



# ECOS

ENVIRONMENTAL  
♦ COUNCIL ♦  
OF SACRAMENTO

Post Office Box 1526 | Sacramento, CA 95812-1526

December 15, 2020

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors  
Sent via email

Re: Climate Emergency Declaration

Dear Sacramento County Board of Supervisors,

The Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) supports the County's proposed Climate Emergency Declaration. As Greta Thunberg has told us,

“Humans are very adaptable: we can still fix this. But the opportunity to do so will not last for long. We must start today. We have no more excuses. We cannot solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis. And if solutions within the system are so impossible to find, then maybe we should change the system itself.”

Please demonstrate that our County's system is up to the task!

ECOS is a coalition of individuals and 20 member organizations in the Sacramento region. We promote the sustainability of our region including social equity, public health, economic viability, and its natural communities. ECOS works to effectuate local responses to climate change, with particular focus on facilitating changes in land use and transportation behavior. ECOS urges a successful Sustainable Communities Strategy implementation – this offers not only reduced GHG emissions, but also co-benefits in increased equity, public health, and natural resource conservation.

After the County declares a climate emergency, it should implement the following strategies to reduce GHG emissions:

- Smart growth will support public health through increased transportation choices, increased opportunities for active transportation and recreation, and greater access to housing, jobs and services for all economic levels on a neighborhood scale. This requires focusing on increasing density of the urban core and revitalizing existing neighborhoods, as opposed to greenfield development. Anti-displacement measures are needed in light of rising property values in the urban core.
- A regionally coordinated conservation strategy – a connected network of parks, preserves and conservation easements on farms and ranches – creating access to open-space, protecting our unique biodiversity, and conserving our agricultural heritage. This will preserve sequestered carbon. This should include a sustainable water supply: this can be assisted by water banking to utilize excess precipitation during increased flooding events, for use during increased droughts.

I worked in the California Air Resources Board's Climate Science Research Section. CARB was required to estimate the costs and benefits of emission control regulations. The costs almost always turned out to be over-estimates, as the private sector found ways to more cost-effectively reduce emissions.

By being the leader in air pollution control, California benefited by supplying technology throughout the world – as they adopted our technologies.

Sacramento County will be an economic leader if it strives to be in the forefront of response to the climate emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ralph Propper".

Ralph Propper, ECOS President