

AGENDA ITEM 1 H
Consent Item

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 7, 2020
TO: El Dorado County Transit Authority
FROM: Matthew Mauk, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Support letter for Sacramento Area Council of Government's Green Means Go program

REQUESTED ACTION:

BY MOTION,

Ratification of support letter for Sacramento Area Council of Government's Green Means Go pilot program

BACKGROUND

Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) *Green Means Go* pilot program seeks to allocate a proportional share of existing State grant funding for public works infrastructure investments that will create more infill housing opportunities and greater mobility, while also achieving greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. This is one of the few economic stimulus opportunities available that would use existing funds to stimulate the economy, create jobs and have immediate emission reduction benefits.

DISCUSSION

Per the request of the SACOG, a signed support letter for the *Green Means Go* pilot program is attached. The attached letter required a quick turnaround time and was signed by Executive Director Matthew Mauk and submitted to Woodrow Deloria, Executive Director of the El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) on April 30, 2020. Mr. Deloria will compile a regional response at the request of SACOG.

FISCAL IMPACT

None



EL DORADO TRANSIT

April 30, 2020

Ann O'Leary, Co-Chair
Tom Steyer, Co-Chair
Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery

Dear Ms. O'Leary and Mr. Steyer,

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to California. As we all look towards the future to address the massive economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, we look forward to partnering with you to ensure that local communities throughout California have the tools needed to support a strong economic recovery that meets the state's housing and environmental goals. The Sacramento Area Council of Government's *Green Means Go* program is one of those tools. *Green Means Go* seeks to allocate a proportional share of existing state grant funding for public works infrastructure investments that will create more infill housing opportunities and greater mobility, while also achieving greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. This is one of the few economic stimulus opportunities available that would use existing funds to stimulate the economy, create jobs and have immediate emission reduction benefits.

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) developed the *Green Means Go* pilot program after the California Air Resources Board established new SB375 GHG emission reduction targets for the state, setting a 19 percent per capita reduction target for our six county region by 2035, conditioned on the successful implementation of a pilot program that includes supportive state actions. SACOG is the association of local governments that coordinates transportation planning and housing allocations in the six-county Sacramento region. Its members include the counties of El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba, and the 22 incorporated cities within. All of our member agencies – rural, suburban and urban – support *Green Means Go*.

There are existing state funds related to housing and transportation that if properly targeted could benefit our region, and all regions throughout California, and spur new infrastructure investment to re-start our economy. These project-based competitive funds could be allocated to regional-based incentives that reinforce regional transportation, housing, and greenhouse gas reduction (GHG) priorities. This will also align our financial incentives with our planning priorities.

Green Means Go is a four-year pilot program to accelerate new housing and cleaner transportation options by pairing housing and mobility investments together to spur catalyst infill projects. When fully implemented, *Green Means Go* will lower GHG emissions in the Sacramento region by accelerating infill development, reducing vehicle trips, and accelerating the deployment of cleaner vehicles. It can also serve as a model for other regions throughout the state by showing how we can achieve these multiple goals through targeted regional investments driven from the bottom up by local communities.

This program is focused on urban, suburban and even rural communities where there are existing building sites on commercial corridors that could be used better to promote economic activity. Small towns, mid-sized cities, and suburban commercial corridors all have potential sites to convert to housing and create vibrant places with quality transportation, but the costs of such projects are daunting.

Allocating a regional-based share of existing state funding programs to *Green Means Go* effectively transforms project-based funding into regionally targeted stimulus funding. *Green Means Go* would deliver economic stimulus to well-targeted, ready-to-go infill construction and infrastructure projects that have already been recognized as priorities by their own communities.

We recognize now is the time to do more with fewer state resources. The *Green Means Go* program is an example of how the state can help all regions rise out of the economic downturn, while also accelerating the transportation and housing investments needed to meet our state's urgent challenges. Being smarter in how we use our limited resources will lead the way out of our current crisis to a brighter future.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Mauk', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Mauk
Executive Director