



August 23, 2021

The Honorable Clint Lorimore  
President, Regional Council  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: SoCal Greenprint Initiative

Dear SCAG President Lorimore,

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, the International Panel on Climate Change announced new findings that climate disruptions are widespread, rapid, and intensifying. While the report's findings were dire, the message was clear: immediate proactive action is needed to mitigate the increasing threats of the climate crisis. Meanwhile, disadvantaged communities – which consist primarily of low-income earners and people of color, continue to suffer disparate impacts from health-harming pollutants. The twin threats of climate and dirty air puts the quality of life, health and lives of California's most vulnerable residents in peril.

We urge you to keep the SoCal Greenprint project on track as it is an important asset in the effort to build an economically vibrant and sustainable region. The SoCal Greenprint provides the information and resources needed to make smarter and more equitable decisions, improving the sustainability of our environment and economic systems while planning for growth. Given the challenges that lie ahead, planning has to be smarter and focused on protecting community health and our treasured natural resources.

The SoCal Greenprint does not create new data or regulations. Instead, it makes it easier to understand how to best integrate the environment and into future growth and development. By understanding where existing infrastructure, such as sewage lines, are located, developers can see where it is cheaper and more efficient to build new projects. Knowing where groundwater sources are located can help developers understand how to incorporate water quality features into project designs, resulting in community support for projects and ensuring vital natural resources are protected. City officials can use the data on tree canopies and the urban heat island effect to better understand where more trees are needed.

Many of the disproportionate impacts facing disadvantaged communities are rooted in both poor land use decisions and historical discrimination. As local governments and developers design the future of our communities, data can help us make better and more equitable decisions. Southern California has no time to waste in proactively building for a better future. Heat waves, wildfires and chronic poor air quality have made it clear the climate crisis is a challenge that requires data, action, and visionary leadership.

We urge you to continue moving the SoCal Greenprint along and make this invaluable resource available for all who are responsible for building a vibrant, healthier future for our region.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Chavez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Chavez  
Deputy Policy Director