



Planning Directors Forum

Monday, October 26, 2026

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/99813286952?pwd=yoQlhRfvxr9WYk1sk1RhbdYHY8xz5b.1>

AGENDA

1. Welcome/Roll Call (5 mins)

2. Information Items

a. Upcoming AMBAG Regional Planning Activities (Heather Adamson, AMBAG) (15 mins)

Staff will provide an update on upcoming AMBAG planning activities and key efforts for 2027. Staff will bring updates on these planning activities to the Planning Director Forum for input and discussion beginning in 2027.

b. Central California Rural Regional Energy Network Update (Amaury Berteaud, AMBAG) (30 mins)

Staff will provide an update on the Central California Rural Regional Energy Network.

3. Other Items/Announcements (5 mins)

a. 2027 PDF Meetings

4. Next Steps/Adjourn (5 mins)

Staff Contact

Heather Adamson, AMBAG

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: AMBAG Planning Directors Forum

FROM: Heather Adamson, Director of Planning

SUBJECT: Upcoming AMBAG Regional Planning Activities

MEETING DATE: October 26, 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff will provide an update on upcoming AMBAG planning activities and key efforts for 2027. Staff will bring updates on these planning activities to the Planning Director Forum for input and discussion beginning in 2027.

BACKGROUND/ DISCUSSION:

AMBAG, as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the tri-county Monterey Bay region and the state designated Council of Governments (COG) for Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, prepares and develops a number of regional planning plans and efforts. This report outlines the upcoming activities that AMBAG staff will be working on over the next few years.

Public Participation Plan

AMBAG prepares and adopts the Public Participation Plan (PPP) at least once every four years. The current PPP, the *2023 Monterey Bay Area Public Participation Plan*, was adopted in October 2023 to comply with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) which was signed into law in November 2021. The 2027 PPP will cover the four-year period from 2027-2030 and must comply with federal and state legislation.

An updated PPP is the required guide for all public involvement activities conducted by AMBAG. As such, the PPP contains the procedures, strategies, and techniques used by AMBAG for public involvement in all programs and projects that use federal funds. The

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Draft 2027 PPP is scheduled to be released in June 2027 for public review and scheduled for adoption in October 2027. AMBAG staff will present the development process for the 2027 PPP to the Planning Directors Forum in early 2027.

Regional Growth Forecast

Every four years, AMBAG updates its regional forecast for population, housing, and employment to support the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS), Regional Travel Demand Model, and other planning efforts.

The Regional Growth Forecast (RGF) projects the region's population, employment, and housing numbers for the tri-county area of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties. The purpose of the RGF is to show likely changes in future employment, population, and housing in the region, based on the most current information available. As growth patterns change over time, the forecast is updated on a regular basis to reflect the most current and accurate information available.

This forecast is used to inform regional and local planning projects such as the MTP/SCS, transportation projects, corridor studies, and economic activity analyses. Results from this forecast are used as inputs in the Regional Travel Demand Model to forecast travel patterns. AMBAG will be hiring a consultant to help assist with the development of the updated RGF. AMBAG staff will be providing periodic updates to the Planning Directors Forum on the development of the RGF beginning in 2027.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

Federal and state law requires that AMBAG prepare a long-range transportation plan every four years. AMBAG staff is developing a detailed work program and schedule for the update to the 2050 MTP/SCS that incorporates a variety of planning efforts. In accordance with state and federal guidelines, the next MTP/SCS update is scheduled for adoption in June 2030.

Senate Bill (SB) 1087 (Cabaldon) was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2026 and changes the way an SCS is developed. The California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) has developed a matrix (Attachment 1) that describes the major changes made to the SCS development process compared to existing law. AMBAG staff will be incorporating the necessary changes from SB 1087 into the next MTP/SCS work program and schedule, which is scheduled to be discussed with the Planning Directors Forum in early 2027.

