



Planning for States and Nation/States: A TransAtlantic Exploration

15th-16th October 2012

UCD Newman House, St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2





Smart Growth America

Making Neighborhoods Great Together

Will Climate
Change Save
Growth
Management in
California?

Bill Fulton

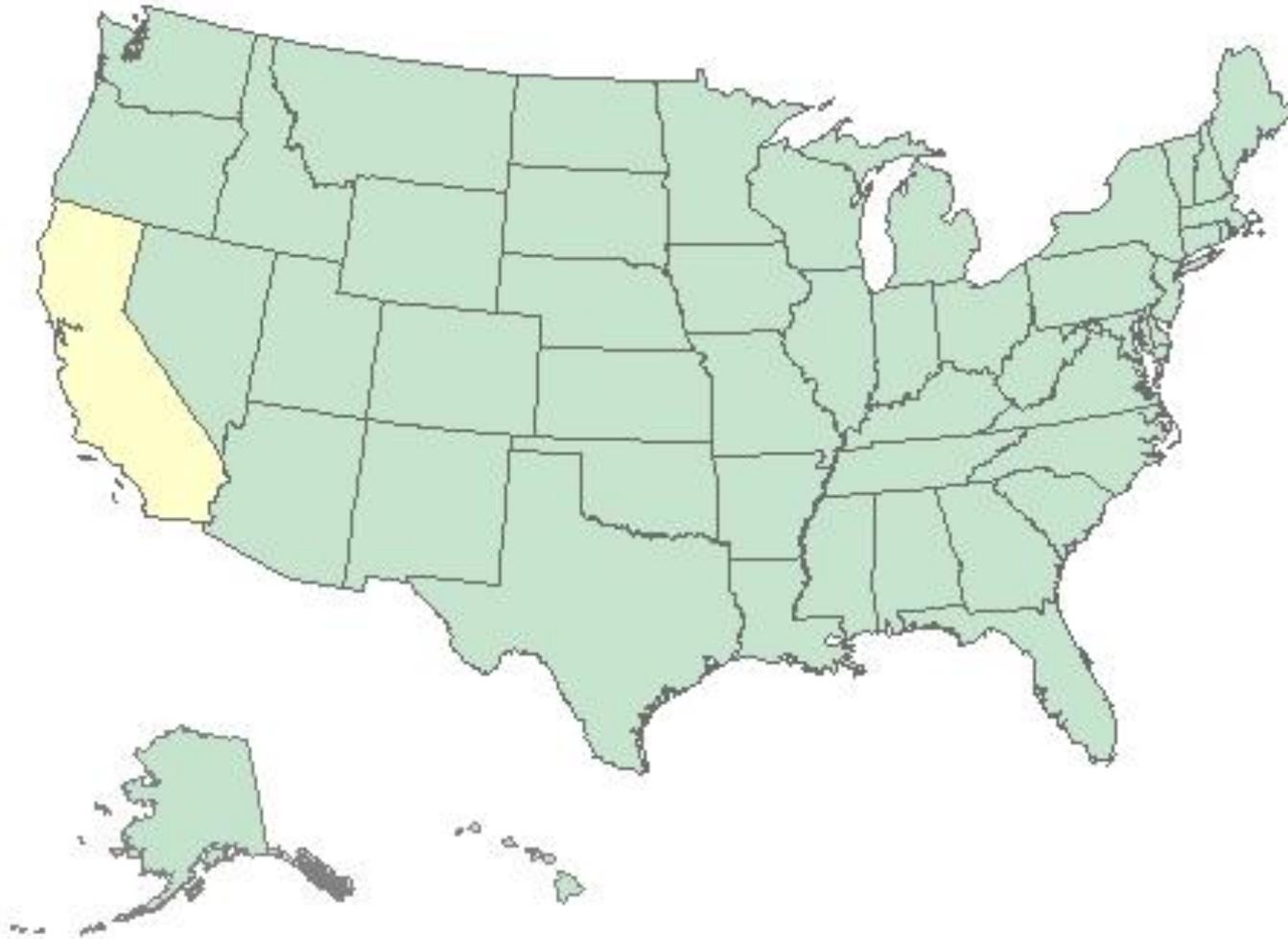
