

## Draft Minutes of the January 26, 2021, ECOS Board Meeting

President Ralph Propper called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: ECOS Board Members: Ralph Propper, Robert Meagher, Janet Koster, Jon Ellison, Chris Brown, Susan Herre, Earl Withycombe, John Deeter, Sean Wirth, Quincy Stivers, Nancy Hughtett, Lita Bryde, Rory Pilling, Rob Burness, Michael O'Sullivan, Gabriel Balensiefer, Marko Pavlović, Andy Sawyer.

Guests: Muriel Strand, Chris Flores, Dyane Osorio, Julio Gonzales, Herman Barahona, Stacy Springer, Deb Banks, Rick Codina. Oscar Balaguer, Moiz Mir.

ECOS Staff: Alexandra Reagan.

### I. Agenda and Minutes

Motion (Ellison, seconded by Wirth): that the minutes of the November 25, 2020, ECOS board meeting and the agenda of the January 26, 2021, ECOS board meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

### II. Climate Action Plans

Susan Herre reported on the status of the Sacramento County Climate Action Plan. The county asked stakeholder group members to comment by January 19. Several groups, including ECOS, submitted comments. Comments include calls for alignment with the county's climate emergency declaration, the need for amendment to the county code to implement the plan, and comments on the need to focus county development on infill. We anticipate a revised draft, which will be available for a 30-day public comment period, in February. The county proposes to adopt the plan in ~~July~~, July 2021.

Ralph Propper reported that the City of Sacramento is moving ahead on implementation of the recommendations of the City's Climate Action Plan, but progress is slow.

### III. Capital City Bridge Expansion

John Deeter reported that Caltrans has issued a proposed negative declaration for expansion of the American River bridge expansion as part of the Capital City Freeway project, issuance of the environmental impact report for the full project. ECOS commented on the need for a full environmental review before moving ahead with any segment of the project. ECOS leaders will meet with Caltrans staff to discuss the need for evaluation and mitigation of the induced demand.

### IV. Environmentalist of the Year

Ralph Propper will put on an online Environmentalist of the Year event this year. The award recipients will be Anne Stausboll (City of Sacramento Climate Action Plan), Michelle Stevens (Bushy Lake Restoration), Moiz Mir (Young Environmentalist), and Brandon Rose (ECOS Past President). Michael O'Sullivan will be the master of ceremonies.

### V. Our Fellow Environmental Advocates

Susan Herre discussed the need to recognize other environmental groups we work with.

## VI. New Board Members

The ECOS executive committee recommends that Margaret Loehr and Sandra Hall be appointed as at-large ECOS board members. Motion: (Withycombe, seconded by Ellison), that the ECOS board appoint Margaret Loehr and Sandra as at large ECOS board members. Approved unanimously.

## VII. Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Alberto Ayala, Executive Director, Sacramento Air Quality Management District, spoke about 2021 plans to achieve healthier air and fight climate change. Ayala observed that Assembly Bill 617 (Stats. 2017, ch. 136) provides leverage to get cities and counties involved in air quality control. Engagement with the community needs to improve.

Ayala also discussed the need for the region to be competitive in obtaining funding for measures needed to combat climate change.

A third important issue is for the district to be involved in land use decisions, pushing cities and counties to integrate these issues into their climate action plans.

Ayala also emphasized the need for collaboration with other agencies in the region, including Regional Transit (RT), the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), and the Sacramento Area Regional Council of Governments.

Ralph Propper asked how the region can meet its 19% greenhouse gas reduction target. Ayala spoke to the need for funding for infrastructure for infill development, and highlighted the Green Means Go program.

Rick Codina asked about the Rocky Mountain Institute's proposal for phasing out gas appliances. Ayala emphasized the need for programs enabling low-income households to participate.

## VII. Reports

### A. Treasurer

Earl Withycombe distributed end of the year data. He has also conducted additional analysis. Aside from grant funds, ECOS revenues exceeded expenditures in 2020 by about \$1000. The proposed budget projects a deficit of approximately \$13,000.

Earl has prepared a revised budget, which will be presented to the executive committee before presentation to the board at its March meeting.

### B. Organizational Development

Nancy Hughett reported that ECOS is registered for Big Day of Giving. We need statements highlighting what we do well.

The Organizational Development Committee is moving ahead on a membership drive. The committee is also working on new member orientation.

Nancy also raised the possibility of an online Earth Day.

### C. Land Use

Robert Meagher reported that at its recent meetings the Land Use Committee focused on accessory dwelling units. Jon Ellison reported that at its February 8 meeting the committee discussed tree issues, including the need for more canopy trees in disadvantaged communities.

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

John Deeter reported that at its January meeting the Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Committee discussed the Capital City Freeway Project and the Sacramento County Climate Action Plan. The committee will hear a presentation on Green Means Go at its February meeting.

### E. Habitat 2020

Rob Burness summarized the work of the Water Committee. The committee is heavily involved in Water Forum II. The ECOS water committee is seeking additional attention to groundwater, water conservation, water banking, and the Cosumnes River.

Rob also reported that the final environmental impact report for the California Northstate University Medical Center project, which is near the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, has been released. Planning Commission hearings start on February 18.

### F. President

Ralph Propper reported that Sacramento Investment Without Displacement has filed suit against U.C. Davis over Aggie Square, especially the failure to adequately avoid or mitigate impacts on air quality and housing.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45:50 p.m.