



September 22, 2022

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors  
700 H Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Sent by Email: [ClimateActionPlan@Sacounty.gov](mailto:ClimateActionPlan@Sacounty.gov)

Subject: Recommendations to Strengthen the Climate Adaptation elements of the Proposed Communitywide Climate Action Plan

The Environmental Council of Sacramento, the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, the Sacramento Audubon Society, the Sierra Club Sacramento Group, and the Xerces Society are submitting the following recommendations to strengthen the proposed Communitywide Climate Action Plan (Plan) released for public review on August 26, 2022. Your inclusion of these recommendations into the Plan will increase the County's preparedness to meet the challenges of our changing climate and its impacts on the region's water resources and environment. Specifically, these recommendations will promote long term improved quality of life for County residents while contributing to biodiversity and local beneficial species preservation in our region.

We appreciate the changes staff has made to the Plan before you that reflect the last round of public comments. Several the changes reflect suggested recommendations made in our March 22, 2022, comment letter. However, we believe the Board can further strengthen the Plan by incorporating the following recommendations.

**1. Proposed Board Action:** Page 18 of the Plan lists Green House Gas Reduction elements included within the plan. **Direct staff to modify all the elements, including GHG 02, 16 and 21, which involve landscaping to include the preference and use of low and very low water use, local, native plants.**

Local native plants, including keystone species of native Oaks, form a critical base for sustained quality of life in our region. They are climate change adaptive and have sustained carbon sequestration abilities. In landscape and garden applications, local native plant pallets can provide nearly year-round flowering and shade. Most local native plants require low or very low irrigation and less maintenance than traditional turf and high water use nonnative plant species.

We are not the only inhabitants of this region. Of equal importance is the role local native plants provide for the rest of the species that make this region home. Local native plants provide homes and food for beneficial insects necessary for gardens and agriculture to flourish. In turn, they provide food and habitat for local and migratory birds and animals. As an example, species of Oaks Support 2,000 plant species, 170 bird species, 100 mammals, 60 amphibians and reptiles, 4,000 insect species and 100's more fungi

and microorganisms (Calag.ucanr.edu). It is no wonder we recommend that Oaks be given preference in any County tree planting program.

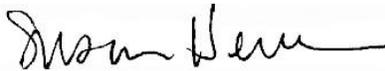
It is also important to note that many species of non-native plants do not provide viable habitat or food resource for local native insect, bird, and animal species.

**2. Proposed Board Action:** Measures Gov – Water 01 and 02 include goals and actions to reduce landscape water use. **Direct staff to develop and implement enforceable landscape water reduction goals for all existing and future landscaping regardless of the water source, phase out high water use landscaping, and utilize low and very low water use local native plants in transportation and other service corridors.**

**3. Proposed Board Action:** Measure Drought Measure Water – 4. **Direct staff to work with water purveyors within the County to develop nonessential turf and high-water use landscaping replacement programs with the goal to replace 80% of non-essential turf within the county by 2030. This program should include public information and incentives to replace non-essential turf and high-water use landscaping with low and very low water use, local, native plants.**

The Communitywide Climate Action Plan moves the County forward in its effort to adapt to the region's changing climate. However, there is more the County can do in the important climate adaptation areas we have commented on here. We believe your decision to accept and implement our recommended actions further strengthens to Plan and will lead to a more resilient, climate adaptive built environment that improves the quality of life for all of us.

Sincerely,



Susan Herre  
President of the ECOS Board of Directors



Ted Rauh  
ECOS Water Committee Chair



Ellen Pimentel  
President, Sacramento Valley Chapter of the  
California Native Plant Society



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