



Planning Directors Forum

Monday, April 29, 2024

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/92554121016?pwd=S2NpdU9XajVtbit2TGpOLzVxckpwQT09>

AGENDA

1. Welcome/Roll Call (10 mins)

2. Discussion Items

a. Central Coast California Sustainable Freight Study (Paul Hierling, AMBAG) (20 mins)

AMBAG will provide a presentation on the development of the Central Coast California Sustainable Freight Study. Planning Directors are asked to provide input on the freight study.

b. Monterey Bay Natural and Working Lands Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Study (Amaury Berteaud, AMBAG) (20 mins)

AMBAG staff will provide an update on the development of the Monterey Bay Natural and Working Lands Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Study. Planning Directors are asked to provide input on the draft study.

3. Other Items/Announcements (20 mins)

- a. 2026 Regional Growth Forecast Update**
- b. Complete Streets Policy**
- c. Title VI Plan**

4. Next Steps/Adjourn (5 mins)

Staff Contact

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Directors Forum

FROM: Paul Hierling, Principal Planner

SUBJECT: Central Coast California Sustainable Freight Study

MEETING DATE: April 29, 2024

AMBAG will provide a presentation on the development of the Central Coast California Sustainable Freight Study. Planning Directors are asked to provide input on the freight study.

BACKGROUND/ DISCUSSION:

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), in partnership with our Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Caltrans partners in the region and the consultant Cambridge Systematics, is preparing the California Central Coast Sustainable Freight Study (CCCSFS) to provide guidance on the policies and projects supporting freight movement across the Central Coast region. Agencies working with AMBAG consist of the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG), Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), Council of San Benito County Governments (SBtCOG), Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC), and Caltrans District 5. The Central Coast region along the U.S. 101 corridor is one of the most important agricultural production areas in the country. In addition, it has significant clusters of freight-dependent industries that rely on the multimodal freight network to serve their customers and contribute to the economic prosperity of the region. However, the Central Coast also experiences freight transportation challenges that must be addressed to ensure the region's continued economic competitiveness, multimodal corridor safety and system performance.

The study is organized around three primary technical tasks:

- **Existing Conditions and Performance Summary.** The Existing Conditions and Performance Summary provides an in-depth analysis of the region as it pertains to

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goods movement, economics, freight flow trends and patterns, safety, and land use. It serves as the first step in conducting a performance-based needs assessment that determines the current and future freight needs and opportunities in the region.

Key elements of the Existing Conditions and Performance Summary include:

- Inventory of the region’s multimodal freight assets;
 - Analysis of freight network’s condition and performance (e.g., truck travel times, pavement and bridge conditions, safety, etc.);
 - Examination of current and future freight demand as indicated by commodity flows; and
 - Analysis of key industry supply chains and freight activity patterns.
- **Public Engagement.** Public engagement is essential for ensuring that the CCCSFS is both data-driven and stakeholder-informed. As such, stakeholder engagement is occurring continuously throughout the CCCSFS. A characteristic of the most effective stakeholder engagement processes is that input is obtained by using a broad variety of outreach tools. To that end the CCCSFS employs one-on-one interviews, online surveys, public information sessions, and a dedicated web page as tools for reaching stakeholders and gathering feedback.
 - **Analyze Freight Performance, Identify Potential Projects, and Strategies.** This task is currently being performed and is nearly complete. This task will define, at a systems level, a comprehensive set of strategies for improving the performance and reducing the negative impacts of the regional goods movement system while capitalizing on development opportunities. It will develop short-, mid-, and long-term strategies for addressing critical freight needs and deficiencies while mitigating potential impacts. These strategies will be presented as packages that combine infrastructure, operational, and policy level recommendations to address critical freight needs. Those projects will then be integrated into an implementation plan that outlines the action steps, potential funding sources, and planning-level cost estimates needed to execute the recommendations.

This task will include analyses of the environmental and equity implications of goods movement. It will identify areas where freight activity may be disproportionately burdening disadvantaged communities within the Central Coast region. This task will identify where the freight network intersects with environmentally sensitive areas and propose solutions for avoiding adverse impacts.

The CCCSFS will conclude with a Final Report that describes how recommended projects, policies, and actions were developed, evaluated, and prioritized, and will include the short, mid, and long-term strategies. In addition, it will summarize for readers the conditions, issues, needs, and opportunities associated with the region's multimodal freight system.

Next Steps

Staff is finalizing the Project Strategies section and will then move on to finalize the final report working with Caltrans D5, SBCOG, SCCRTC, TAMC, SLOCOG, SBCAG, Technical Advisory Committees, partner agencies and key stakeholders.



