



ECOS Transportation, Air Quality & Climate Change Committee

Thursday, May 9, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Mogavero Architects, 1331 T Street, Sacramento

Note new address

Meeting Notes

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

Attendance: Oscar Balaguer (350 Sac), Lynne Goldsmith (ECOS, 350 Sac), Chris Brown (Sac. Climate Coalition, ECOS), Karen Jacques (STAR), Mike Garabedian (Sierra Club), Jeffery Tardaguila (Dogfite), Delphine Cathcart (STAR), James Cathcart (STAR, ECOS), Brian Guerdat (350 Sac), Alex Reagan (ECOS staff), Ralph Propper (ECOS Pres.), Jon Ellison (co-chair), John Deeter (co-chair).

Guests: Christina Lokke (SACOG), Javier Guerra.

6:05 p.m. – Local initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

- **Christina Lokke** (SACOG Policy Manager) will describe SACOG's "Green Means Go" initiative, a pilot program designed to help meet the regional goal of 19% GHG emissions by 2035. SACOG actively seeking funding for this program.

Lokke: CA Air Resources Board has set a target of 19% reduction in GHGs by 2035 compared to the 2005 level for three Metropolitan Planning Organizations. This reduction will come primarily from passenger vehicles, and will be more difficult for the Sacramento Region to achieve than San Diego and San Francisco. To achieve the goal of 19%, the Sacramento Region will need to accelerate infill development, increase travel options, and accelerate vehicle electrification.

Currently, infill development is almost nonexistent even though there are enough vacant lots to meet regional infill needs. SACOG is asking the cities and counties in the region to identify green zones in underutilized commercial corridors such as Franklin, Stockton, and Broadway Blvds. and the area around Folsom Blvd. and 65th St. In the green zones, the jurisdictions could get rid of parking minimums and impact fees, incentivize construction of housing on underutilized parking lots, and upgrade water and sewer lines. For instance, the city and county of Sacramento, together with SacRT, could partner to revitalize Stockton Blvd., possibly including bus rapid transit (BRT).

CivicLab is an incubator sponsored by SACOG that develops innovative solutions for regional problems affecting cities and counties. An example is the "Ollie" autonomous shuttle first introduced at Sac. State and now at Cal Expo. Currently testing autonomous vehicles on private property, and next step is to permit testing on public roads.

State Senator Dr. Pan and Assemblymember Cooley have introduced legislation to fund Green Means Go" as a pilot program at the level of \$100 million per year for four years. Timeline for funding is dependent on the state budget process, with approval needed by June 15 to get into the

budget for the next fiscal year (2019-20). \$70 million is needed for infrastructure to support the 7,000 infill residential units that are required to meet the regional GHG reduction target. "Land banking" (buying land cheaply during economic downturns) may help reduce costs.

Propper: *ECOS submitted a letter of support in early April for the pilot program, but requested conditions on state funding such as: specifying criteria for infill siting, setting a 15% reduction in vehicle miles traveled, mandating an inclusionary housing requirement of 10% affordable to low income and 5% affordable to very low income groups, no demolition of existing housing. Lokke:* *SACOG needs to know funding level before describing the application process and funding criteria. The Legislature could decide to fund only EVs. whereas 'Green Means Go' emphasizes infill and TODs.*

Discussion: *Need to address both sprawl and affordable housing crisis. Most of downtown infill is market rate (not affordable). The Region needs to provide criteria about how the money would be spent to get funding. Lokke:* *Building Industry Assn. (BIA) supports funding for the pilot program.*

- **Chris Brown** (Sacramento Climate Coalition) will lead a discussion of the "Green New Deal" (GND) proposal, a national and statewide legislative proposal to reframe and increase our response to climate change through focusing on retooling our economy. The Sierra Club and other ECOS groups are focusing greater attention on efforts to get the GND adopted.

Brown: *The national "Green New Deal" (GND) initiative is being echoed locally by independent new leadership, believing that moderate Democrats in California are allies of fossil fuel producers. Millennials are concerned that the world is getting hotter and weather is becoming more chaotic. The Sunrise Movement in particular is being led by youth advocating for GND. It doesn't yet have a Sacramento chapter. Local efforts could include increasing locally grown food, such as was done during the New Deal in the 1930s and 1940s.*

The Climate Mobilization Group in Sacramento is pushing local jurisdictions to adopt Climate Emergency Declarations, and many cities and counties have already done so. ECOS has endorsed this effort, and Brown will share a list of all endorsers. The Sierra Club has developed a list of things to do locally to help the Green New Deal

7:05 p.m. – Update of ECOS's Transportation Vision – Subcommittee progress report

Deeter: *Latest draft of the ECOS Transportation Vision was distributed to the TAQCC Google group a couple of days ago, but other subcommittee members (Dan Allison and Susan Herre) were unable to attend the meeting this evening. He suggests deferring the discussion for another month.*

Action: *The subcommittee will make another edit, and a half-hour will be reserved at the June TAQCC meeting to go over the draft Vision in detail.*

7:30 p.m. – Updates, reports and discussion of other current topics

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy

Discussion: *May 25th is the deadline to make comments on the update to the MTP/SCS. Note: What goes into the MTP/SCS will be a part of the Senate Bill 1 grant process.*

Garabedian: *Is a member of the Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter, working on Land Use issues in Placer County, and led the opposition to Placer Co. Measure M in 2016 along with Betsy Weiland. He wants more mass transit options for Placer Co., more rail in particular. Environmentalists in Placer Co. are having troubles with SACOG. Citizen initiated smart growth plan was written by Genevieve Marsh and Leslie Warren, but it doesn't emphasize transit. Current plans include more subdivisions and wider roads,*

but no rail transit. Plans to expand freeways from J Street in downtown Sacramento to Lincoln and Auburn using funds from the SBI congested corridor program. Habitat is disappearing.

- Mayors' Climate Commission
- SacMoves Coalition to support a transportation tax for Sacramento County

Propper: *SacMoves may sponsor a transportation forum at the end of June.*

- Sacramento Regional Rail Working Group
- “Electrify America” program in Sacramento
- Sacramento City and Elk Grove Climate Action Plans

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

Lessons from Los Angeles Measure M (passed in 2016), UC Davis ITS Seminar. 1:40 pm, Friday May 10, Will be Webcast.

Sacramento Transit Advocates & Riders (STAR), 10 am, Sat. May 11, at 1714 Broadway.

Environmental Justice and Climate Change, talk by Katie Valenzuela. 6:30pm, Weds. May 15, at Organize Sacramento, 1714 Broadway.

Climate Emergency and Green New Deal, talk by Chris Brown. 6:45 pm, Thurs. May 16th, at Shepherd Garden Center. (Meeting of Sierra Club, Sacramento Group.)

7:45 p.m. (approx.) – Adjourn

Next TAQCC meeting: Thurs., June 6, 6:00 p.m., Mogavero Architects, 1331 T St.

Other upcoming events of interest:

May 11, 1 pm -- [Sacramento Transit Riders Union](#) (Sac TRU), 1714 Broadway

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