



ECOS

ENVIRONMENTAL
♦ COUNCIL ♦
OF SACRAMENTO

ECOS Transportation, Air Quality & Climate Change Committee
Thursday, June 1st, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
Mogavero Architects, 2012 K Street, Sacramento

Meeting Notes

6:00 p.m. – Welcome, Introductions, Check-Ins, and Changes to Agenda

***Attendance:** Jeffery Tardaguila (Dogfite), Robert Coplin, Michael Weagraff (CSUS), Cheryl Loehr, Dan Allison, Rae Vanderwerf (DSA, Green Dems), Becca Russell (GRID Alternatives), Nancy Kitz, Michael Mott (SN&R), Lynne Goldsmith, Michael Sorich, Alex Reagan (ECOS staff), Ralph Propper (co-chair), John Deeter (co-chair).*

6:05 p.m. -- TAQCC Priorities for 2017 -- TAQCC Co-Chairs; all

***Deeter:** The primary goal for this meeting is to review ECOS's historic transportation priorities and to discuss additional transportation issues that TAQCC should be involved in. A secondary goal is to offer opportunities for TAQCC members to get involved in work to support these priorities between TAQCC meetings. At a previous meeting, we discussed establishing "task forces" to focus on specific issues and possibly generate position papers or other educational material. **Nancy Kitz** and **Guy Hall** volunteered to write guidelines for organizing task forces, and their report is available as a Google document ([TAQCC Task Force](#)).*

***Action:** TAQCC Co-Chairs will follow these guidelines as we identify issues appropriate for task forces today and at subsequent TAQCC meetings.*

Upcoming major projects

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan/SCS (SACOG)

***Deeter & Propper:** ECOS was formed in 1971 as a coalition to address environmental issues such as air quality and urban sprawl. For the past twenty years, activities involving the regional **Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS)** have been a major focus for ECOS. A federal mandate requires regional transportation planning to ensure that federal air quality standards are met in order to receive federal funding for transportation projects. SACOG is the local agency established to carry out this mandate, covering a six county region including Sacramento County. For the past ten years there has been an additional state mandate under SB 375 for the regional planning agencies to include an SCS to assure that land use policies contribute to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by reducing the use of autos and similar vehicles as measured by vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The current MTP/SCS was adopted by SACOG a year ago (2016 MTP) with a 20 year horizon (2036), and SACOG is gearing up to start public involvement planning the 2020 MTP later this year. ECOS made extensive comment on the 2016 MTP/SCS in the form of a [comment letter](#) prepared by **Matt Baker** (ECOS staff), and we plan to involve TAQCC members and ECOS staff in preparing comments for the 2020 version.*

Closely related to the MTP/SCS is the **ECOS Transportation Vision** (2004) which was developed to demonstrate the benefits of compact land use development supported by transportation funding heavily weighted towards non-auto modes (transit and active transportation). Two years ago we considered revising the Transportation Vision but have settled on extensive comments on the MTP as a guide for progressive land use and transportation policies. The ultimate goal is to create a liveable, sustainable community ("quality of life"). These issues have come up subsequent to the failure of Measure B (half-cent sales tax for Sacramento County) last November, with the current effort to form a progressive transportation coalition to advocate for better transportation priorities. TAQCC and many of its members are engaged in this effort.

Action: TAQCC will participate in SACOG's development of the 2020 MTP/SCS. **Lynne Goldsmith** offered to prepare a briefing paper with time line.

- RT Green Line environmental review

The Sacramento Regional Transit District's (RT) [Green Line to the Airport](#) will extend light rail approximately 13 miles north from downtown Sacramento to the River District, the Natomas communities and the Sacramento International Airport. Environmental review will begin later this year and the Final EIR/EIS & Preliminary Engineering for next segment is expected to be issued in 2019. ECOS has a deep historical interest in this project, and expects to continue its involvement once public participation begins.

Action: TBD.

- "Green City" initiative (VW settlement)

California's claims for Volkswagen's violations of California's environmental and unfair business practice laws were partially resolved by Volkswagen's commitment to make \$800 million of ZEV-related investments over 10 years in California. The investments are intended to promote and advance the use of and access to ZEVs throughout California. Sacramento has been provisionally designated as a "Green City" under this program, and would be eligible for substantial infrastructure investment if this is finalized. ECOS sent a letter to the Air Resources Board supporting Sacramento as a "Green City." More generally, ECOS supports electrification of transit and autos.

Action: Set up task force .

Other issues

- Future of Sacramento Regional Transit

Action: TAQCC is supporting outside efforts to revitalize RT and increase the level of public funding for transit and active transportation (walking, biking and mobility scooters) through a sales tax or another funding mechanisms. Organizations involved in these efforts include STAR, Sacramento Transit Riders Union, Transit 101, and Sacramento Transportation Choices.

- Funding for active transportation modes

Discussed above.

- Sacramento County Climate Action Plan

Sacramento County is currently working on its Climate Action Plan – Communitywide Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation ([Communitywide CAP](#)) project. The Communitywide CAP will include strategies that will both (1) reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change, and (2) help the community prepare for and adapt to the effects of climate change. Public participation and input is encouraged to ensure the Communitywide CAP reflects the needs of Sacramento County.

***Actions:** (1) Work with 350 Sacramento to review Sacramento County's Climate Action Plan. (2) Advocate incorporating climate impacts into the 2016 Sacramento County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.*

- Electrification of transit and autos

***Action:** Work with Sacramento Electric Vehicle Association on forming a task force to support electrification of transit and autos.*

- Sacramento Valley Station Master Plan

Located in the northwest sector of downtown Sacramento, the Sacramento Valley Station (SVS) is the primary rail station in northern California and the seventh busiest station in the country. As downtown Sacramento becomes more densely populated and the Railyards district begins to develop, the Sacramento Valley Station will become a central destination for both community members and transit riders across the region.

***Action:** TBD*

- Freeway expansion (US 50 HOV lanes, Cap City freeway)

ECOS submitted extensive comments last fall on the Draft Initial Study/ Environmental Assessment for Phase 2 of the US 50 HOV project (I-5 to Watt Ave). There was a presentation by Larry Brohman (Caltrans) regarding proposed improvements to Capital City freeway (P St. to I-80 interchange near Watt) at the TAQCC meeting last January.

***Action:** Waiting for Caltrans decision on the US 50 HOV project.*

- ECOS Transportation Vision update

Discussed above.

Organizational issues

- Restructuring TAQCC meetings

***Action:** Co-chairs will reserve more time for committee discussion.*

- Opportunities for TAQCC member involvement

Discussed above.

7:20 p.m. – Other Business and Announcements / Possible topics for future meetings

7:30 p.m. – Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8 pm.

Next TAQCC meeting: Thurs, July 6th, 6:00 p.m., at Mogavero Architects, 2012 K St.

Other upcoming events of interest:

June 6, 5:30 pm -- Sacramento Transit Advocates & Riders, 1418 19th St, Sacramento

June 7, 6 pm -- [350 Sacramento](#) Transportation Team, Ste 116, 909 12 St., Sacramento

June 17, 10:30 am -- Sacramento Transportation Choices, 1714 Broadway, Sacramento