

# 2009 Arrowhead Symposium

## Environmental Streamlining – Balancing Procedural Efficiency with Environmental Protection

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# Air Quality Planning – Clean Air Act Case Study

- Mandated goal: meet federal standards
- Mandated deadlines
- Plans required for each standard
- Transportation conformity findings
- Core federal requirements: smog check, “best available” controls

# Roles of Key Players in Process

- US EPA – approve plans per CCA
- ARB – approve plans per state law
- Air Districts – develop and adopt plans
- MPOs – provide key data

# Efficiency vs Effectiveness

- California's dramatic air quality improvement shows effectiveness
- Clear need to improve efficiency
  - Federal approval process
  - State/regional roles
  - Integration of plans to meet long-term goals
  - Practitioners and politicians
  - Public expectations

# SB 375 Opportunity

- Planning for sustainable communities
- CEQA relief as incentive
- Balances local governance with statewide goals
- Puts a process in place to consider quality of life in 2020 and 2035

# Local Initiatives – AB 881

- Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority
- Authorizing statute – not mandatory
- Provides coordination mechanism, with administrative efficiency a consideration
- Activities include: energy, water, transportation
- Coalition proposing local GHG cap

# Can Better Planning Help?

- Opportunity to reduce infrastructure costs
- Integrated, longer term plans should help conforming projects
- Environmental agencies must coordinate efforts
- Performance based mind set essential

