

## Minutes of the July 28, 2020, ECOS Board Meeting

President Ralph Propper called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: ECOS Board Members: Ralph Propper, Robert Meagher, Jon Ellison, Rob Burness, Chris Brown, Gabriel Balensiefer, Earl Withycombe, John Deeter, Ron Maertz, Janet Koster, Susan Herre, Chelsea Kelly-Reif, Sean Wirth, Nancy Hughett, Michael O'Sullivan, Brandon Rose, Lynne Goldsmith, Barbara Leary, Andy Sawyer.

Guests: Oscar Balaguer, Karen Pitts.

ECOS Staff: Alexandra Reagan.

### I. Agenda and Minutes

Motion (Wirth, seconded by Ellison): that the minutes of the May 26, 2020, ECOS board meeting, as amended, be approved. Approved unanimously. The agenda of the July 28, 2020, ECOS board meeting was approved by unanimous consent.

### II. South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan

Sean Wirth made a presentation on the recently approved South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan. The plan is intended to mitigate development in Sacramento County south of Highway 50, except that Elk Grove, Folsom and Rancho Murietta are not included. The plan addresses habitat needs and preservation comprehensively, instead of project-by-project.

The plan provides for preservation of over 36,000 acres, and has 28 covered species. Preserved areas within the Urban Development Area are mapped, but areas to be preserved outside are defined by criteria. For vernal pools, two acres must be preserved and a third acre of vernal pool must be created for every acre of vernal pool lost. For all habitat there is a "get ahead" requirement that habitat be preserved or created first before development is allowed to go ahead based on fees for habitat loss.

The plan also includes voluntary mitigations, in Appendix J, to help obtain funding to preserve habitat not required to be preserved under the plan.

The biggest challenges will be dealing with the Cities of Elk Grove and Folsom, and possibly Sacramento County, pursuing development inconsistent with the plan or which undermines the comprehensive approach in the plan though piecemeal mitigation.

### III. Reports

#### A. Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Change

John Deeter reported that at its last meeting the Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Committee heard a report on the polling for the Sacramento Transportation Authority's (STA) transportation financing measure. Based on the polling, the STA decided not to seek a vote on the measure on the November ballot. Oscar Balaguer gave an update on climate action plans. Also at the committee meeting Chris Brown gave an update on climate emergency declarations. Chris reported that the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (District) deserves kudos for its declaration.

Ralph Propper reported that the Mayors' Climate Commission final report will be considered by

the City of Sacramento Planning and Development Commission on August 13, and by the city council on August 25.

For its August 6 meeting, the Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Change has invited Nailah Pope-Harden of ClimatePlan to speak on climate justice. In addition, Deb Banks will talk about the Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA) bike match program.

#### B. Habitat 2020

Rob Burness reported that Habitat 2020 has been spending a great deal of time on water issues. The Water Forum is updating its agreement. ECOS is part of the environmental caucus in the Water Forum, which has prepared an interest statement.

#### C. Organizational Development

Nancy Hughett reported that ECOS received almost \$10,000 in response to its recent appeal, to 250 donors, to make up for funding lost due to cancellation of Earth Day 2020. The committee seeks volunteers to make additional calls.

The Organizational Development Committee will also be pursuing member and volunteer recruitment.

#### D. Land Use

Robert Meagher reported that at its June meeting the Land Use Committee discussed Senate Bill 743 requirements for mitigation of vehicle miles traveled. At its July meeting, the committee discussed the Elk Grove housing element update.

#### E. Treasurer

Earl Withycombe reported that due to reduced revenues from Earth Day, ECOS was running behind budgeted revenues. ECOS has received approval for a \$10,200 Payroll Protection Plan loan. At least 80% of the loan must be spent on salaries for the loan to be converted to a grant, a condition that ECOS will have no trouble achieving. Combined with the recent fundraising appeal, ECOS is back on track to achieve budgeted revenues for the year, but the potential for cancellation of the Environmentalist of the Year event may pose additional challenges.

#### F. President

Ralph Propper reported that Sacramento Investment Without Displacement (SaciWD) has been formed as a 501(c)(3) organization. ECOS will be a member. SaciWD will work on proposed community benefits agreement for Aggie Square.

There will be a stakeholder meeting on the Sacramento County climate action plan in August. Susan Herre will represent ECOS.

ECOS is in settlement negotiations with the City of Galt about its climate action plan.

Ralph has had several meetings with SMUD staff about implementation of SMUD's climate emergency declaration.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.