

Regional Council (RC) and Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)

List of Public Comments

Received before 5pm on Wednesday, June 30, 2021

	Date	Sender Name	Organization	Agenda Item (AI #)	Subject Matter
1.	June 25, 2021	Dan Silver	Endagered Habitats League	RC AI #21, EEC AI #6 - SoCal Greenprint Background & Status Update	Support for the SoCal Greenprint
2.	June 28, 2021	Michael Wellborn	Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks	RC AI #21, EEC AI #6 - SoCal Greenprint Background & Status Update	Support for the SoCal Greenprint
3.	June 29, 2021	Nick Cammarota	California Building Industry Association	RC AI #21, EEC AI #6 - SoCal Greenprint Background & Status Update	Opposed to the current process utilized in the creation of SoCal Greenprint
4.	June 29, 2021	Assemblymember Laura Friedman	Assembly California Legislature, 43 District	RC AI #21, EEC AI #6 - SoCal Greenprint Background & Status Update	Support for the SoCal Greenprint
5.	June 29, 2021	Thomas E. Bowman	Bowman Change, Inc.	RC AI #21, EEC AI #6 - SoCal Greenprint Background & Status Update	Support for the SoCal Greenprint
6.	June 30, 2021	Hector Alessandro Negrete	East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice	RC AI #21, EEC AI #6 - SoCal Greenprint Background & Status Update	Support for the SoCal Greenprint
7.	June 30, 2021	Mirella Deniz-Zaragoza	Warehouse Worker Resource Center	RC AI #21, EEC AI #6 - SoCal Greenprint Background & Status Update	Support for the SoCal Greenprint
8.	June 30, 2021	Demi Espinoza	National Parks Conservation Association	RC AI #21, EEC AI #6 - SoCal Greenprint Background & Status Update	Support for the SoCal Greenprint
9.	June 30, 2021	Manny Gonez	TreePeople	RC AI #21, EEC AI #6 - SoCal Greenprint Background & Status Update	Support for the SoCal Greenprint
10.	June 30, 2021	Mike Young	California League of Conservation Voters	RC AI #21, EEC AI #6 - SoCal Greenprint Background & Status Update	Support for the SoCal Greenprint



June 25, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Regional Council
Southern California Association of Governments
ATTN: Maggie Aguilar <aguilarm@scag.ca.gov>
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Support for Greenprints (Hearing date, July 1, 2021)

Dear Chair and Councilmembers:

Endangered Habitats League (EHL) commends and thanks the Southern California Association of Governments for its visionary move to sponsor the development of a regional Greenprint project, and strongly urge the organization to keep the project on track for a Fall 2021 launch. For your reference, EHL is a Southern California regional conservation group dedicated to ecosystem protection, sustainable land use, and collaborative conflict resolution.

In a region identified with nearby outdoor recreational opportunities, the SoCal Greenprint project will be an essential informational asset in helping us incorporate nature into planning the growth and development that foster our continued economic strength. Greenprints are digital data tools that give planners, developers, community members and other stakeholders access to already available, publicly vetted and approved data sources in one easy location. Once the tool is live, Southern California will join dozens of other cities and regions that use Greenprints to make smart decisions that support housing, business, and industrial growth while ensuring that natural resources are incorporated into planning for the future.

One clear benefit is an ability to plan for housing that includes the right amount of parks and green spaces that are needed for healthy neighborhood and community living. Greenprints also help to streamline the planning and permitting process by giving developers the information they need to proactively address potential community concerns, avoid the need for additional environmental consultants, and create proposals that manage and preserve essential habitat and environmental resources. Greenprints are particularly important for historically disadvantaged communities and communities of color that are short on green space.

A Greenprint is a win-win tool for all stakeholders to give everyone the same baseline information so that projects are not faced with avoidable environmental hurdles, and ensure that natural resources are considered. Knowing opportunities and constraints

in advance helps developers and local governments alike create more housing and other benefits more quickly.

Southern California's leadership is essential. The agency and its leaders have made our region a model for proactive planning that leverages data to look ahead on our economic and housing needs, all while planning for climate change challenges that include air quality, water access, wildfire mitigation, habitat preservation and park access. The Greenprint is another example of the region's leadership in balancing growth with environmental needs. More information can only be an asset that further prepares us to continue to lead.

We look forward to the ongoing engagement process and are eager to have this essential resource become available. Thank you once again for your leadership.

Yours truly,



Dan Silver
Executive Director

cc:

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, ajise@scag.ca.gov

Clint Lorimore, President, lorimore@scag.ca.gov

India Brookover, Greenprint Lead, brookover@scag.ca.gov

Ping Chang, Manager, Compliance & Performance Monitoring, chang@scag.ca.gov

Michael Houston, Counsel, houston@scag.ca.gov



June 28, 2021

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

Regional Council
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
ATTN: Maggie Aguilar
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Support for the SoCal Greenprint

Dear Chair Lorimore and Councilmembers:

Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks (FHBP) is reaching out its express enthusiastic support for the SoCal Greenprint project and convey how essential the interactive, web-based mapping tool will be to our organization as well as the 80+ member coalition from Orange County. This Greenprint and the stakeholders working on it are shaping the future of the region.

