



**ECOS Transportation, Air Quality & Climate Change Committee**  
**Thursday, January 14, 2021, 5:45 p.m.**  
**(Rescheduled from January 7, 2021)**  
**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: Muriel Strand, Oscar Balaguer (350 Sac), Karen Jacques, Marko Pavlovic, Perry Metzger, Susan Herre (ECOS), Alex Reagan (ECOS staff), Ralph Propper (ECOS Pres.), John Deeter (co-chair)*

**6:05 p.m.** – Comment letter on Sacramento County Climate Action Plan

- Susan Herre, ECOS representative, CAP Stakeholder Group
- Oscar Balaguer, 350 Sacramento representative, CAP Stakeholder Group

*Herre, Balaguer, and Propper: Provided an update on the Administrative Draft of the Sacramento County Communitywide Climate Action Plan (CAP). The schedule is aggressive. The stakeholder group received the Admin Draft document Jan 6, comments due Jan 19. A public review period will follow in February. The County's schedule shows BOS approval of the CAP and the related environmental document in July 2021.*

*The focus is on the contents of the document. The review of the document has started but more study needs to be done. Some initial impressions:*

- a) Sacramento County's Dec. 16, 2020, climate emergency declaration goal of carbon neutrality by 2030 does not seem to be reflected in the CAP*
- b) Many GHG emissions reduction measures seem aspirational instead of clearly enforceable.*
- c) Smart growth (land use development location and pattern) does not seem to be prioritized as a GHG emissions reduction measure.*
- d) Offsets as a GHG emissions reduction measure seem not described fully. Note that Alberto Ayala, Executive Director and Air Pollution Control Officer, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, scheduled to speak at ECOS' Board Meeting on Jan 26, may discuss Sacramento region-based carbon offset registries.*
- e) ECOS, 350 Sacramento, and others are engaging an attorney with experience in GHG emissions reductions cases in California to advise the team.*

**6:35 p.m.** – CapCity Freeway American River Bridge -- Mitigated Negative Declaration

- John Deeter, TAQCC Co-chair  
ECOS submitted a comment letter to Caltrans on Dec.18, requesting a full EIR for CapCity expansion in advance of bridge construction to deal with larger issues such as increased VMT for the larger project.

**Deeter:** Caltrans Dist. 3 staff gave TAQCC an update on CapCity freeway in Sept. 2020, but didn't say that they intended to go ahead with deck replacement and widening of the American River bridge in advance of the proposed expansion from Midtown Sacramento to Arden Way. ECOS learned of this development in early December, and submitted a comment letter to Caltrans on Dec. 18, asserting that going forward with environmental clearance for just the bridge using a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was segmentation of the larger CapCity project and not allowed by CEQA. ECOS consulted with attorney Don Mooney, and he also submitted a letter to Caltrans supporting our position.

**Discussion:** Four years ago ECOS sued Caltrans over a similar issue of environmental clearance using an MND for HOV lanes on US 50 west of Watt Ave, and settled when Caltrans agreed to support improved double tracking of the Gold Line to Folsom. Now Caltrans is starting construction on this project, which involves some unfortunate consequences such as closing down the Sunday Farmers Market at 6th Street and removing a bat colony which might have been more fully discussed with an EIR rather than an MND.

### **6:55 p.m. – Proposal to Phase Out Leaf Blowers**

- Muriel Strand

**Strand:** Leaf blowers -- and other machines with engines/motors designed for tasks that are well within human capability -- should be banned as a kind of pilot project for ending fossil fuel addiction and slowing GHG emissions. This may be "social engineering" but it's needed. This goes further than just replacing gas-powered blowers with electric ones. If we can't even stop using leaf blowers we deserve to be toast.

Resource websites:

- How to phase out leaf blowers without threatening anyone's livelihood  
<<http://motherearthhome.blogspot.com/>>
- Summary of the history of leaf blower politics in Sacramento  
<<https://www.newsreview.com/sacramento/content/dirt-blasters/1864716/>>

the quarter sheet pdf summarizes my key points with basic gov't info at the bottom

### **7:15 p.m. – TAQCC Priority Issues for 2021 (all)**

- Climate Action Plans
- Electric Vehicles, SMUD advocacy
- Climate Emergency Declarations
- Implementation of the Mayors' Climate Commission Recommendations
- Rail -- Third track to Roseville, new stations in Midtown
- Freeway expansion -- CapCity, etc.

**Propper:** Implementation of the recommendations of the Mayors' Climate Commission (electrification etc.), Sacramento Slow Streets initiative spearheaded by WalkSacramento and SABA, City and County Climate Action Plans.

**Deeter:** TAQCC people are urged to get involved in a specific issue relevant to ECOS in addition to attending TAQCC meetings. He is involved in rail issues, and has attended meetings of the Sacramento Region Rail Working Group chaired by Steve Cohn, pre-Covid. There are a number of current rail issues, including a third track on Capitol Corridor between Sacramento and Roseville (part of the Placer-Sacramento Gateway Plan), and new rail service by both San Joaquins and ACE on the Midtown line with five new stations in Sacramento County.

There are also groups actively working on transit issues such as Sac Transit Riders Union (SacTRU) and SMART, and the transportation coalition SacMoves.

### **7:35 p.m. – Other business and announcements / Topics for future meetings**

**7:45 p.m.** (approx.) – Adjourn

Next TAQCC meeting: Thurs., Feb. 4, 5:45 p.m., videoconference

Other upcoming events of interest:

Jan. 9, 1 pm -- [Sac Transit Riders Union](#) (videoconference)

Jan. 13, 6 pm -- [350 Sacramento Annual Meeting](#) ([registration requested](#))

Jan. 26, 6 pm -- ECOS General Meeting -- Alberto Ayala (Exec Officer, SMAQMD)

- Zoom videoconference <<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81865377865>>

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