



ECOS
ENVIRONMENTAL
♦ COUNCIL ♦
OF SACRAMENTO



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Dear City Council representatives,

Habitat 2020, a coalition of Sacramento area environmental organizations, under the umbrella of the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS), understand that your Council has received a request from AKT development to initiate hearings before Sacramento LAFCO to approve sphere of influence designation for a substantial area of land south of the city's current city limits (and extending well into El Dorado County), and that this request would likely be followed by an effort on the part of the City to proceed with the annexation of the portion of land currently within the boundaries of Sacramento County. We also understand that City staff are preparing a report for your consideration as to whether or not to proceed with the request.

As you well know, initiation of this process has significant implications for City residents as well as county, regional and state policies and programs. Of particular interest is how a supply of water to accommodate the proposed development might be made available. Place of use restrictions on Folsom's water rights will limit the availability of surface water use in the proposed development area. Folsom previously used conservation savings to justify water availability development south of Highway 50, an option not available for the AKT project. Availability of water from El Dorado Irrigation District and the impacts of delivering any water to within Sacramento County are unknown. The City has previously experienced water delivery reductions during recent drought years. Climate assessments demonstrate that the region will face dryer atmospheric conditions and more frequent and severe droughts in the coming years. As a Water Forum member, the City has committed to help protect the Lower American River, including further restrictions on the availability of water under specified conditions.

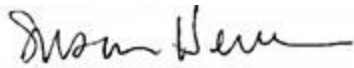
We also have concerns regarding the project's traffic impacts and increases in emissions resulting from the project's buildout. Under California state law the Sacramento Region must meet mandated targets for

greenhouse gas reduction and air quality by 2030. The approval of a very large greenfield most certainly does not advance the long-term ability to meet these targets.

Given the very significant challenges associated with this proposed development, we strongly urge you to consider this matter in unhurried fashion with full and open forums for public input and discussion prior to your recommendation, and with time for subsequent analysis and response to issues raised. The issues are too important to leave to the end of the LAFCO hearing process, when the analysis of environmental impacts and of public service availability will be released just a few weeks before a final decision.

We would further strongly encourage your consideration of conducting this public discussion in joint meetings with the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,



Susan Herre, Board President, ECOS



Robert Burness, Cochair, Habitat 2020



Barbara Leary, Executive Committee Chair, Sacramento Group Sierra Club



David Zelinsky, Executive Committee Chair, Madrone Group Sierra Club



Sean Wirth, Conservation Chair, Mother Lode Chapter Sierra Club

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