October 16, 2012



California views itself as a nation-state



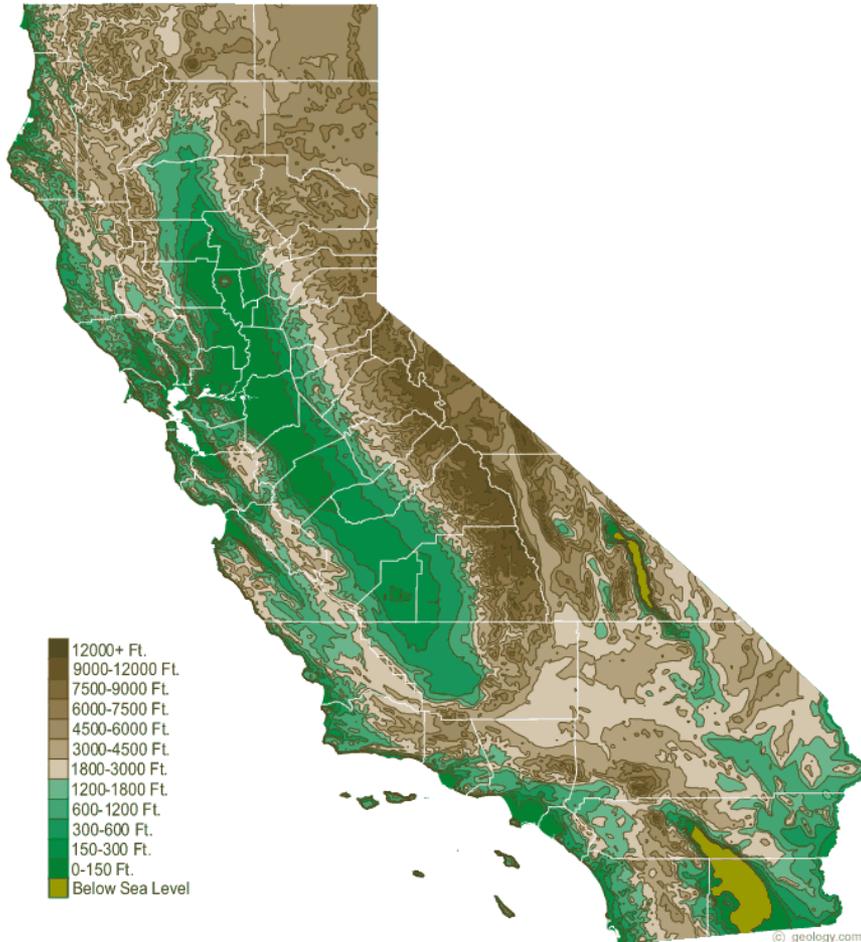
California is 82 times the size of Delaware



- *Double the size of Great Britain*

- *Five times the size of Ireland*

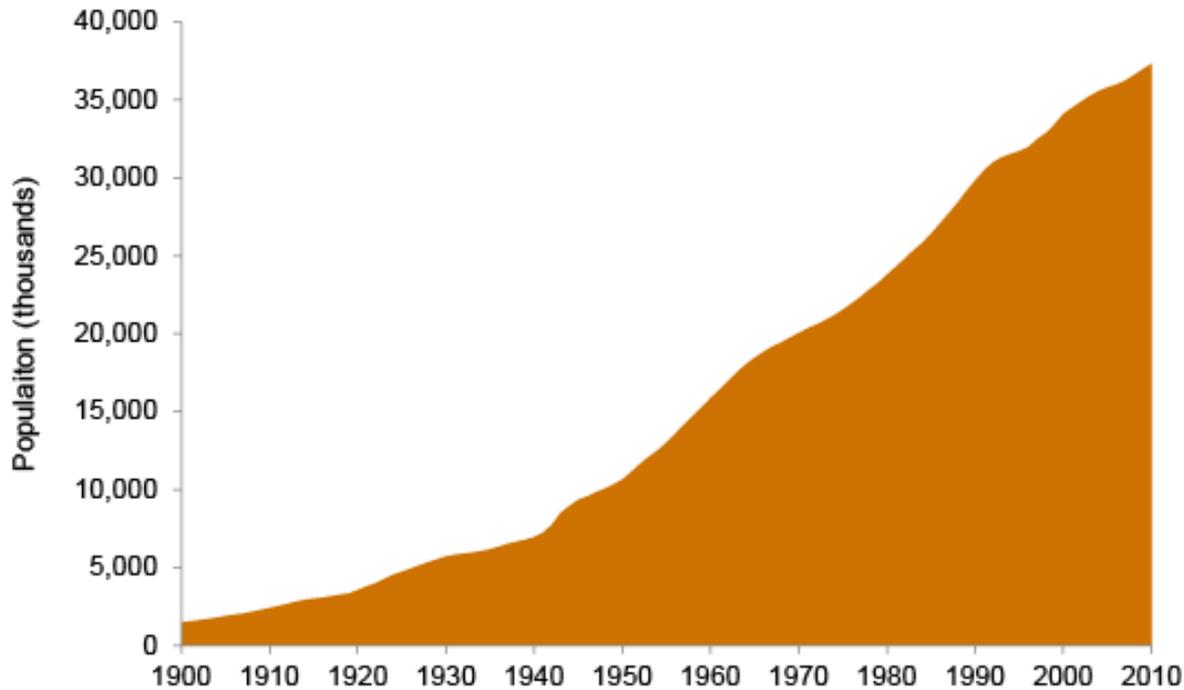
California has a unique geography; urban development has wrapped itself around that uniqueness



