

BILL: ASSEMBLY BILL 378

AUTHOR: ASSEMBLYMEMBER CRISTINA GARCIA (D-BELL GARDENS)
CO-AUTHORS ASSEMBLYMEMBERS C. HOLDEN (D-PASADENA), E. GARCIA (D-COACHELLA)

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2006:
REGULATIONS

STATUS: REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

ACTION: SUPPORT

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors adopt a SUPPORT position on Assembly Bill 378 (Garcia). This bill would amend the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which authorizes the State Air Resources Board (CARB) to monitor and regulate the sources of greenhouse gasses.

The bill would amend the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 to include new mechanisms for achieving the statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of 40 percent below the 1990 level by 2030.

Specifically the bill would:

- Require CARB to consider and account for the social costs of emissions and greenhouse gases when adopting new rules and regulations;
- Authorize CARB to adopt or subsequently revise new regulations that establish a market-based compliance mechanism, applicable from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2030; and
- Require CARB to adopt the most effective and equitable mix of emissions reduction measures, ensure that emissions reduction measures collectively and individually support achieving air quality and other environmental public health goals.

DISCUSSION

Staff recommends that the Board adopt a support position on the measure, AB 378 (Garcia). As introduced, the bill would require CARB to consider environmental justice and social costs associated with greenhouse gas emissions. This bill is widely supported by a broad coalition of legislators, social justice and environmental groups. The bill aims to compliment last year's Senate Bill 32 (Pavley) and Assembly Bill 197 (E. Garcia), which set aggressive targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions and defined CARB's authority.

AB 387 (Garcia), in its current form, gives CARB the authority to revise current regulations to meet the 2030 targets set under SB 32, while considering social equity and a utilizing a market-based system. The author's intent for the legislation is to consider social justice and quality of life in regulating greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. This bill would require CARB to incorporate market-based mechanisms for reducing greenhouse gases during each step of regulation and Global Warming Solutions Act program implementation. The bill aims to give CARB the flexibility to introduce and amend regulations to meet reduction targets, without relying solely on the success of cap-and-trade.

Staff recommends that the Board adopt a SUPPORT position on the measure AB 378 (Garcia).

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

There is no determined safety impact due to the enactment of the proposed legislation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated financial impact has yet to be determined.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Staff has considered adopting either an oppose or neutral position on the bill. An oppose or neutral position would be inconsistent with Metro's Board approved 2017 State Legislative Program Goal #6 which is to coordinate with local and state partners to incorporate the region's needs in emerging climate change and sustainability programs.

NEXT STEPS

Should the Board decide to adopt a SUPPORT position on this measure; staff will communicate the Board's position to the author and work to ensure inclusion of the Board's priorities in the final version of the bill. Staff will continue to keep the Board informed as this issue is addressed throughout the legislative session.