



ECOS Transportation, Air Quality & Climate Change Committee
Thursday, July 9, 2020, 5:45 p.m.
Videoconference, hosted by Zoom

Link to join the TAQCC Zoom Meeting: <<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85805612058>>
To phone in: 669 900 6833, Meeting ID: 858 0561 2058

Meeting Notes

5:45 p.m. – Social time -- meet and greet

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

Attendance: Dale Paige, Jeffery Tardaguila, Sandra Hall, Dan Allison, Oscar Balaguer, Sue Teranishi, Dyane Osorio, Deb Banks, Susan Herre, Chris Brown, Angela Herring-Jackson, Julia Randolph, Karen Jacques, Mike Garabedian, Ruth McDonald, Lita Brydie, Alex Reagan (ECOS staff), Ralph Propper (ECOS Pres.), Lynne Goldsmith (co-chair), John Deeter (co-chair).

Guest: Noah Painter (KPM Strategies).

6:05 p.m. – Voter support for Measure A-plus and prospects for a vote in November

- Noah Painter (KPM Strategies), consultant to Sac. Transportation Authority

Painter: [Presents slide show]. FM3 Research recently conducted a phone survey of 700 likely voters in Sacramento County, to gauge support for Measure A-plus, the proposed county-wide sales tax increase of one-half percent for transportation. Two versions of ballot language were offered, each presented to one-half of those interviewed: one emphasizing reduction in traffic congestion and the other economic stimulus. Both versions were supported by well over a majority (62% ± 4%), but short of the two-thirds required for passage. A similar majority feels that the cost of the measure is affordable, and worth the economic returns.

Voters ranked job creation as the most important goal of the measure. Their top spending priorities for the measure related to affordable transit for seniors and disabled, safe routes to school for children, and job creation. They were more responsive to arguments favoring the “traffic” version than those for the “stimulus” version. The most compelling messages countywide describe how traffic is getting worse, traffic congestion, and safe routes to school. The poll shows that the measure is not viable with its current level of support. A strong program of public education would be necessary to boost public support, but might be insufficient given the changing economic and social climate. Almost no ballot measure in California is going forward this fall.

STA staff will recommend to the Board that it not to proceed with a fall vote, and will present three options to the Board at its meeting on July 15:

- *Formally repeal the 2020 Measure A Ordinance, and withdraw the request to have the Board of Supervisors (BOS) place the measure on the fall ballot. Counsel believes this is the cleanest option, both legally and procedurally.*
- *Do not repeal the Ordinance, but formally withdraw the request to have the BOS place the measure on the ballot, essentially shelving the Ordinance for future consideration.*
- *Informally request the BOS not place the measure on the ballot. According to Counsel, this would technically be illegal, since the BOS is required to honor the earlier formal request unless it is withdrawn.*

Q: *Were there any open-ended questions?* **A:** *No.*

Painter: *STA consultants and staff believe that the measure should be withdrawn, since another measure failure would set regional transportation back 10 years. Support appears to be about 3% lower than for Measure B in 2016.*

Q: *Will poll data be made public?* **A:** *[Probably not,] since this was a private poll paid for by the Move Sac Forward Coalition, a 501(c)(4) organization set up by the consultant team because STA didn't have enough funds for a poll.*

Comment: *New Measure A is an attempt to bail out existing Measure A. It's a regressive tax, perpetuates cars first for 40 years, includes more freeways.*

7:05 p.m. – **Mayors' Climate Commission, adoption of Final Report**

- **Ralph Propper (ECOS President)**

Propper: *The MCC adopted its Final Report by a unanimous vote. Its recommendations are more progressive than anticipated; a last minute campaign by business about building electrification was not successful. The MCC adopted a compromise, that new buildings over four stories be all electric starting in 2026 but no provision regarding existing buildings. Presumably this is regarded as too difficult, requiring new wiring, etc. Cities need to adopt ordinances within a year to implement the recommendations. There are concerns about the next steps and timelines.*

7:25 p.m. – **Sacramento County Climate Action Plans**

- **Oscar Balaguer (350 Sacramento)**

Balaguer: *Jurisdictions are not required to adopt a Climate Action Plan (CAP), but they are required to mitigate the impacts from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The advantage of a CAP is that it streamlines the process for subsequent project EIRs. Three County supervisors are needed to adopt a CAP, and three can probably be persuaded.*

City of Sacramento has adopted a truncated schedule for its CAP, with limited outreach and action scheduled for the middle of the December holiday. It is planning to go forward with a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) rather than a full environmental review (EIR). A workshop is scheduled for September.

Q: *How does a jurisdiction meet its GHG goals on a project level?* **A:** *Many jurisdictions have used CARB's target, but this was challenged based on how it could be done by considering just new development.*

Discussion: Pursue a state level effort to implement SB 375, with a 19% reduction in GHG. This goal needs strengthening.

7:35 p.m. – Updates, reports and discussion of other current topics

- Climate Emergency Declarations

Brown: SMUD resolution declaring a climate emergency is set for adoption at its meeting on July 16. It will be the first electric power company in the U.S. to adopt one. The current version is much improved over the previous one, through the efforts of Directors Heidi Sanborn, Brandon Rose, Rob Kerth, and Dave Tamayo.

- Sacramento Slow Streets initiative
- Mow Better

7:50 p.m. – Other business and announcements / Topics for future meetings

7:55 p.m. (approx.) – Adjourn

Next TAQCC meeting: Thurs., Sep. 3, 5:45 p.m., probably video conference

[There will be a meeting in August, on the 6th, at 6 pm, with social time starting at 5:45 pm.]

Other upcoming events of interest:

July 11, 1 pm -- [Sac Transit Riders Union](#) (videoconference)

July 27, 6 pm -- ECOS Board meeting (videoconference)

Propper: The topic will be the Sacramento County Habitat Plan.

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