



ECOS

ENVIRONMENTAL
♦ COUNCIL ♦
OF SACRAMENTO

ECOS Transportation, Air Quality & Climate Change Committee
Thursday, October 12th, 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), Rick Bettis (LWV, etc.), Robert Coplin, Susan Herre, Steven DeBry, Lynne Goldsmith (SNC, AARP), Dan Allison, Wayne Michaud (Idle-Free CA), Jim Porterfield, Brian Guerdat, Guy Hall (SacEV), Brandon Rose (ECOS Pres.), Matt Baker (ECOS staff), Alex Reagan (ECOS staff), Ralph Propper (co-chair), John Deeter (co-chair).

Guest: Alberto Ayala (SAQMD).

6:05 p.m. – Priorities for the Sac. Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Alberto Ayala, Executive Director, SMAQMD

Ayala: SMAQMD and ECOS have many common interests. His goals for the agency include:

- update the agency's core mission (currently no reference to sustainability),
- expand the Board's diversity,
- maintain the progress and robustness of programs (climate, permitting and "before burning,"
- work with SACOG on land use issues (lot of development does not support transit),
- achieve ozone attainment two years early,
- update air quality planning and monitoring with new community-level monitoring and mitigation ,
- adopt new rules and regulations (offset program probably not going to be only focus),
- transition to sustainable transportation energy,
- become more engaged with non-profits, community-based organizations, under-served communities,
- comment on air quality impacts of projects,
- co-fund SACOG's bike share program,
- innovative transit and zero emission buses.

Opportunity areas include: new funding, leveraging private investment, the Electrify America project (\$44 M from the VW settlement to make Sacramento a "Green City"), greater mobility in the region, and other investments. Not all communities have Climate Action Plans (CAPs) and some are not being enforced; SMAQMD is working on new ways to monitor CAPs.

There is a need for new infrastructure, particularly for fueling with low carbon fuels, replacing combustion engines with batteries in autos and similar vehicles probably, and with fuel cells in trains and large vehicles such as big trucks. Early demonstration project may be zero emission buses operating between Sacramento and West Sacramento). Also considering other innovative transit initiatives. There is a need to move RT toward incorporating innovative solutions by integrating Lyft/Uber/autonomous vehicles. Many are unlikely to be fixed routes.

SACOG is promoting innovation through its Civic Lab, a regional effort that aims to address issues of regional importance through action at the local level. SACOG will work with partner agencies, local experts, national leaders, decision makers, and innovators to find creative solutions to some of the bigger issues facing the region today, and in the future.

Discussion: *Is the AQ District monitoring particulate matter? A: Yes, but it is a bigger challenge than monitoring pollution due to gases. Q: Do you support anti-Idling ordinances? A: “everything needs to be on the table.” Comment: Conversion to electric vehicles would eliminate idling problem.*

Actions & Opportunities for TAQCC

- *Maintain dialogue and open channels with Ayala and SMAQMD*
- *Find out who he would like us to communicate with on a regular basis to stay informed and maintain connection*
- *Support the goals he’s established for the agency, climate, AQ standards and transportation – and especially with RT (?) Needs strategy discussion.*
- *Invite Ayala again to follow-up on progress*
- *Who follows SMAQMD Board meetings? Prepare more testimony?*
- *Follow-up on environmental justice issues & check out ARB's EJ program (Veronica Beatty, Lynne and others)*

7:00 p.m. -- Reports & Updates

- **Downtown Specific Plan (comments on DEIR)**

Deeter: *Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report are due Nov. 8th. Sac. Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA) is planning to make extensive comments on the circulation element (aka Grid 3.0). If anyone in TAQCC is interested in helping SABA please contact Jim Brown.*

Discussion: *ECOS comments on the DEIR are being prepared by Alex Kelter, chair of the Land Use Committee. Send your comments to him by Nov. first for inclusion in the ECOS comment letter.*

- **Sacramento City anti-idling ordinance**

Michaud: *Idle-Free CA is working to get California cities to adopt ordinances to prohibit extended idling by parked vehicles. An effort is currently underway to start the process of adopting a measure in the City of Sacramento.*

Deeter: *We will invite Brian back to give a longer presentation at the next TAQCC meeting.*

- **CapCity freeway expansion (Notice of Preparation)**

Deeter: Caltrans wants to increase capacity of the Capital City freeway from J St. to Arden Way (including the bridge over the American River Parkway). One option is to reroute the freeway with a new bridge, cutting across the landfill in Sutter Landing Park south of the river to straighten the alignment. Caltrans has started environmental clearance for this project by issuing an NOP, with comments nominally due by Oct. 20.

- Transit & Sacramento Transportation Choices

Allison: Sac. Transit Riders & Advocates has been involved in a number of transit issues: RT Route Optimization Study; RT plans for moving campus to new location; Downtown Specific Plan; Green Line; Sacramento Valley Station Master Plan; Watt/I-80 light rail station redesign.

Discussion: There will be two meetings on improving ped and bicycle access to the Watt/I-80 station:

- Visioning Meeting, Oct. 24, 6:00 pm, Arcade Public Library, 2433 Marconi Ave
- Walking Audit, Oct. 28, 10:00 am, at the Watt/I-80 Station

This planned project may also include low-cost improvements to the station itself in addition to better access.

The Sac. Transportation Authority (STA) hasn't been properly audited recently, and there is an effort to make this happen. STA is still looking for a CEO.

Sac. Transit Riders Union (TRU) has also been active, and has been conducting a transit riders survey. It has been commended for the quality of its input to RT.

- US 50 high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes (I-5 to Watt Ave)

Deeter: Discussion regarding a settlement with Caltrans over the ECOS lawsuit is currently underway, and suggestions for projects to include in the settlement offer are welcome. Fundraising for supporting the lawsuit are low-key while we are in negotiations with Caltrans.

- Sacramento County Climate Action Plan

Propper: 350Sac is continuing to work on comments on the County's CAP. County staff seems to be moving very slowly in this effort.

- Other

7:25 p.m. – Other Business and Announcements / Possible topics for future meetings

- MTP/SCS -- **Kacey Lizon** (SACOG)

7:30 p.m. (approx.) – Adjourn

Next TAQCC meeting: Thurs, Nov. 2nd, 6:00 p.m., at Mogavero Architects, 2012 K St.

Other upcoming events of interest:

Oct. 11, 12 noon -- Paths to Carbon Neutrality, UC Center, 1130 K St., Room LL3

Oct. 14, 10:30 am -- Sac. Transportation Choices, Organize Sac., 1714 Broadway

Oct. 16, 5:30 pm -- SVS Community Workshop, SVS, 401 I St. Green Room

Printable TAQCC agendas and minutes are available on the ECOS [Web site](#).