

Minutes of the July 27, 2021, ECOS Board Meeting

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

Present: ECOS Board Members: Ralph Propper, Susan Herre, Jon Ellison, Betsy Weiland, Quincy Stivers, Rob Burness, Chis Brown, Cheslea Kelly Reif, Nanch Hughett, Gabriel Balensiefer, John Deeter, Tina Suarez-Murias, Janet Koster, Dale Steele, Lita Brydie, Michael O'Sullivan, Andy Sawyer

Guests: Molly Basinger, Murial Strand, Kathy Dodson, Oscar Balaguer, Ilonka Zlatar, Kathleen Ave, May Lin Chang, Rory Pilling, Barbara Evoy, Rick Castro, Austin Miller, Ushna Javed, Amanda Rodman, Nailah Pope-Harden, David Von Aspern

ECOS Staff: Alexandra Reagan.

I. Agenda and Minutes

Motion (O'Sullivan, seconded by Hughett): that the minutes of the May 25, 2020, ECOS board meeting be approved. Approved unanimously. The agenda for the July 27, 2021 meeting was approved by unanimous consent.

II. New Voices for the Environment

Rory Pilling, who works for AmeriCorps, has been involved in social justice and environmental issues. He recently received recognition for a local watershed protection project. The focus was on lack of services and safe places for the homeless. A major problem is homeless people being pushed out of areas where services are available.

Quincy Stivers drafted a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) handbook for ECOS, and is an ECOS board member. The handbook seeks to assist activists in reviewing CEQA documents and making comments. Quincy summarized the handbook and the environmental review process.

May Lin Chang reviewed the efforts to reduce emissions from the built environment. Standards for new buildings will be insufficient. Improvements are needed for existing buildings. Embodied carbon—carbon emissions used for building materials—is a major issue.

III. Reports

A. Organizational Development

Nancy Hughett reported that Lita Brydie has been appointed co-chair of the Organizational Development Committee.

B. Land Use

Jon Ellison reported that at its July meeting the Land Use Committee heard a presentation by David Mogavero on infill development.

C. Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Change Committee

John Deeter is reported that the Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Change Committee has a meeting scheduled for August 5. A CalTrans representative is being invited to speak on

Senate Bill 743, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Ralph Popper reported that the final draft of the Sacramento County climate action plan is expected to be available soon.

D. Habitat 2020

Rob Burness reported the proposed California Northstate Hospital has been moved to North Natomas, at the former arena site. The site is superior to the previously proposed site in Elk Grove, but there is a wetland issue at the new site. Habitat 2020 is also working on a proposed City of Sacramento sphere of influence expansion in North Natomas.

Habitat 2020 also continues to be active, as part of the environmental caucus, in water issues.

E. President

Ralph Popper emphasized the importance of the Sacramento County climate action plan. Ralph also reported that ECOS is hoping to have field trips this fall.

IV. Announcements

Chis Brown announced that the next international climate strike will be September 24. On September 25, 2021 there will be an outdoor rally on decarbonization.

Ilonka Zlagtar reported Sacramento 350 is working on seed funding for environment justice hubs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.