Regional Housing Needs Allocation

California State Housing Element Law enacted in 1980 requires AMBAG, acting as a COG, to develop a methodology for distributing existing and projected housing need to local jurisdictions in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties. Housing law also sets forth a process, schedule, objectives, and factors to use in the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) methodology. Several recently passed housing bills will change how AMBAG will distribute the RHNA number between local jurisdictions. One such bill is Assembly Bill (AB) 2296 (Papan) changing the timing of when the Regional Housing Needs Determination (RHND) is provided by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to AMBAG and when AMBAG is required to provide each local jurisdiction with its RHNA number.

AMBAG staff will be reviewing all relevant new housing related bills and developing a work program and schedule for the 7th Cycle RHNA. RHNA discussions with the Planning Directors Forum will begin in 2027. As a reminder, the Council of San Benito County Governments is responsible for allocating RHNA for the jurisdictions within San Benito County.

Next Steps

AMBAG staff will continue working on initiating these efforts and provide periodic updates to the Planning Directors Forum beginning in 2027.

ATTACHMENT:

1. CALCOG's SB 1087 Matrix (October 2026)



SB 1087 (Cabaldon): What Changes

We prepared this matrix that provides our take on all the ways that SB 1087 changes the process.

AREA	BEFORE	WITH SB 1087
California Transportation Plan MILDLY POSITIVE	A long-range plan that isn't fiscally constrained, so it glosses over the investment needed to meet state goals.	The CTP must identify the statewide multimodal system needed to meet GHG and air quality goals, with performance measures for each Caltrans district. The SGC report is eliminated.
2045 Target Year NEUTRAL	CARB targets for 2020 and 2035, with no lead time before a new target applies.	Targets for 2035 and 2045.
Addressing Conflicting State Goals POSITIVE	Convened for the 2009 targets, then dormant.	Requires CARB to conduct two technical workshops before December 1, 2028 and, during those, shall solicit feedback on how to balance GHG reduction goals with other state laws and objectives.
Target-Setting and Transparency VERY POSITIVE	CARB consults MPOs and air districts only, and doesn't publish its methods in advance.	CTC, HCD and Caltrans at the table, assumptions published 60 days ahead, CARB holds at least three public workshops, and targets adopted at a CARB public hearing.
GHG Model Consistency POSITIVE	CARB isn't required to stick to its own adopted model.	MPO methods and CARB's review must both follow the model used by CARB when it set targets.
Eight-Year SCS Cycle POSITIVE	A new SCS with every RTP, every four years.	A new SCS every eight years. In between, MPOs adopt the RTP and submit a lighter implementation progress report.
CEQA Exemption DREAM DASHED; BUT NEUTRAL	A programmatic EIR for each RTP/SCS, every four years.	No change. An EIR is still required for every RTP.
APS and SB 1 Funding VERY POSITIVE	Regions with an APS lose TCEP and SCCP eligibility.	Regions with a CARB-accepted APS stay eligible for TCEP and SCCP.

CARB Review of Methodology VERY POSITIVE	No deadline and no limit on scope.	A 60-day review, limited to whether the method matches the SCS guidelines.
CARB Review of the SCS VERY POSITIVE	A pass/fail call with no consequence when CARB misses its 60-day deadline.	Within 60 days, CARB must make one of four possible determinations. If CARB runs late, the SCS is deemed approved.
SCS Guidelines POSITIVE	Written and approved by CARB staff, with MPOs consulted.	CARB must consult with MPOs, state agencies and other stakeholders; include a review checklist; and adopt guidelines at a CARB public hearing.
Implementation Progress Report POSITIVE	Required only of SANDAG and SACOG.	All MPOs report four years after adopting an SCS, with no new modeling required. MPOs under 1.5 million can certify the report based on their resources.
CARB's SB 150 Report POSITIVE	CARB consults MPOs and stakeholders.	CTC and HCD join the consultation.