- *Mountains, valleys, and coastal plains*
- *Most people live in the coastal metros*
- *Unique smog and air quality issues*
- *Central Valley is largest remaining area of flat, privately owned land in the Western United States*

California has shown consistent long-term (mostly urban) population growth

California has experienced rapid population growth



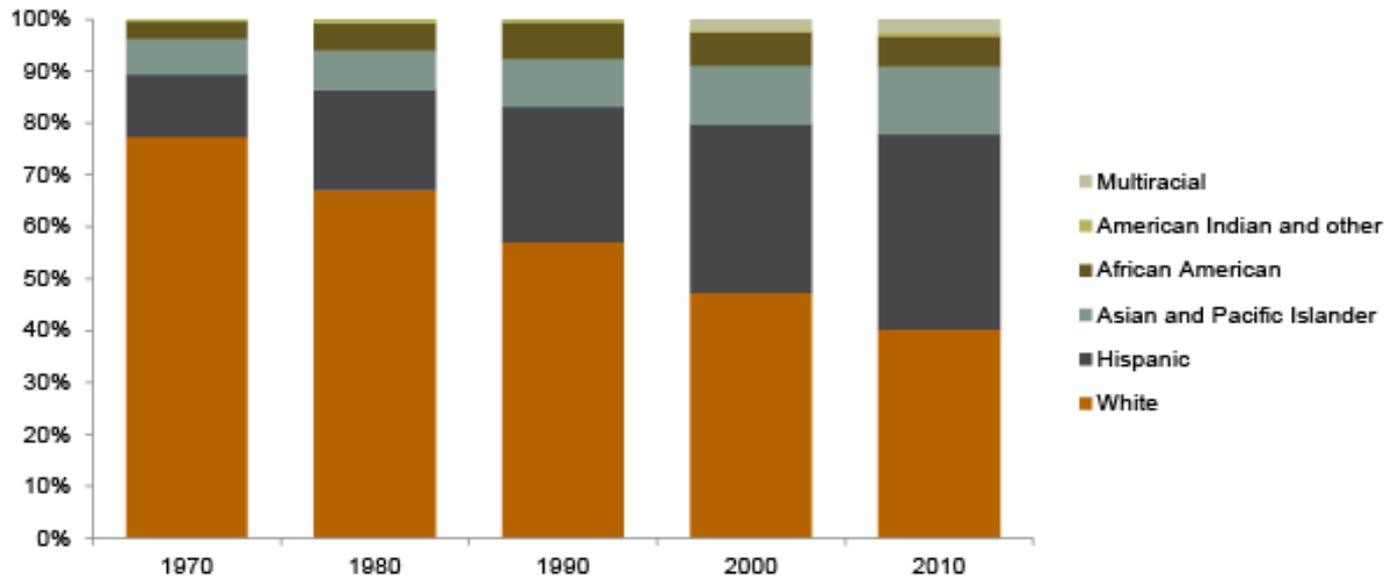
Population has grown by approximately the size of the City of Dublin every year for the past 70 years

Sources: California Department of Finance estimates; U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

From: Just the Facts: California's Population, PPIC, 2011.

But the population is changing

California has become a "minority majority" state



Sources: California Department of Finance estimates; 2010 decennial census.

From: Just the Facts: California's Population, PPIC, 2011.



