



ECOS
ENVIRONMENTAL
♦ COUNCIL ♦
OF SACRAMENTO

ECOS Land Use Committee Meeting Notes
Monday February 10, 2014
Mogavero / Notestine 2012 K Street
NOTE LOCATION

6:00 – 7:30 pm

In attendance:

Ron Maertz, John Deeter, Alex Kelter, Nicole Nabulsi, Bobby Castagna, Veronica Beaty, Ken Wilcox, Matt Baker, Andy Sawyer, Alex Reagan, Brian Williams, (Sacramento Transportation Authority), Gene Endicott (Sacramento Transportation Authority), Jude Lamare (Sacramento Commons) Jim Pachal (Sacramento Commons)

I. Presentation by Sacramento Transportation Authority. Measure A – half cent sales tax originally passed in 1988 and renewed in 2004. They say they need a full cent. The retail market fell apart so they only got half of a cent. Now they are seeking to get the other half a cent. The Sacramento Transportation Authority Board is looking to form a community outreach program, including a website. They will be working on the program 2014-2015. They are fundraising for the campaign now. They are looking to get the half-cent sales tax on the ballot in 2016. The money earned in the past has gone to projects like widening sidewalks, fixing crossings, synchronizing lights, bridges, bus/carpool freeway lanes, freeway interchange upgrades, and more. Measure A has served us well but “the job isn’t finished.” We have an aging infrastructure. Population growth and continually changing commuter habits. Sacramento voters and elected officials agree they want to “fix it first” (e.g. repair and maintain existing infrastructure). Many problems still exist with the current infrastructure. But some new projects they are looking at include a light rail to airport and to Elk Grove. The question being asked by STA right now is: What is Sacramento’s Transportation vision? Asking local groups like us. www.SacramentoGo.org will be the website (but it is not up yet) STA is also looking to expand their Social media communications, including Facebook and Twitter, to get feedback from more stakeholders. #SacTrans is their Twitter handle. ECOS is now following them.

Q & A:

- Terry Preston, on behalf of the Complete Streets coalition, thanked STA for adopting the “Fix it First” idea at their last meeting. He also asked about what STA thinks of how voters always think of what they didn’t get. STA said they plan to leave signs up at finished projects along the lines of “This is Measure A at work.”

- Ron Maertz asked about funding some of the transit projects proposed in the presentation tonight. STA said the operating funds are essential and will be included in the presentation in the future.
- Someone asked How do you decide how much money spent on transportation should come from state and how much from federal gov.? STA said State and Federal funds should pay as much as possible. Right now Feds are not giving much money though, so one thing state can do is “match” federal funds. One current problem is that the Highway Trust Fund is currently about to go to “zero.”
- Ron Martz asked for a more concrete outline of the funding for the projects. STA said it will be on the STA site by the 4th.
- Veronica Beaty asked if they had any groups in mind specifically that they are reaching out to.
- Gene invited anyone to contact him with groups to contact: gene@endicottcommunications.com or 916-719-7214
STA says their board has not seen this presentation yet and they will be back to speak to us more as this process unfolds.

II. Sacramento Commons – Proposed Manhattenization. ECOS is invited to join a community meeting on the proposed Sacramento Commons project. This residential mixed-use community is being planned on the Capitol Towers site, bound by 5th, 7th, N, and P Streets. Jude Lamare showed a film of the area around Capitol towers now. Said it is walkable and nice now. They and their neighbors do not want to lose the limited sunlight they get now. Have spoken with the neighbors at Pioneer Towers who are elderly and didn’t even know. Trees on the property are already being removed. Residents do not have a problem with ground floor commercial. Ken Wilcox said that heritage trees do not have to be 100 inches in circumference. “Joe Beniccini” with the City Tree people cuts trees down without taking heed to whether he is asked to or whether they are dead or dying. The next meeting is Feb 18th.