



**ECOS Transportation, Air Quality & Climate Change Committee
Thursday, September 6, 2018, 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: Betsy Weiland (SARA), Steven Bourasa (EOS), Rick Costa (EOS), Brian Guerdat (350 Sac), Brandon Rose (SMUD), Alex Reagan (ECOS staff), Matt Baker (ECOS staff), Ralph Propper (ECOS Pres.), John Deeter (chair)

Guests: Kathleen Ave (SMUD), Amy Young (SMUD), Torin Dunnivant (Sac. Tree Foundation), Dan Pskowski (Trees4Sacramento)

6:05 p.m. – SMUD's Contributions to Carbon Storage

- **Kathleen Ave**, Climate Program Manager, SMUD Energy, Strategy, Research & Development Department; Chair, Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative

Kathleen will present SMUD's assessment of land based carbon storage in Sacramento County, a first-of-its-kind study conducted in 2017 with participation from ECOS, SACOG, UC Davis, the Nature Conservancy and others. The study highlights the importance of trees and forestry, both urban and rural.

- **Amy Young**, SMUD Sacramento Shade Program Manager

Amy will present information about SMUD's very popular shade tree program and how it is evolving to address the region's carbon reduction priorities.

Baker: SMUD's interest in carbon sequestration grew out of Greenprint, SACOG's effort some 15 years ago to start looking at land use patterns including habitat and water issues. The most recent activity has been an assessment of land based carbon storage in Sacramento County, and Kathleen Ave will present the results of that study.

Ave [presents [slide show](#)]: SMUD aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in all its activities. In particular, carbon sequestered in biomass and soils can represent a substantial reduction of atmospheric CO₂. Losses or additional sequestration are impacted by changes in land use. SMUD's recent assessment of carbon storage in Sacramento County can be used to identify locations most susceptible to conflict between regional goals for carbon reduction and urban expansion.

Goals of the Sacramento County Landscape Carbon Assessment Initial Study include:

1. Quantify current landscape carbon storage
2. Forecast changes in carbon storage under varied land use projections

3. *Develop and test methods for evaluating carbon storage as a conservation benefit in land use decision making*
4. *Explore the potential for landscape sequestration projects in Sacramento*
5. *Expand understanding of the potential for increasing landscape carbon storage in Sacramento County*

The first three goals were realized by developing and applying appropriate models, For the fourth goal, three project concepts were developed:

1. *Urban Forestry: storage of atmospheric CO₂ in tree biomass*
2. *Nutrient Management: can increase carbon sequestration and reduce nitrous oxide emissions*
3. *Biochar: partially combusted biomass provides charcoal, a useful soil additive*

The final goal was fulfilled by quantifying the role of urban forestry and other strategies in helping to offset the reduction in biomass through continued urban development into greenfields.

Recommended next steps include:

1. *Expand study region; evolve methodology; incorporate economic metrics*
2. *Coordinate outreach and engagement along side the analytic framework*
3. *Integrate carbon storage as a priority in land use planning*
4. *Coordinate California utilities to support the energy sector's carbon objectives*

Young [presents [slide show](#)]: *SMUD is a community-owned electric service encompassing all of Sacramento county and small portions of Yolo and Placer counties. Power is generated from 19% renewables, 35% large hydroelectric, 44% natural gas, and 2% unspecified. SMUD offers customer solutions designed to save energy and money.*

SMUD's Shade Tree Program was established in 1990 as a direct result of the closure of the Rancho Seco Nuclear Power Plant, in partnership with the Sacramento Tree Foundation. The goal was to plant a million trees in residential yards to provide shade and help reduce peak power load. So far, 600 thousand trees have been planted. The current program offers up to ten free shade trees to home owners and renters to cool their homes, and also provides trees for schools, parks, and other publicly owned land. The Energy Efficiency model needs to be updated to account for changing residential construction trends, including smaller lot sizes.

Key features of the proposed redesign of the Program include:

1. *Adding trees that store more carbon and removing trees that use large amounts of water*
2. *Improve tree survivability*
3. *Focus on environmental justice through better equity in tree canopy growth*
4. *Align program goals with environmental benefits of trees such as carbon storage*

SMUD will be the first utility in the nation to offer such an all encompassing tree program.

Customers will continue to receive in person education from SMUD Community Foresters to help them with their landscape planning, to achieve their very own "best urban forest." SMUD will continue to work to bring trees to neighborhood parks, schools, and streets. It is developing new planting scenarios to allow for more trees per lot, and is continuing to expand the Neighborhoods program by creating community sustainability in under-served areas.

The Shade Tree Program now focuses on: carbon stored by trees planted, increasing the number of trees each customer plants, and carbon saved by shading homes.

Dunnivant: *The Sacramento Tree Foundation was founded in 1982, with the mission of building healthy, livable communities in the Sacramento region by growing the best urban forest in the nation. It is a partner with SMUD in the Shade Tree Program (described above by Amy Young) and has a number of its own programs as well.*

Pskowski: *Trees4Sacramento was formed a few years ago to protect trees in Sacramento County, particularly older trees that provide shade and are very difficult to replace.*

7:05 p.m. – Updates, reports and discussion of current topics

- Transit advocacy, transportation coalition & Measure A-plus
- Plans to expand CapCity freeway (Business 80) and mobility across the American River
- Letter of support for Sacramento City ordinance to restrict incompatible uses in transit oriented developments (TODs)

7:40 p.m. – Other business and announcements / Possible topics for future meetings

Deeter: *Upcoming events:*

Sept. 8, 10 am-1 pm -- Rise for Climate, Jobs and Justice - Sacramento, McClatchy Park, 3500 5th Avenue

Sep 11, 4:30-6:30 pm -- Dos Rios Light Rail Station - Presentation of Design Alternatives, Smythe Academy, 700 Dos Rios Street, multipurpose room

McClatchy Park, 3500 5th Avenue Sacramento CA 95817

7:45 p.m. (approx.) – Adjourn

Next TAQCC meeting: Thurs, Oct. 4th, 6:00 p.m., Mogavero Architects, 2012 K St.

Other upcoming events of interest:

Sept. 8, 1 pm -- **Sacramento Transit Riders Union** (Sac TRU), 1714 Broadway

Sept. 22, 10:30 am -- **Sac. Transit Advocates & Riders** (STAR), 1714 Broadway

Sept. 25, 6 pm -- **ECOS Board** meeting (reception at 5:30), 909 12th St.

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