



Planning and Development Department

February 10, 2012

Heather Fargo, Executive Policy Officer
California Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Focus Area #2 Collaboration Requirement

Dear Ms. Fargo,

This letter is in support of the proposed planning grant under Focus Area #2, which will be submitted by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in partnership with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the region's Council of Governments, and local governments with Priority Development Areas. The City of Berkeley's Priority Development Areas (PDAs) will be supported by this proposal.

As you know, PDAs are locally designated and regionally adopted areas for accommodating more housing near transit in the support of creating complete communities as part of FOCUS, the San Francisco Bay Area's regional blueprint plan. PDA jurisdictions have adopted resolutions to participate in the FOCUS program. Given their readiness and commitment to creating complete communities, PDAs will play an important role in implementing Senate Bill 375. Leveraging our diverse partnerships with local and regional interest groups will also support these efforts.

As the agencies charged with preparing and adopting a Sustainable Communities Strategy to implement Senate Bill 375 in this region, ABAG and MTC have proposed several elements that advance this work and would support the development of PDAs as complete communities. ABAG and MTC have already committed to supporting PDAs by prioritizing them in their capital, planning, and technical assistance funding programs. In the draft One Bay Area Grant proposal to support implementation of the SCS currently under development, PDAs could receive up to 70% of transportation dollars allocated to their county to support infill development and transportation improvements. State funding through this grant program would further advance implementation of sustainable communities planning goals.

Given that Berkeley's PDAs will be supported by this proposal, we support it, and intend to participate in the proposed activities. If you have any questions regarding our PDA plans and participation, please contact me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy Cosin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wendy Cosin, Interim Planning Director