

ECOS Transportation, Air Quality & Climate Change Committee  
Thursday, Aug 6, 2020, 5:45 p.m.  
Videoconference, hosted by Zoom

FINAL Meeting Minutes

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

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

**Attendance:** *Josh Maddox (Sustainability), Susan Herre (ECOS), Ralph Propper (ECOS), Robert Meagher (ECOS), Alex Reagan (ECOS staff), Janet Koster (CA Native Plant Society), Sandra Hall (Davis EV Society), Karen Jacques (STAR, Preservation Sacramento), Angela Elizabeth (Advocate), Jeffery Tardaguila (SacTRU), Deb Banks (SABA), Sue Teranishi (SABA, Breathe), Lynne Goldsmith (co-chair), John Deeter (co-chair).*

6:05 p.m. – BikeMatch and Slow Streets Programs, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates, Deb Banks (Executive Director, SABA)

- BikeMatch Program - Started in NY in early Covid days and is now in 15 cities, including Sacramento. The program started with a man who fixed up a bike for an essential worker who needed one. BikeMatch helps match a donated bike to a person in need of one, for the person's specific size and needs, see website BikeMatchSac. So far, SABA has matched up 40 people with a bike, trying to match size and needs appropriately. Anyone in need of a bicycle can go to the SABA website to fill out a form for a bicycle. The program is 100% volunteer-run but they are hoping to expand to be able to have paid employees. They just received a bunch of kid's bikes but there is still a wait list because the pool of bikes don't always match the people seeking a bike.

Attendee suggestion: prepare a flyer for organizations such as La Familia and for areas in need.

- Sacramento Slow Streets Campaign - The Campaign wrote a letter to the Mayor signed by multiple partners, including ECOS, stating program funding was inadequate for outreach and requested more so it can be done with the neighborhoods, "not for them. The campaign slowed down, in order to have neighborhood conversations and be able to present some streets to Jennifer Donlan-Wyant, City's Active Transportation Program Specialist. The Campaign is asking for \$5 million to be allocated out of CARES Act funding for slow streets and some pop up bike lanes.

There are different models available with local blocks, neighborhoods and organizations taking part. Tucson, LA, and NY are reporting on how their

programs are working so some best practices are being developed. Recommendations are in alignment with the Mayor's Commission on Climate Change.

7:05 p.m. – Climate Justice: What It Is and Why Environmentalists Should Care, Nailah Pope-Harden (Policy Advocate, ClimatePlan)

- Nailah's activism began in her South Sacramento community in the opposition of a "natural gas" storage under their community, 3 years ago in support of a bicycle/pedestrian trail along Morrison Creek and the restoration of a bus route back to her neighborhood.
  - a. Morrison Creek Project – The cleanup of Morrison Creek, in partnership with the Sacramento Area Creeks Council, brought the Dept of Water Resources to the table. They just received a grant for \$700,000 which the city said was just enough for a "plan." More work will be needed.
  - b. ClimatePlan – Her work with ClimatePlan is to make sure the State's spending is in alignment with climate goals and that spending is not changing. They are watchdogging the agencies that uplift equity and community and advocating for environmental justice on a statewide level.
- **What is Climate Justice? Environmental Justice?** Climate justice is a term used to frame global warming as an ethical and political issue, rather than one that is purely environmental or physical in nature. "If we are able at some point to achieve climate goals but still have inequality, we have not done our job."

"Our approaches to climate change must be intersectional or else we will continue to perpetuate the same systems. It is not only advocating, it is holistic, intersectional and transformative."

Environmental organizations need to talk to others in climate work about how to work together – share resources & methods – not just singular conversation about one topic, bringing in investments also in preserving resources.
- **What kind of climate work is needed?**
  1. Tree Canopy/Heat Island effect work - Lack of trees or planning for tree and those that do exist are not maintained. Tree advocates emphasize for their neighborhood only. ECOS is already having the conversation and knows the language. They are listened to –how to use that in a way that helps all of Sacramento? Neighbor Woods Program, Tree Foundation is a challenge (such as Native Plant Society). How do we get our foot in the door in neighborhoods?
  2. ILLEGAL DUMPING where the city does not want to pay for quality enforcement, signage, timeliness, clean up, or response times so dumping attracts more dumping, etc. Solutions, such as, regularly adding accessible dumpsters in neighborhoods and an increase in response times are needed. These are provided for the wealthy, gentrified neighborhoods.

