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June 26, 2020

Mayors Steinberg and Cabaldon, and Chair Stausboll,

I am writing on behalf of Valley Vision to express our appreciation for the work of the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change (Commission) and support for its final report "Achieving Carbon Zero in Sacramento and West Sacramento by 2045," and the recommendations the report contains.

As the Commission's work concludes, community groups, nonprofit entities, public agencies, and the private sector all have the ability to add commitments of their own to the work that the cities will be doing in support of the Commission's recommendations. Connections to specific Commission recommendations are noted in parentheses below.

Valley Vision has been a member of the Commission and is a regional civic leadership organization focused on the "triple bottom line" values of environment, equity, and economy. As such, we are pleased to share commitments that we are able to make, aligned with Commission recommendations, to support the region's steps to achieving carbon-zero:

- We will support and advocate for the recommended strategies across all sectors, as well as the Year One Projects. From advancing active mobility options in our cities (mobility strategy #1) to furthering sustainable food systems (community health strategy #2), we are in many cases already involved in related and complementary efforts, and will incorporate specific

Commission recommendations to the greatest extent possible.

- We also commit to provide more extensive teleworking options to Valley Vision’s staff, and will ensure that the Year One teleworking priority from the Commission’s report influences our COVID-19 “return to office” plans and timeline.
- We will continue to coordinate efforts to influence state and federal policy to boost local air quality and public health outcomes, including investments in transit and zero-emission vehicles (mobility strategies #2 and #3), efforts we already undertake as an anchor partner and the manager of the region’s Cleaner Air Partnership (CAP).
- We will facilitate community-led air monitoring in high pollution-burdened neighborhoods in Sacramento, and provide tools to address the identified needs (built environment strategy #1 and community health strategies #1 and #3). This work is just getting underway via a Community Air Grant award from the Air Resource Board and California’s Climate Investments.
- We will continue to be active participants in regional (CRC) and statewide (ARCCA) climate adaptation work, in anticipation of changes to our climate already underway. This work is less directly connected to the Commission’s focus on mitigation, but it shares the Commission’s founding principles of urgency, advocacy, accountability, education, and financial and economic sustainability.

As well, having had the chance to review Sac Metro Air District’s own commitments, we are pleased to add our commitment to three that are identified in its letter:

- To continue to advocate and pursue more state incentive dollars to promote mobility innovations, including those that promote electrification and equitable transportation access (mobility strategy #2).
- To continue to promote a sustainable built environment that promotes active transportation, urban density, and one that is not dependent on fossil-fuels, including a transition away from natural gas and an increase in alternate modes (built environment strategy #1, 2, 3, mobility strategy #1).
- To continue to promote climate resiliency projects and advocate for mitigation measures that will reduce our region's urban heat island impact (community health and resiliency strategy #1, 3).

In closing, I thank you for your leadership on behalf of the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento, and for your original challenge to the Commission to be bold and ambitious. We look forward to the work we will all do together to move to the goal of Carbon Zero.

Sincerely,



Meg Arnold, Interim CEO