

Letter 5

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Public

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Comment 5-1

Commenter believes the amendments are significant enough to include the participation of Regional Transportation Planning Agencies to review and respond to the amendments before being enacted.

Response 5-1

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the Natural Resources Agency conducted an extensive outreach effort. This included two public workshops, two public hearings, and multiple rounds of mailing official notices to members of the public, CEQA practitioners, government entities and regulatory agencies. In addition, over 1,900 persons are registered on the SB 97 Email Listserv to receive electronic notices of updates on the amendment's development and rulemaking processes. Thus, this broad outreach effort ensured wide participation by interested parties.

Comment 5-2

The amendments are inherently linked by SB 375 to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines currently under development by the California Transportation Commission RTP Workgroups.

Response 5-2

The proposed amendments are not linked to the Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines. SB97 requires the Office of Planning and Research and the Natural Resources Agency to develop and adopt, respectively, guidelines on the analysis and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions pursuant to CEQA. The CEQA Guidelines apply to all public agencies and their projects, as defined by CEQA, throughout the State. As the comment notes, the Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines are developed by the California Transportation Commission to guide the development of regional transportation plans by Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies in California. Thematic responses addressing the relationship between CEQA and SB375 are provided in the Final Statement of Reasons. As the comment does not make any specific recommendations regarding any particular provision of the proposed amendments, no revision is required in response to this comment.