

ECOS BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, May 5, 2004
Minutes

President Andy Sawyer called the meeting to order at 7pm and introductions were made.

Action Item: The minutes of the April 7, 2004 Board Meeting were approved as written by unanimous consent.

Measure A

On April 20, 2004 the ECOS Executive Committee passed a resolution, pending full ECOS Board approval, that states ECOS will oppose a Measure A renewal if it includes regional road expansion projects (such as HOV lanes or the US50/US99 Connector) and does not include a clear and enforceable growth boundary.

Andy Sawyer stated that the Executive Committee recommendation was based on concerns that industry and developer interests were lobbying for more roads and less transit, and proposals to fund HOV lanes to help certain developments which would create “regional highways.”

ECOS wants Smart Growth included in Measure A. Discussion was held on the level of seriousness of concerns and the need to make a statement. David Mogavero distributed a compromise proposal for Board review, to address some perceived and actual needs from various perspectives, including modifications to the March 22nd expenditure plan, developers’ fees, and other miscellaneous provisions for consideration. ECOS needs to take a firm stand on sprawl-inducing projects.

Bill Durant stated that STA’s latest version is out. He asked ECOS to look at Measure A with a view to people who have no other options. Earl Withycombe talked of the dynamic negotiating situation, and supported softening the resolution to state ECOS cannot support Measure A that contains peripherals without land use protections in place. Barry Wasserman suggested adding “at the same time” before “does not include a clear and enforceable growth boundary” to the motion. It was also noted that Highways 50 and 99 are not US designated. The amendments were approved.

Action Item: David Mogavero made a motion, seconded by Sara Myers, as amended to read: ECOS will oppose a Measure A renewal if it includes regional road expansion projects (such as HOV lanes or the 50/99 Connector) and, at the same time, does not include a clear and enforceable growth boundary. The motion was passed with 2 abstentions, 3 opposed.

Action Item: Earl Withycombe made a motion, seconded by Dough Jaffe, to delegate the formulating and negotiating of positions to the Executive Committee, with a report back to the full Board at the next Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Central Sacramento County Groundwater Forum

Sara Myers stated that she has been representing ECOS for the last year on matters relating to the Central Sacramento Ground Water Forum. She distributed copies of a briefing paper dated March, 2004 which was prepared for stakeholder organizations and the general public participants, and asked the Board for comments on the Early Review and Authorization to Proceed. The Draft CSCGF Agreements-in-Principle was discussed. Sara asked for comments and critiques which she would pass on to the Forum.

Mike Eaton of the Nature Conservancy was introduced and spoke on the health of the Cosumnes River, and stated that the salmon fishery was at risk. He has been meeting with a large group of stakeholders monthly, which he felt has been positive and the level of awareness has increased. He discussed the increased pumping of groundwater in Zone 40 that had failed to meet the needs of aquatic resources.

Earl Withycombe asked the Board for a general endorsement in principle and agreement with the direction that the Forum is going. He also pointed out that there should be a requirement for monitoring of significant water extractions as being critical to groundwater management.

Action Item: Doug Jaffe made a motion, seconded by Barry Wasserman to support the Early Review and Authorization to Proceed. Motion carried.

Folsom Initiative

Amanda Schramm reported that the Folsom Initiative had been filed. ECOS has been helping the Folsom Citizens for Responsible Growth gather signatures. She asked for volunteers to work 3-hour shifts. Sara Myers asked for help in validating signatures.

Blueprint Report

The Tall Order Regional Forum took place on April 30th. The interactive regional workshop was considered a success. Amanda will be attending a meeting on May 12th regarding the outcome of the workshop.

Earth Day Press Conference

ECOS held a press conference on April 22nd to unveil their 50-year Transportation and Land Use Vision for the Sacramento Regional. Ann Kohl and David Mogavero led the Press Conference, presenting ECOS views and details of the long-term plan. Dr. Beverly Scott from the Sacramento Regional Transit, Former Mayor Anne Rudin, Councilmember Dave Jones, and Robert Johnston of the University of California, Davis, spoke to the media and the general public attending. Ann Kohl asked the Board members to review the Vision on the ECOS website and send comments to her.

Fundraising Report

Amanda Schramm reported that the process has begun for planning the Environmentalist of the Year Awards event. The event is being planned for September. Volunteers are needed to help out with the planning. Andy Sawyer suggested nominating the Blueprint Project for an Environmentalist of the Year Award.

Committee Reports

Land Use Planning Committee

Doug Jaffe reported on various issues that the Land Use Committee will be discussing at their upcoming monthly meeting on Monday, May 10th. The committee will meet at 5:30pm in David Mogavero's office. Doug thanked Barry Wasserman and Paul Menard for the work they have done on the "greenseal" project. Barry Wasserman said that he hoped to have a project put together that represents a smart growth strategy ready by mid-summer for an endorsement by ECOS.

Transportation/Air Quality Committee

Amanda Schramm reported for Ann Kohl, reiterating the request to get comments on the ECOS Transportation/Land Use Vision to Ann. The plan has been submitted to SACOG.

ECOS will participate with Walk Sacramento and Arden Arcade residents in the Walk Hurley Way event on May 8th. This event is related to the Livable Communities Hurley Way Revitalization Project grant application.

Announcements

Ethan Evans reported on the Sacramento Housing Alliance dinner to be held on June 21st.

Andy Sawyer asked for items for the Sierra Club Scorecard. He also reminded everyone that the Organizational Development position on the Board needs to be filled.

The Sacramento Housing Authority is having their fundraising event on June 21st at the Capitol Ball Room on 9th Street.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm

Minutes prepared by Kathie Howard, Co-Secretary