3. Displacement with gentrification.
4. Decriminalizing marijuana companies were supposed to invest in the communities they are located in, but instead it brought more police presence. People living on one side of a zoning line can grow a lot of marijuana, while on the other side of the line, in the low-income neighborhood, people lose their homes for growing marijuana.
5. Neighborhood relationship building, a lot of listening to provide connections, leverage resources – relational – day-to-day people are not worried about similar things.
6. Other issues of importance going forward are: Each agency creates their only specialty plan rather than joint interrelated plans – cannot just talk about one issue or problem. We need to see the FULL picture and bring in other resources/people to talk about all the interrelated issues.
7. Outreach that ECOS could be a part of
  - a. More relationship-building and listening.
  - b. Talk less about the community outreach that isn't being done and instead focus on doing the outreach.
  - c. Find out what they are and prioritize the goals of the communities most impacted.
  - d. Groups with privilege need to listen to communities who are low-income, people of color and disadvantaged.
  - e. There have been instances where the community outreach piece was done by people not speaking or communicating in the same language as the community, so organizers went back and reported that the communities weren't interested but the box was checked off for community outreach.
  - f. Could we do a local kind of "Green New Deal"? We need some kind of minimum standard for each neighborhood. Minimally, if we are going to displace folks, they still have access to minimal standards of living. Every neighborhood needs minimum resources.

### **What would Climate Justice look like in Sacramento?**

Every creek in the County would be revitalized, people could ride their bike safely from North Sac to South Sac, every neighborhood would have access to parks and green space, community gardens, and safe places for children to play, to be able to walk and bike safely and comfortably across all neighborhoods.

Every neighborhood would have a higher minimum standard of living with illegal dumping not a minimum. The City would be more responsive to disadvantaged community members' calls, air quality monitors would be concentrated in communities that are nearest industrial areas, affordable housing would be available to people who need it.

Land banking, affordable housing – quality of life for all – master planning that undoes injustice from the past. Need for positive visioning – report card on big indicators – shift language toward justice. The quality of life would be the same

from Elk Grove to Del Paso Heights. As a member of a disadvantaged community, just say “we want what Land Park has.” CalEnviroScreen could be retooled to create a report card like this. We can shift our language.

**Resources:** <https://read.dukeupress.edu/south-atlantic-quarterly/article-abstract/109/2/313/30137>  
<https://www.naacp.org/issues/environmental-justice/>

See Ally Shift courses <https://frameshiftconsulting.com/ally-skills-workshop/>

Workshop teaches simple everyday techniques people can use to make their workplaces more inclusive. This highly interactive workshop helps people recognize when they have power and influence—when they can best act as an ally—and learn how to take effective action.

### **Discussion:**

**Josh** – In his sustainability work they are always comparing and contrasting what they call the three pillars of society: social, economic and environmental. Social sustainability is actually where the other two sit – all society needs – changes the way we think and our priorities – changes how we think by flipping the graphic. We need to build muscle in our organizations – models are now patronizing. Endowments et al funnel funding into the neighborhoods but terms used and discussion is not from within the community. Example: Topics, such as, urban heat islands problems with “GHG” references

**Angela** – Stockton Blvd outreach – survey 5-6 plans but only 1 had trees – “someone else handles the beautification.” This is set up for failure – what’s the process if you have an issue? Planners want to have conversations about ONE subset of a bigger issue.

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

- Mow Better Coalition – next meeting to discuss action on proposed CARB Small Off Road Equipment (SORE) draft regulations to end “commercial sale” of equipment (not a ban) by 2028. Mow Better expects to support an earlier implementation 2023.

8:00 p.m.– Adjourn

Next TAQCC meeting: Thurs., Sep. 3, 5:45 p.m., Topic: Placer-Sacramento Gateway Project & proposed CapCity freeway expansion

Other upcoming events of interest:

Aug. 8, 1 pm -- Sac Transit Riders Union

Aug. 10, 6 pm – Land Use Committee meeting, YIMBY presentation & EIR updates

Printable TAQCC agendas and minutes are available on the ECOS Web site.