MEMORANDUM

TO: AMBAG Planning Directors Forum

FROM: Amaury Berteaud, Sustainability Program Manager

SUBJECT: Monterey Bay Natural and Working Lands Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Study

MEETING DATE: April 29, 2024

AMBAG staff will provide an update on the development of the Monterey Bay Natural and Working Lands Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Study. Planning Directors are asked to provide input on the draft study.

BACKGROUND/ DISCUSSION:

On December 6, 2021, the California Department of Conservation awarded AMBAG a \$250,000 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) program planning grant to fund the creation of a Monterey Bay Natural and Working Lands Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Study.

The study includes an inventory of natural and working lands carbon stock in the AMBAG region by jurisdiction, a carbon forecast, and a list of adaptation and mitigation strategies each with recommended implementation actions. The goal of the study is to empower stakeholders to consider the health of natural and working lands as a part of long-range planning as well as provide an opportunity for cities and counties to further integrate natural and working land GHG mitigation strategies as part of their climate action planning process.

Carbon Stock Inventory

To estimate the existing carbon stock in the study area for a baseline year of 2020, an analysis of the carbon stored both above ground in the vegetation and below ground, in soils, was conducted. A Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-based analysis was first performed using the best available data for land cover (i.e., vegetation) and soil. For

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above ground carbon, land cover types and acreages were derived from the GIS-based analysis, and aboveground carbon stock values by land cover type obtained from the best available scientific literature were applied. These values, in metric tons of carbon per acre, were multiplied by the acreage of their corresponding land cover type. For below ground carbon the SSURGO dataset was used. SSURGO provides data throughout California on the quantity of soil carbon at the depths of 5, 20, 50, 100, and 150 centimeters (cm). Based on data quality and availability this study included below ground carbon at a depth of 50 centimeters.

Applying the aboveground and belowground carbon stock rates to the acreages by land cover type resulted in approximately 117 million metric tons of carbon (MMT C) held in the study area. Monterey County has the most stored carbon estimated at approximately 68 MMT C, Santa Cruz County was estimated to hold approximately 26 MMT C, and San Benito County was estimated to hold approximately 23 MMT C.

If the carbon stored in the natural and working lands was to be released into the atmosphere, it would generate approximately 429 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). By comparison, the yearly 2019/2020 GHG emissions calculated for the region as part of the 2045 MTP/SCS were approximately 4 million metric tons of CO₂e.

Carbon Stock Forecast

After preparing the carbon stock inventory, forecast scenarios were used to estimate the 2045 carbon stock in Monterey Bay based on the natural and working lands modeling conducted by CARB for the 2022 Scoping Plan. The study evaluated two scenarios: The BAU scenario, which assumes that the land management practices in place from 2001 through 2014 continue through 2045, and the 2022 Scoping Plan scenario, which is the scenario that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) selected to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. These scenarios were used because locally specific data is currently unavailable to account for the potential impacts of climate change on the existing carbon stock. Under a BAU scenario, there is a decrease in carbon stored in the study area of approximately 2.2 MMT C, or 1.9 percent, while under a Scoping Plan scenario there is a decrease of 1.8 MMT C or 1.5 percent. This corresponds to a release of 8 million metric tons of CO₂e and 6.7 million metric tons of CO₂e respectively. These numbers are estimates of change over time, and these changes in carbon stock may happen over time, or suddenly, as would be the case with a wildfire or flooding event.

Natural and Working Lands Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies

The study team conducted extensive research across the region and state to develop a list of strategies that were appropriate and scalable in the Monterey Bay region. These strategies are intended to locally support the implementation of the treatments listed in the CARB 2022 Scoping Plan. Stakeholders and subject matter experts were then consulted to assist in refining strategies and implementation actions through a series of focus group and stakeholder working group meetings held in 2023 and 2024. The strategies are organized by the broad land use categories in which they will occur:

- Urban forests and parks
- Forests
- Conservation Open space and agriculture land

Each strategy lists a number of implementation actions below it, each listing stakeholders or group of stakeholders that could take a leadership role, examples of current local efforts, and barriers to implementation.

Finally, the study clarifies that these strategies and implementation actions need to lead to the treatment of a specific number of acres with carbon stock enhancing activities, if they are to achieve the desired outcomes.

Next Steps

The draft study can be downloaded from: <https://ambag.org/program/monterey-bay-natural-and-working-lands-climate-mitigation-and-resiliency-study>. AMBAG will be hosting two virtual public workshops on May 6th and May 10th to present the draft study and gather stakeholder feedback. The draft study will also be presented to the AMBAG Board at its meeting on May 8, 2024 gather and feedback. The study is expected to be finalized in June 2024. Any questions and comments regarding the Monterey Bay Natural and Working Lands Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Study should be directed to Amaury Berteaud at aberteaud@ambag.org.