

## **SUBCHAPTER 4.6**

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### **CONSISTENCY**

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## **4.6 CONSISTENCY**

### **4.6.1 INTRODUCTION**

The SCAG and the SCAQMD have developed, with input from representatives of local government, the industry community, public health agencies, the USEPA - Region IX and the California ARB, guidance on how to assess consistency within the existing general development planning process in the Basin. Pursuant to the development and adoption of its Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide (RCPG), SCAG has developed an Intergovernmental Review Procedures Handbook (June 1, 1995). The SCAQMD also adopted criteria for assessing consistency with regional plans and the AQMP in its CEQA Air Quality Handbook. The following sections address consistency between 2003 AQMP and relevant regional plans pursuant to the SCAG Handbook and SCAQMD Handbook.

### **4.6.2 CONSISTENCY WITH REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND GUIDE (RCPG) POLICIES**

The RCPG provides the primary reference for SCAG's project review activity. The RCPG serves as a regional framework for decision making for the growth and change that is anticipated during the next 20 years and beyond. The Growth Management Chapter (GMC) of the RCPG contains population, housing, and jobs forecasts, which are adopted by SCAG's Regional Council and that reflect local plans and policies that shall be used by SCAG in all phases of implementation and review. It states that the overall goals for the region are to (1) re-invigorate the region's economy, (2) avoid social and economic inequities and the geographical isolation of communities, and (3) maintain the region's quality of life.

### **4.6.3 CONSISTENCY WITH GROWTH MANAGEMENT CHAPTER (GMC) TO IMPROVE THE REGIONAL STANDARD OF LIVING**

The Growth Management goals are to develop urban forms that enable individuals to spend less income on housing cost, that minimize public and private development costs, and that enable firms to be more competitive, strengthen the regional strategic goal to stimulate the regional economy. The proposed 2003 AQMP in relation to the GMC would not interfere with the achievement of such goals, nor would it interfere with any powers exercised by local land use agencies. The 2003 AQMP proposes control measures to further reduce emissions and reach attainment with federal and state ambient air quality standards. Although complying with emission reduction requirements in future AQMP control measures may entail permitting and associated recordkeeping requirements, past experience has indicated that there is not a substantial increase in red tape or other regulatory burdens. In addition, recent SCAQMD efforts to streamline the permitting process will help ensure that implementing the 2003 AQMP will not interfere

with regional efforts to minimize red tape and expedite the permitting process to maintain economic vitality and competitiveness.

#### **4.6.4 CONSISTENCY WITH GROWTH MANAGEMENT CHAPTER (GMC) TO PROVIDE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL EQUITY**

The Growth Management goals to develop urban forms that avoid economic and social polarization promotes the regional strategic goals of minimizing social and geographic disparities and of reaching equity among all segments of society. Consistent with the Growth Management goals, local jurisdictions, employers and service agencies should provide adequate training and retraining of workers, and prepare the labor force to meet the challenges of the regional economy. Growth Management goals also include encouraging employment development in job-poor localities through support of labor force retraining programs and other economic development measures. Local jurisdictions and other service providers are responsible for developing sustainable communities and providing equally to all members of society, accessible and effective services such as: public education, housing, health care, social services, recreational facilities, law enforcement, and fire protection. In particular, implementing TCM measures to improve bus, rail, and shuttle transit systems will promote equity with regard to access to public transit. Further, implementing the control measures in the 2003 AQMP is not expected to interfere with the goals of providing social, political and cultural equity because the net effect will be to provide improved air quality to the public thus a benefit to the health of the community. Some control measures may further promote social equity by reducing exposure of toxic air contaminants to populations that may be disproportionately exposed to high levels of toxic air contaminants.

#### **4.6.5 CONSISTENCY WITH GROWTH MANAGEMENT CHAPTER (GMC) TO IMPROVE THE REGIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE**

The Growth Management goals also include attaining mobility and clean air goals and developing urban forms that enhance quality of life, accommodate a diversity of life styles, preserve open space and natural resources, are aesthetically pleasing, preserve the character of communities, and enhance the regional strategic goal of maintaining the regional quality of life. The RCPG encourages planned development in locations least likely to cause environmental impacts, as well as supports the protection of vital resources such as wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, woodlands, production lands, and land containing unique and endangered plants and animals. While encouraging the implementation of measures aimed at the preservation and protection of recorded and unrecorded cultural resources and archaeological sites, the plan discourages development in areas with steep slopes, high fire, flood and seismic hazards, unless complying with special design requirements. Finally, the plan encourages mitigation measures that reduce noise in certain locations, measures aimed at preservation of biological and ecological resources, measures that would reduce exposure to seismic hazards, minimize earthquake damage, and develop emergency response and recovery plans. The proposed

2003 AQMP in relation to the GMC is not expected to interfere with attaining these goals but rather assist in improving the regional quality of life by reducing criteria pollutants and toxic air contaminants throughout the region.

#### **4.6.6 CONSISTENCY WITH REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) AND CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PLAN (CMP)**

The proposed 2003 AQMP is consistent with the RTP and CMP since no significant adverse impact to transportation/circulation were identified in the Notice of Preparation/Initial Study as a result of implementing 2003 AQMP control measures. No comments were received refuting this conclusion. TCM strategies, such as park-and-ride facilities; bus, rail, and shuttle transit improvements; vanpool and carpool programs; etc., are expected to slow future growth in vehicle miles traveled, which contribute to traffic congestion. Implementing the TCMs would be consistent with the implementation of the RTP, which identifies the strategies to reduce future congestion impacts resulting from growth.