Through the SoCal Greenprint and its other tools, SCAG is helping the 191 cities and six counties in its jurisdictions prepare for a future where housing, increased transportation options and good jobs will be needed. SCAG has also made it clear that sustainability and climate readiness are compatible priorities with a growing region. The SoCal Greenprint will be a valued resource in helping to create pathways for the future that proactively balance economic, environmental, and public health goals.

The environmental community has a shared interest in both protecting natural lands and building housing in appropriate locations. We support a win-win approach where both can be accomplished. Housing and land conservation are not mutually exclusive. They can both happen. Our vision is to provide new housing and create vibrant neighborhoods in the right places, avoiding risks from climate change, all while incorporating nature and providing people with access to protected open space. This is exactly the kind of solution the SoCal Greenprint is poised to highlight.

In a region where watersheds, wildlife corridors, air quality and economic activity overlap among various jurisdictions, the ability to comprehensively visualize these issues at a regional scale is a game changer. The SoCal Greenprint will convert more than 100 publicly available data sources into interactive maps that tell an important story about the role that nature plays in the health and vibrancy of our region. The SoCal Greenprint is a free, easy-to-use, one-stop resource that offers developers, residents, planners, conservation groups, and city officials a valuable tool to build the green, sustainable communities that will prepare and protect us for the climate challenges that we are facing today and will continue to face in the future.

Through the SoCal Greenprint, the SCAG is creating a resource to integrate nature into the planning process for infrastructure and housing projects, reducing the risk for delays and costly expenses from community opposition or litigation. Integrating conservation information into infrastructure planning has shown to be a best practice in transportation planning and project delivery, as well as other sectors, such as water and energy infrastructure and housing development. Orange County's very own Renewed Measure M even has an Environmental Mitigation Program. This is now a national model for success.

We urge you to continue moving the project along and we look forward to its launch in Fall 2021. As a reminder, this Greenprint has been included in the last two Regional Transportation Plans. Stopping now would remove plans that have been in play for many years. Thank you for building an essential resource that once again demonstrates the region's economic and environmental leadership.

Sincerely,



Michael Wellborn
President

cc:

Kome Ajise, Executive Director, ajise@scag.ca.gov

Clint Lorimore, President, lorimore@scag.ca.gov

India Brookover, Greenprint Lead, brookover@scag.ca.gov

Ping Chang, Manager, Compliance & Performance Monitoring, chang@scag.ca.gov

Michael Houston, Counsel, houston@scag.ca.gov



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Building Industry Association of Tulare & Kings Counties

Home Builders Association of the Central Coast

Home Builders Association of Kern County

North State Building Industry Association

June 29, 2021

Mr. Kome Ajise
Executive Director
Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Executive Director Ajise,

The California Building Industry Association (CBIA) is opposed to the current process utilized in the creation of Southern California Greenprint. As drafted, the SoCal Greenprint will complicate the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements of local jurisdictions and will promote new California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) litigation on projects that have already been reviewed and approved under local control. In the midst of a housing crisis, a different approach is required.

The CBIA is the leading voice of home builders in California. Our mission, simply put, is to respond to the need of Californians for housing for all income levels. We believe that the pathway for people to provide stability for themselves and their families and to create wealth is through homeownership. Homeownership stabilizes shelter costs and builds equity. Estimates of the need range from 1.2 million to 3.5 million new homes. At the current pace, it will take 12 to 35 years to reach those goals statewide. That assumes that no new obstacles and delays are imposed on housing.

It can no longer be denied that CEQA – especially CEQA litigation – significantly delays the production of housing. Additionally, as identified below, delaying implementation of Housing Element law has the same effect. Those delays result in fewer homes built and increase the cost of existing homes. A \$1,000 increase the cost of a home prices out more than 12,361¹ California households from the housing market. Housing delayed is housing denied.

In a poll of homeless people in the Bay Area, 48% indicated the cause of their homelessness was due to housing costs which are too high.²

¹ <https://eyeonhousing.org/2021/03/nahb-2021-priced-out-estimates/>

² In 2015, nearly half of the homeless population surveyed in San Francisco responded they were still homeless because they could not afford rent.

Respondents were also asked what prevented them from obtaining housing. The greatest percentage (48%) reported they could not afford rent. Twenty-eight percent (28%) reported a lack of job or income. Most other respondents reported a mixture of other income or access related issues, such as the lack of available housing (17%), difficulty with the housing process (13%), or an eviction record (6%). Twelve percent (12%) of respondents reported that a criminal record prevented them from obtaining housing, and 8% reported a medical illness.

