



ECOS

ENVIRONMENTAL  
♦ COUNCIL ♦  
OF SACRAMENTO

Post Office Box 1526 | Sacramento, CA 95812-1526

May 7, 2024

Sacramento City Council  
915 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Elimination of City's \$1 million contribution to "RydeFreeRT" program for students**

To Sacramento City Council:

ECOS (Environmental Council of Sacramento) opposes the City Manager's proposed elimination of the City's \$1 million contribution to SacRT's "RydeFreeRT" program for students. Student ridership has more than doubled since its inception five years ago, providing clean mobility options for students including internships and other opportunities. Our region consistently ranks in the top ten nationally for unhealthy air and RydeFreeRT has substantially reduced air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. The City's school districts have been contributing some funds for this program, and do not have large budget deficits; the City should negotiate increased contributions from them before summarily ending RydeFreeRT.

In addition, the City recently lost its "Climate Action Lead" staff. This position must be re-filled with a new hire in order for the City to keep its commitment to climate action, based on its passage of a "Climate Emergency Declaration" in 2019.

Sincerely,

Susan Herre AIA AICP  
President of the Board of Directors