



Sacramento Electric Vehicle Association

The Sacramento Electric Vehicle Association (SacEV) is writing to express its concerns with language that was added to the Mayors Commission on Climate Change report Achieving Carbon Zero in Sacramento and West Sacramento by 2045 over the course of the last two months. SacEV is a chapter of the Electric Auto Association, an active non-profit, national volunteer educational organization of Electric Vehicle owners and the EV curious. SacEV has over 700 members and has engaged the community in over 50,000 one-on-one conversations about Electric Vehicles at over 200 events, including 60 events last year.

The language in question summarizes the position of the business community and derived from a series of business roundtables, outreach and conversations hosted by the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce with businesses that represent both the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento.

In the new language, the business community posits that: 1) a business case must be created that includes cost savings, sustainable financing, and/or long-term incentives in order to ensure businesses remain viable and productive before consideration of infrastructure investments and that 2) the cities should prioritize strategies that won't negatively impact jobs and local businesses especially in light of the devastating economic impacts of COVID-19. Our overarching concern, while fully recognizing the impact that COVID-19 has had on the business community, is that inaction on the part of business with regard to addressing climate change will result in much greater economic costs to business and the community as a whole.

The devastating economic impacts of COVID-19 have taught us that delay and inaction causes far greater costs to society and business than aggressive action. The damage to business and



jobs by shutting down our community could have been dramatically reduced had we taken earlier action. The increase in wildfires in recent years and anticipated this year are just one example of the cost of inaction on climate change that has personally touched members of SacEV through loss of life and property. If we attack climate change the global economy should grow BY \$336 trillion in the next 80 years. If we don't, it could shrink by \$600 trillion. (5)

We believe that continuing business as usual while in search of a desirable business case ignores the existing cost the community pays in health, environment, and national security damage done by climate change and air quality. Especially when studies show a positive impact on jobs in the transition to clean air. (1)

We agree that cities should lead by example. Successful programs and pilots exist across the county, including Sacramento. These demonstrate how businesses can lower their own carbon footprint now at a low cost. In some cases these do require ordinances and mandates, particularly with respect to new equipment, infrastructure, and fleets. The focus of the recommendations is that new construction and fleet turnover be clean. (2, 3)

We concur that a data-driven approach is needed. Those have been completed already. Financial savings will accrue to both businesses and the community from forward-looking investments, particularly when including the cost to community health, the environment, and national security that will be wrought by unchecked climate change and poor air quality.

Currently available technological advancements exist to enable deep GHG emissions reductions, and they will continue to improve. Waiting for the ultimate technology ignores the accelerating speed of climate change impacting us now.

Shifting to electricity provides energy diversification and reliability. There are numerous approaches to generating electricity - rooftop solar, solar farms, wind farms and hydro are just a few. The phrase "energy diversification and reliability" should never be a code phrase for use of fossil fuel and reason to continue to change our climate.

The savings in shifting energy use away from fossil fuels is substantial, particularly in new construction and vehicle purchases. We may think that the COVID-19 catastrophe is expensive, but it pales in comparison to the costs a climate catastrophe could bring about. Researchers estimate the cost could exceed \$1 quadrillion (5)

Covid19 has demonstrated to our communities that our air can be cleaned up. In a survey by Venson Automotive Solutions 45% the participants agreed that the vast improvement in air quality at the current time had made them reconsider owning an electric car (EV) in the future. Another 17% said that it had reaffirmed their decision to buy an electric car. (4)

Now is the time to move forward with the recommendations made in the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change report. The benefits to the community, including the business community, from today's actions will be substantial. Inaction, on the other hand, will yield damage to our community that makes COVID-19 seem mild in comparison.



End Notes

- (1) Electifications Creates jobs: EVs
https://are.berkeley.edu/~dwrh/CERES_Web/Docs/ETC_PEV_RH_Final120920.pdf
- (2) Economic Impact on Buildings: Lifetime cost saves money
https://rmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/RMI_Economics_of_Electrifying_Buildings_2018.pdf
- (3) CEC Study on Building Electrification: "Consider requiring builders, rather than ratepayers, to pay for the full cost of new gas distribution hookups."
https://www.ethree.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/E3_Residential_Building_Electrification_in_California_April_2019.pdf
- (4) "Coronavirus Lockdown Gives Us A Taste Of A Fully Electric Future",
<https://www.euronews.com/living/2020/04/14/coronavirus-lockdown-gives-us-a-taste-of-a-fully-electric-vehicle-future>
- (5) \$1 quadrillion is what researchers say climate change will cost us over the next 80 years if we fail to meet the terms of the Paris Climate Agreement, according to new modeling published this week in the journal Nature Communications. <https://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com/articles/20544/>