



ECOS

ENVIRONMENTAL
♦ COUNCIL ♦
OF SACRAMENTO

Post Office Box 1526 | Sacramento, CA 95812-1526

April 18, 2024

Board of Directors
Sacramento Area Council of Governments
1415 L Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Via Email to lespinoza@sacog.org

SUBJECT: Board Meeting April 18, 2024, Item #15: 2025 Blueprint Discussion Scenario

Dear Board Directors:

The Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) is responding to Item #15 in today's Board Meeting, the 2025 Blueprint Discussion Scenario. ECOS recognizes the challenge we face in achieving the State's mandate for 19% VMT reduction per capita by 2035.

For over fifty years, ECOS has advocated for less sprawl and more infill development in the Sacramento region, to preserve vital habitat and give us healthier air quality. We need this even more now, considering two major crises facing us: climate change (deadlier heat, more wildfires, more droughts and flooding threat), and the need for more affordable housing (which would address our severe increase in homelessness).

SACOG staff have noted the region's current over-supply of approved development projects and their associated housing units. Studies have shown that vehicle-miles-traveled (VMT) in partially built-out communities is far higher than in fully built-out communities. For example, public transit cannot serve a partially-developed community with the necessary frequency of service to provide a viable alternative to driving.

Therefore, ECOS supports SACOG's Option 3 of its Discussion Scenario: "Prioritizing Build Out and More Complete Communities". This option assumes more complete build-out of developing and potential developing communities but in fewer places. SACOG needs to prioritize those developing communities that have the strongest likelihood of lower vehicle- VMT based on factors like proximity to existing development and jobs/housing balance.

If adopted, ECOS hopes to be involved with SACOG on the sensitive decision-making necessary.

Sincerely,

Ralph Propper
Chair, Climate Committee

Susan Herre AIA AICP
President of the Board of Directors