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: AMBAG Planning Directors Forum

FROM: Amaury Berteaud, Director of Sustainability Programs

SUBJECT: Central California Rural Regional Energy Network Update

MEETING DATE: October 26, 2026

Staff will provide an update on the Central California Rural Regional Energy Network.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

On September 26, 2024, the CPUC issued decision D.24.09.31, approving the creation of the Central California Rural Regional Energy Network (CCR REN). The CCR REN received approximately \$36 million to implement programs, primarily from 2025 through 2027. The CCR REN is a partnership between AMBAG, the County of San Luis Obispo, County of Ventura, High Sierra Energy Foundation, and San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization, with a vision to support an equitable and affordable clean energy transition for underserved communities. The AMBAG Board of Directors approved an MOU formalizing the governance structure of the CCR REN on October 9, 2024 and authorized a funding agreement on February 12, 2025 for AMBAG to receive funds from the County of San Luis Obispo, the lead administrator for the CCR REN.

This year, AMBAG continued working with partners to operate CCR REN programs and is excited to provide an update on the progress achieved so far. For the Commercial program, over \$600,000 of incentives were disbursed, retrofitting 39 small businesses and non-profits at no cost. In the AMBAG region, 12 customers were retrofitted, receiving more than \$160,000. For the residential program, AMBAG launched XeroHome, a residential energy modelling tool which allows residents to look up their address and model the impact of making energy efficiency retrofits. AMBAG is working on an outreach campaign for this tool to begin in 2027. Staff are also working in the community to promote a no-cost energy efficiency kit for residents to save energy by installing simple free energy efficiency measures such as LED lightbulbs and power strips. For the Codes and Standards program, staff organized one in person event as well

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promoted seven online classes. Staff also conducted outreach on the energy codes coach services, which provides jurisdictional staff and contractor technical assistance in answering codes questions. In the public sector, AMBAG continued promoting existing programs that are already available to public agencies, identifying over \$500,000 in potential PG&E incentives, and worked with jurisdictions identifying potential resiliency center sites and sources of funding. Staff supported a number of jurisdictions with grant applications to fund HVAC system improvements and provide enhanced cooling capabilities at libraries and community centers in the Salinas and Pajaro Valleys.

On the regulatory front, AMBAG staff worked with the CCR REN partners and submitted a 2028-2035 business plan and 2028-2031 Portfolio application to the CPUC in order to continue and expand the scope of CRR REN programming on March 1, 2026. Assuming approval of the application as submitted, the CCR REN will be able to significantly scale the successful commercial program and to launch a new strategic energy management (SEM) program to yield even larger energy savings for medium-size businesses. The new business plan will also launch an Integrated Demand side Management (IDSM) Program. The SEM program works to educate customers and develop opportunities to reduce their energy use through operational improvements and equipment replacements. The IDSM program will allow staff to provide technical assistance for solar battery storage projects and demand response initiatives, currently an unmet need, especially for public agencies.

NEXT STEPS:

- AMBAG staff is interested in partnering with agencies on conducting outreach for the XeroHome tool, and on providing the internal version of the tool so jurisdictions can explore planning applications
- Customized classes and technical assistance to inform building and energy code enforcement are available for building departments, AMBAG staff is interested in hearing what type of classes might be of interest.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Directors Forum

FROM: Heather Adamson, Director of Planning

SUBJECT: 2027 Planning Directors Forum Meetings

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS...

- January 25, 2027
- February 22, 2027
- March 29, 2027
- April 26, 2027
- May 24, 2027
- June 28, 2027
- July 26, 2027
- August 30, 2027
- September 27, 2027
- October 26, 2027
- November 29, 2027

All meetings will be on Mondays at 10am. Individual Outlook invitations will be emailed out for all 2027 meetings. Meetings will be canceled as needed.

Please feel free to contact me at hadamson@ambag.org or (831) 264-5086 if you have any questions.