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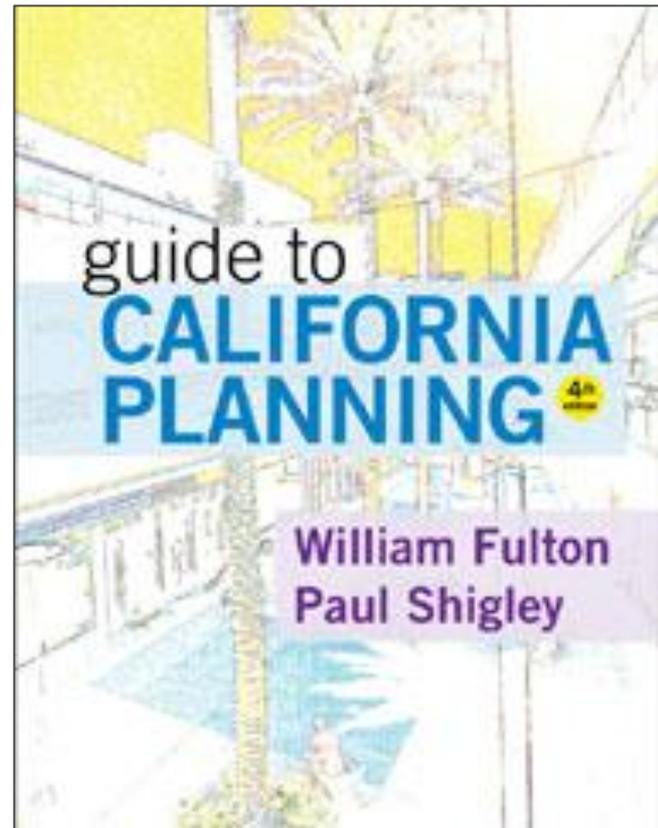
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Concern about growth in California dates back more than 50 years



California's planning system emerged in the '60s and '70s

- Local General Plans (480 cities and 58 counties)
- Extensive environmental review
- Strong structure for citizen involvement
- Little state policy oversight
- Some planning to protect special places and special environmental resources (Lake Tahoe, Coast, San Francisco Bay)



What does California's land use pattern look like?



EAST COAST SPRAWL



CALIFORNIA SPRAWL



EAST COAST DENSITY



CALIFORNIA DENSITY



California at the Millenium

- An urban place built on a suburban model
- But the time had come when suburban solutions would no longer suffice



Then something changed ...



*... California
elected a
European
governor*

... who signed a climate change law (AB 32)



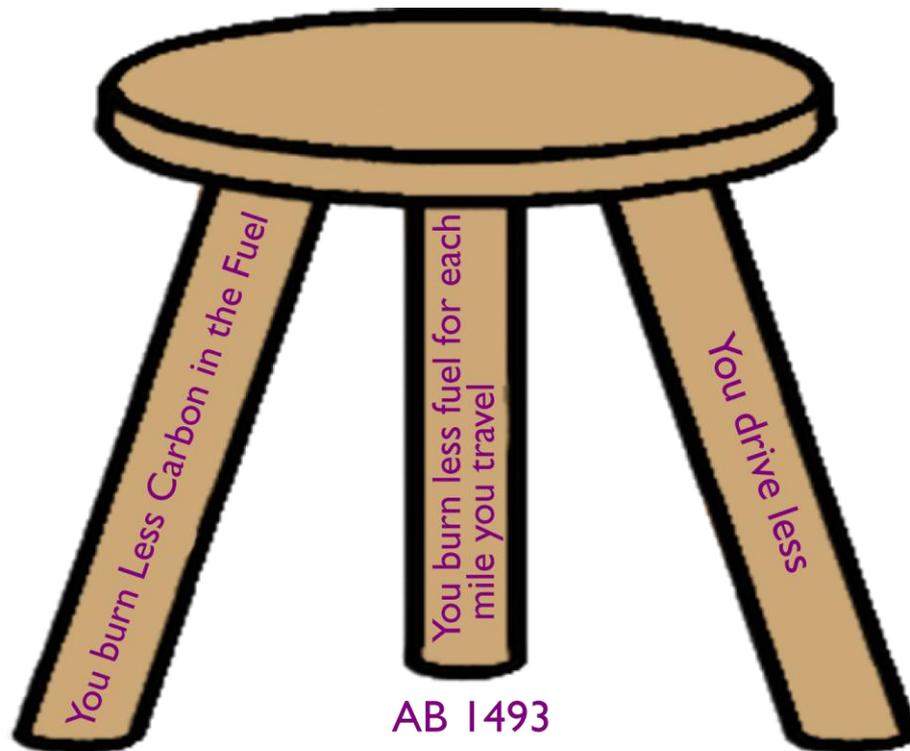
... which required a regional transportation-land use planning law to be implemented (SB 375)



Why was SB 375 necessary?

