboration

Regional Digital Infrastructure Taskforce

Local jurisdictions developing standards to streamline permitting and expedite deployment of digital communications infrastructure in underserved areas

SoCal Transformation

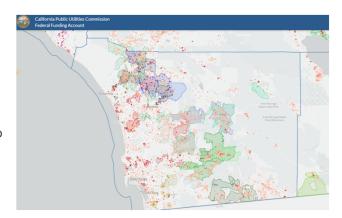
➤ Broad Southern California working group (Los Angeles, San Diego, Inland Empire and Orange County) discussing best practices and opportunities collaboration

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Submitted: Last Mile Federal Funding Account

- \$81 million for San Diego County to facilitate deployment of last-mile broadband infrastructure projects
- Projects must provide minimum 100 Mbps download and upload
- SANDAG partnered with Zito to serve 3,304 unserved homes in and around Ramona, Santa Ysabel, Julian, Borrego Springs, and Cuyamaca



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Digital Infrastructure and Broadband **Network Master** Plan



Phase 1

Inventory local digital infrastructure assets; identify connections

Phase 2

- Design a fiber network that connects public facilities in all jurisdictions
- Evaluate opportunities for broadband deployment (e.g., libraries, mobility hubs, parks, community centers)

Phase 3

- Develop phasing and implementation strategy
- Example: South Bay Fiber Network (South Bay Cities Council of Governments, SBCCOG)

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Submitted: LATA **Grant for Tribal** Digital Village





About Tribal Digital Village (TDV)

- Serves about 400 to 500 households through 650 miles of point-to-point and point-to-multi-point links
- Supports 105 tribal buildings (i.e.- tribal administration buildings, EPA departments, fire stations, law enforcement, utilities departments, and Libraries, Schools and Head Start programs).

Grant Objectives

- Develop a network modernization design over a 24mo period that will:
 - · Augment current internet service speeds
 - Connect additional households to the internet
 - Leverage the State's Middle Mile Network

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SANDAG: Get Connected Campaign



Toolkit, community outreach, paid advertisements to help raise awareness on how to get connected to the internet







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Awarded: California **Advanced Services** Fund (CASF) Adoption Account Grant

Partners:







Objective: Provide digital literacy training to rural and unincorporated area including tribal lands

Commitment: 300 individuals to receive 8hrs training; 'graduates' can receive laptops!

Completed Classes:

- √ Santee
- ✓ Alpine
- ✓ El Cajon



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Affordable Connectivity Program

- ➤ Assistance Program offering \$30/month discount on broadband service
- > SANDAG continues to support and coordinate enrollment events

Chula Vista ACP Enrollment Event

- ➤ In Collaboration with SDHC, County, Chula Vista, Computers 2 Kids, and Various ISP's
- > Successful Texting Campaign
- > 150+ Attendees, 90+ Enrolled



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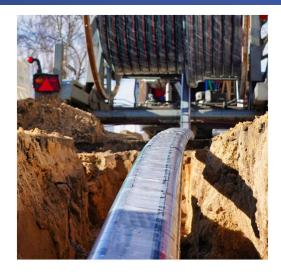
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Overview of Upcoming Broadband Funding Opportunities

California Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

- \$1.86 Billion to California announced on June 26
- BEAD Grant funds may be used to expand broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved households
- Administered by CPUC
- > NOFO expected mid-2024



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Digital Equity Act Grants

Planning Grant Program

- > \$60 Million to States
- Funds are used to develop a statewide digital equity plan
- Multiple planning groups, working groups and surveys have been conducted
- > SANDAG hosted April Workshop
- CA Digital Equity Plan to be published within weeks for public comment

State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program

- > \$1.44 Billion over 5 Years
- > Capacity Grants may be used to:
 - Implement the State Digital Equity Plan
 - Pursue digital inclusion activities consistent with the State Digital Equity Plan
 - · NOFO expected late 2024

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Digital Equity Act Grants



Competitive Grant Program

- > \$1.25 Billion in grant awards over 5 Years
- Permitted projects vary greatly and include:
 - Training programs, digital skills classes or workforce development programs
 - Provision of free or low-cost equipment and networking capabilities
 - Building new or upgrading existing public access computing centers
 - More!
- NOFO Expected Mid 2024

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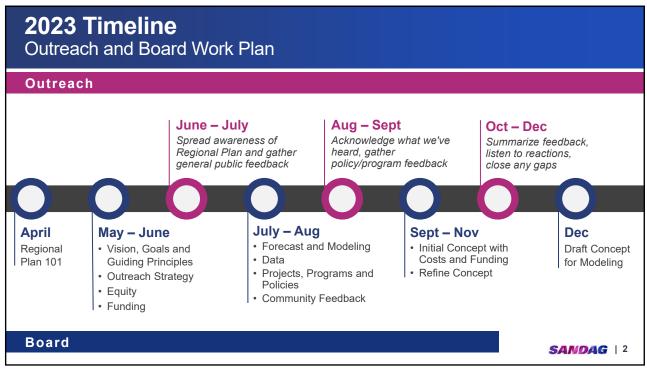
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The Region's **Feedback** Board of Public **Directors** Social Stakeholder 2025 Equity Groups & Communities Associations Regional Plan **Policy** Advisory Tribal Committees Governments & Working Groups Jurisdiction & Partner Agency Staff SANDAG | 3

Seven Board Workshops & Discussions

- April 28 and May 26: Regional Plan 101 with a focus on major requirements
- June 9: Social Equity
- July 14: Financial Strategy and Funding Requirements
- July 28: Travel Data and Growth Forecast
 - Workshop focused on gaining consensus on subregional priorities
- September 8: Policies and Programs
- September 22: Cost estimation methodology



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Partner Agency Coordination



- Two Joint Working Group Workshops
- Two Workshops with the Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation
- Joint Policy Advisory Committee Workshop
- Binational Workshop
- Ongoing coordination meetings with MTS, NCTD, and Caltrans

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Overall Education and Feedback SANDAG SANDAG Add Connect Control Contr



What We Heard Safety From Social More hours More frequency of service **Equity Focus** Communities **Majority** of Expanded Maintenance comments routes and cleaning referenced public transit improvement Amenities needs Affordable (bathrooms, fares shade, and benches) Access for seniors and Faster trips disabled people SANDAG | 8

CARB Consultation



- Minimize roadway expansion
- Prioritize investments (projects, programs, and policies) that reduce VMT/GHG
- No regional credit for electric vehicle incentive programs
- No rounding up to the 19% greenhouse gas reduction target
- Must show progress on making projects, programs, and policies from the 2021 Regional Plan a reality

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Challenges Developing a Compliant & Comprehensive Draft Plan



1. Evaluation changes: CARB's stricter rules for achieving 19% GHG reduction



2. Time: we have until 2035 to reduce GHG



3. Funding limitations:



VMT-increasing projects <u>must be offset</u> = more projects = \$\$\$



Need more competitive options to encourage mode shift & reduce VMT = \$\$\$



Increases in building costs for old and new projects



No other federal or state \$\$; need new local funding sources

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