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sacog.org

June 29, 2020

Ms. Anne Stausboll
Chair, Mayor's Commission on Climate Change
Local Government Commission
980 9th Street, Suite 1700
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Recommendations of the Mayors' Climate Commission

Dear Chair Stausboll and Members of the Commission,

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) appreciates and supports the Commission's recommendations in the report "Achieving Carbon Zero in Sacramento and West Sacramento by 2045." The commission's recommendations are ambitious, but achievable, if we work together toward our shared goals.

SACOG is an association of 22 cities and six counties, of which the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento are important members. Collectively, the local governments of the Sacramento region have been a leader in the state and nation in sustainable growth planning, through the Sacramento Region Blueprint growth strategy, and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). In November 2019, SACOG's Board of Directors unanimously adopted an updated MTP/SCS. The MTP/SCS is the region's 20-year transportation plan and growth strategy to achieve a regional greenhouse gas reduction target from passenger vehicles, reduce vehicle miles traveled, increase multi-modal mobility, and reduce air pollution from passenger and freight transportation. It is an ambitious but achievable plan that relies on the collaborative, cooperative, and cumulative actions of the region's local governments, transportation providers, and private and non-profit sector partners. The commission's recommendations, if adopted by Sacramento and West Sacramento, would demonstrate local leadership in implementing the MTP/SCS and in addressing our shared challenge of climate change and historic social inequities.

SACOG supports the commission's recommendations through the following actions:

In support of the commission's **built environment** and **community health and resiliency** strategies:

- Secure funding for, and implement, the Green Means Go Pilot Program to encourage infill development and revitalization of commercial corridors.

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Citrus Heights
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Lincoln
Live Oak
Loomis
Marysville
Placer County
Placerville
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- Support local housing element updates with Regional Early Action Plan grants and technical assistance to accelerate infill housing in established communities and center/corridor communities, and small-lot and attached housing options.
- Secure funding to allow the region’s jurisdictions and stakeholders to revisit and update the Blueprint.
- Continue to provide planning tools and project support to grow regional jobs and housing, including tools for preventing displacement. Examples include the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Toolkit, Rural-Urban Connections Strategy, Economic Prosperity Strategy, Housing Policy Toolkit, and SB 375 and SB 743 CEQA streamlining.
- Continue to provide technical assistance to support urban, suburban, and rural community revitalization without displacement. Examples include Civic Lab Year 2, Rural Main Streets Technical Assistance, Rural-Urban Connections Strategy, data and tools for SB 743 implementation, and the TOD Action Plan.
- Provide data, research, analysis, incentives, and other support to housing-rich communities actively trying to promote walkable, higher density job centers, and to jobs-rich communities to promote housing growth.

In support of the commission’s **mobility** and **community health and resiliency** strategies:

- Continue to assist transit and local agencies in developing, testing, and piloting new mobility services such as microtransit, bike share, and micromobility. Examples include Civic Lab, bike share, Smart Ride pilots, and regional telework program.
- Lead a collaborative effort to shape a vision of next generation transit for the region that includes strategies to integrate traditional transit services with new mobility options.
- Partner with cities and transit operators to identify improvements in service delivery, routing, and transit-oriented development. Examples include SacRT Forward, Transit Asset Management Planning, NextGen Transit Plan, and the TOD Action Plan.
- Actively support transit agencies in securing funding to improve transit stations and replace aging bus and light rail vehicles.
- Participate as a regional partner in implementation of Our Path Forward: The Prosperity Strategy.
- Continue to improve project assessment tools that support data-informed decision making. Examples include continuing to use and improve the project performance assessment tool in SACOG’s funding rounds, monitoring and reviewing project phasing, and providing data and tools to support local implementation of SB 743 and SB 375.
- Work with the business community, equity groups, and other stakeholders to identify priority transportation investments for economic prosperity.

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In support of the commission's **finance and funding** strategies:

- Work with Caltrans and other local partners to identify options for governance and administration of revenues from facility-based pricing, in coordination with ongoing managed lane studies.
- Work with regional partners to develop pilots focused on innovative tolling and Pay-as-you-Go (PayGo) concepts.
- Collaborate with state agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, and other organizations on efforts to study and advocate for a sustainable replacement to fuel taxes to fund the transportation system (e.g., PayGo fees).
- Support local agencies in pursuing options to implement new local fees and taxes dedicated to transportation improvements consistent with the GHG-reducing, VMT-reducing, mobility-increasing goals of the MTP/SCS.
- Continue to pursue grant funding to implement high-performing transportation projects consistent with the GHG-reducing, VMT-reducing, mobility-increasing goals of the MTP/SCS.
- Continue to pursue grant funding specified for disadvantaged communities to implement community supportive projects.

Thank you again for the Mayors' Climate Commission's recommendations to achieve carbon zero. We look forward to supporting ongoing collaborative and cooperative efforts at the local and regional level to achieve our mutual goals.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Corless". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

James Corless
Executive Director