- AB 32 sets a target – a 20% or so reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020
- 35-40% of that comes from the burning of fuels for transportation
- Attacking the transportation sector requires several strategies

The three-legged stool



Low Carbon
Fuel Standards

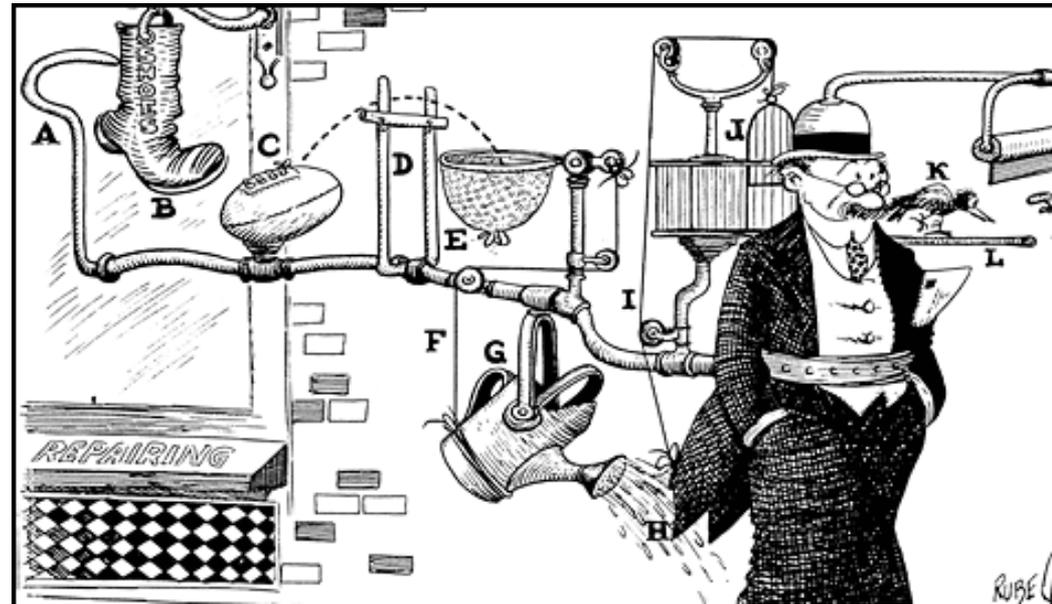
AB 1493

SB 375



Implementing SB 375: the technical details

- Based on RTAC's advice, CARB creates Regional Targets for MPOs to reduce GHGs
- MPOs then create SCSs which become part of the RTP and, if those don't meet CARB targets, they must create APSs.
- In SCAG, subregions can create SCSs and APSs.



