



August 23, 2021

Submitted via email to: SCAGGreenRegion@scag.ca.gov

Attn: SoCal Greenprint Team
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Comments on the SoCal Greenprint

Dear SCAG Greenprint Team:

Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks (FHBP) has been engaged with SCAG for many years. In 2012, we formed a coalition that promoted natural lands policies and regional advance mitigation programs (RAMPs) at the SCAG level. These policies were ultimately adopted by SCAG leadership in the 2012 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). We advanced support of the RTP/SCS again in 2016 with a bigger coalition. In 2020, we were able to gain a broader, more inclusive, and geographically diverse coalition for Connect SoCal. The Coalition is submitting its own Greenprint support letter. This letter serves to communicate FHBP's concerns about delaying the development of this web-based tool.

We are deeply concerned about the recent attempts to end the development and release of the SCAG Greenprint for the following reasons:

1. The Greenprint is included in the Program Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement. This is a legally binding commitment made by SCAG to reduce the impacts of the RTP/SCS.
2. The Greenprint has been envisioned since the 2016 RTP/SCS and has broad support. The concerns of the Building Industry Association (BIA) should have been raised in 2016 or in 2020 when this document was being considered and/or during any of the nine meetings held by the Natural and Farmlands Working Group.
3. Conservation of natural lands (parks/open space) is a designated land use and zone. Housing and infrastructure are also designated land uses and zones. These are not conflicting positions; they are all included on the map and belong there *together*.
4. The existing SCAG HELPR tool looks for potential infill or refill sites for the 6th cycle of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. The conservation community didn't attempt to end this tool when it was released. We recognize housing and natural land preservation must co-exist. Why can't the BIA understand this?
5. We cannot build our way to a better climate, smarter cities, and more transit friendly neighborhoods. Natural lands and farmland preservation *can* help achieve a more sustainable future. Habitat and soil both sequester carbon and protect the land from future

conversion to urban uses that increase greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled.

6. All of Southern California's landscapes (developed/undeveloped and preserved/unpreserved) must be included in the map. The context of preserved lands, development, transportation corridors, and possible opportunities for infill or conservation is critically important for the comprehensive view. Ensuring the entirety of the region is included *is the regional context necessary for cross jurisdictional evaluation*. Without it, you are simply back to siloed planning with cities and counties.

For these reasons and more, **we again support the SoCal Greenprint.**

Further, having a representative on the Greenprint Steering Committee has been extremely beneficial for Orange County, our Green Vision Coalition, and the broader region. We thank you for the opportunity to serve.

To conclude, we urge SCAG to continue the commitments made and finish the Greenprint this fall.

Thank you,



Michael Wellborn
President