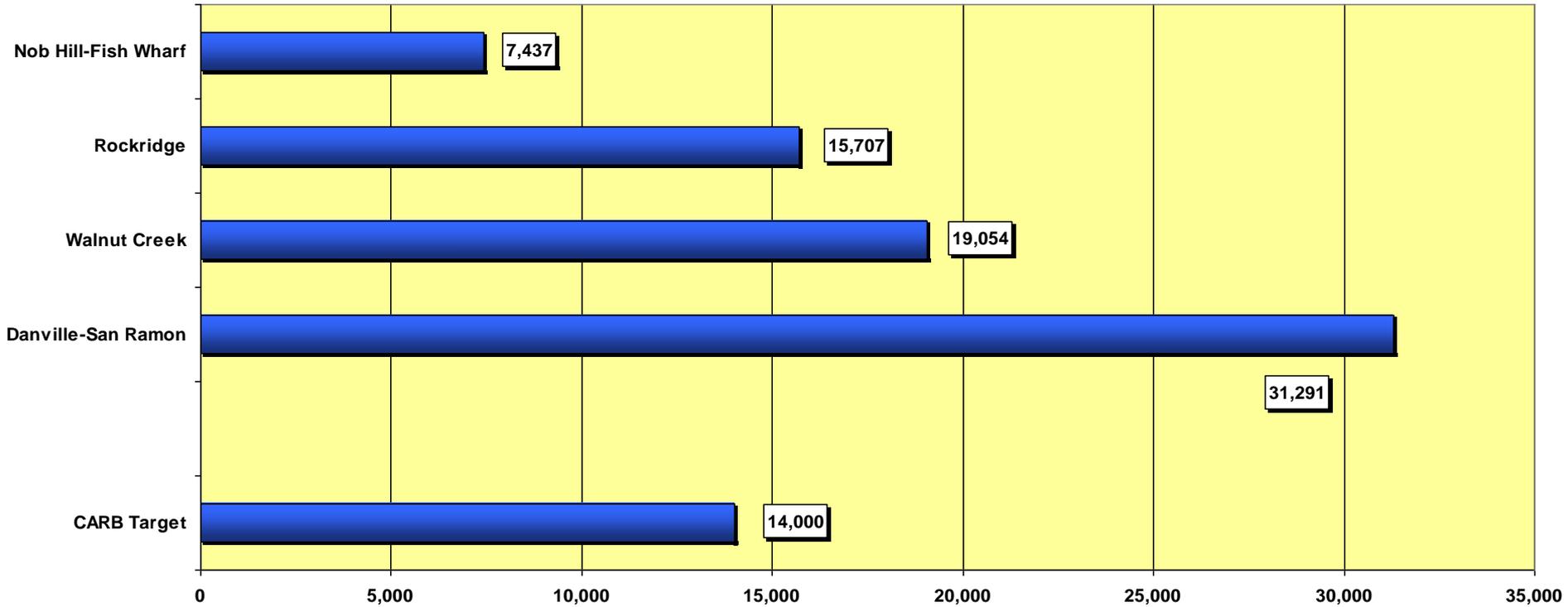
SB 375: Bottom line

- It comes down to less driving
- Each regional Metropolitan Planning Organization must create a plan to reduce per-capita driving (VMT)
- Per-capita VMT reduction ranges from 1% to 16% depending on the region



What does this really look like?

Annual Household VMT



How were the “SCS” plans devised?

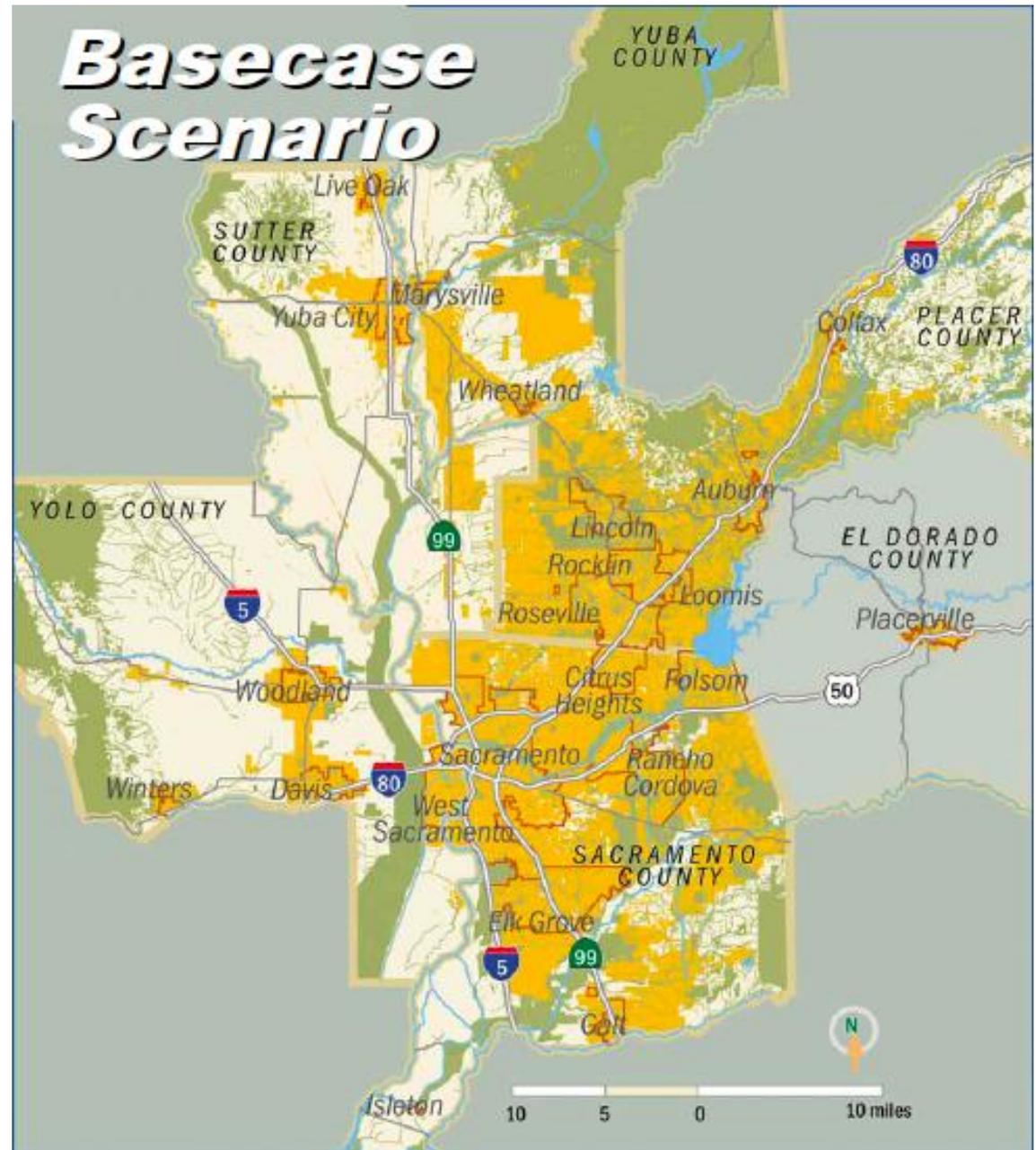
- MPOs built on existing regional “blueprint” scenario planning exercises

Blueprint

New urbanized land:
661 square miles

VMT:
47.2 per HH per day

Mode:
Car: 93.7%
Transit 0.8%
Walk: 5.5%



Blueprint

New urbanized land:
304 square miles

VMT:
34.9 per HH per day

Mode:
Car: 83.9%
Transit 3.3%
Walk: 12.9%



Actual implementation power in SB 375

- REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN
 - Funding decisions contained in the regional Transportation Plan must be consistent with an adopted Sustainable Communities Plan.
- CEQA EXEMPTION
 - Any development project that meets certain requirements (density, transit proximity, a bunch of other things) and is consistent with an adopted SCS is exempt from CEQA or may qualify for truncated review.
 - Even if it's not consistent with local GP
 - This is why builders went for it.

So, what implementation tools are available?

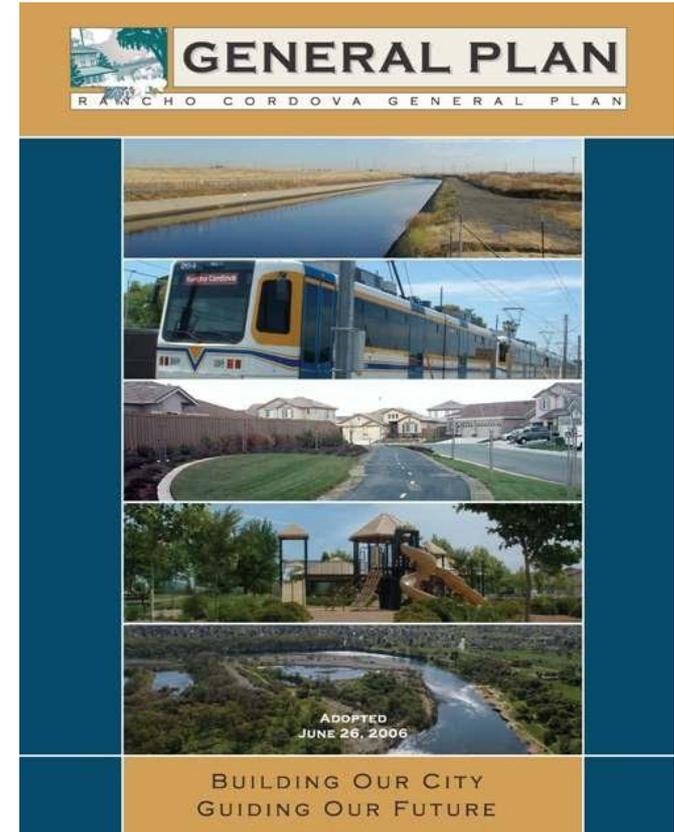
“Sticks” not politically possible



SB 375 plans not tied to local General Plans



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Can “carrots” be big enough to create a “carrot stick”?



The biggest financial tool was killed by Gov. Brown to help balance the state budget



Which leaves us with *nudging*





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