In Los Angeles, housing cost increases of 2% result in an increase of 4,2777 people who will experience homelessness.³ According to the National Coalition for the Homeless:

The fact remains that a lack of housing is unhealthy, traumatizing and significantly shortens an individual's life expectancy. People who experience homelessness **have an average life expectancy of around 50 years of age, almost 20 years lower than housed populations.** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) states that people experiencing homelessness are at a greater risk of infectious and chronic illness, poor mental health, and substance abuse.⁴

In short, delays in housing production are pushing people into homelessness which is killing them.

As you are obviously aware, all cities and counties within your jurisdiction are required to complete their Housing Element Updates by October for RHNA's 6th Cycle. A part of this adoption process requires all jurisdictions to complete the necessary CEQA studies and procedures for planning new housing and its related transportation, public services, and infrastructure needs. Many jurisdictions within the SCAG region are diligently working to comply with the historic allotments that have been allocated as part of this Housing Cycle. Simultaneously, SCAG's pursuit of the SoCal Greenprint is working against these valiant efforts.

As currently drafted, the SoCal Greenprint applies to land currently under consideration for Housing Element utilization and will inject more than 100 existing (yet heretofore undisclosed) data sources that can impact growth and development. Under this process, a city can not prepare or plan for the data that will overlay their current planning efforts. As such, this process is rife with potential CEQA litigation that directly undermines the purpose and need of RHNA. Perhaps

Eight percent (8%) of respondents reported they did not want housing. (San Francisco, 2015)

Regulation & Housing: Effects on Housing Supply, Costs & Poverty (May 2017), p. 34-35. See, https://centerforjobs.org/wp-content/uploads/center_for_jobs_regulation_and_housing_study_may_2017.pdf

And high housing costs deprive people of health care and make them more dependent on government subsidized services:

When Californians have access to safe and affordable housing they have more money for food and health care, they are less likely to become homeless and need government subsidized services, their children are apt to do better in school, and businesses do not have as hard a time recruiting and retaining employees.

California Department of Housing and Community Development's State Housing Assessment (SHA), http://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/plans-reports/docs/SHA_Final_Combined.pdf, (February, 2018),, P. 48.

³ <https://www.zillow.com/research/homelessness-rent-affordability-22247/>

⁴ <https://nationalhomeless.org/category/mortality/>

Mr. Kome Ajise
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confirming this point, the most prolific anti-housing CEQA lawsuit petitioner in the region, the Center for Biological Diversity, has submitted a comment letter in strong support of the current process. Such concerns can not go unexamined.

To address these matters, all further work on the SoCal Greenprint should be paused until RHNA-compliant Housing Elements have been adopted by the local governments in the SCAG region. Doing so allows a comprehensive view of housing growth, as dictated by your member jurisdictions, to be developed and guided by those most familiar with the optimal location for growth. Once this process is complete, the SoCal Greenprint can thereafter be refined to prioritize mitigation of open space and agricultural lands with higher agricultural and biological resource land value. Proceeding in this order allows the region to balance the housing crisis along with protecting the environment in a mutually beneficial approach for all involved.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration and SCAG's dedication to always keeping a mindful eye on the severity of the housing crisis and the real impacts it imparts on our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Cammarota". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "C".

Nick Cammarota
Sr. Vice President & General Counsel
1215 K Street, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95814

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WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE

June 29, 2021

Chair Clint Lorimore and the Regional Council
Southern California Association of Governments
ATTN: Maggie Aguilar <aguilarm@scag.ca.gov>
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Support for the SoCal Greenprint (Hearing date, July 1, 2021)

Dear Chair Lorimore and Councilmembers,

I would like to express enthusiastic support for the SoCal Greenprint project and convey how essential the interactive, web-based mapping resource will be to help shape the future of the Southern California region. The SoCal Greenprint will help local governments, infrastructure agencies, the private sector, land use planners, community based organizations and other stakeholders incorporate nature into communities, increase access to nature and protect and enhance the extraordinary natural resources and working lands that are essential to healthy, vibrant and resilient communities.

In a region where watersheds, wildlife corridors, air quality and economic activity overlap among various jurisdictions, the ability to comprehensively visualize these issues at a regional scale is essential to success. As Southern California grows and develops, the vibrancy and health of its communities requires an understanding of how to incorporate nature into our growing region, including ensuring that vulnerable communities and communities of color have equitable access to nature. Data is a critical tool in planning for communities that will have the environmental resources needed to ensure resilience in the face of climate threats, sustainability, economic vitality and public health; including park space, clean air and water, and habitat for the diverse plants and wildlife that call Southern California home.

Moreover, the SoCal Greenprint will help integrate nature early into the planning process for transportation, water and energy infrastructure and housing projects, reducing the risk for delays and costly expenses from potential mitigation needs, permitting challenges or community opposition. Integrating conservation information into infrastructure and other development processes through tools like greenprints is a common practice that has been successful throughout the SCAG region, in California and nationwide.

The SoCal Greenprint will help the 191 cities and six counties in the SCAG region prepare for a future where housing, increased transportation options and good jobs will be needed. The SoCal Greenprint will help SCAG and its member jurisdictions create a roadmap for the future that proactively balances economic, environmental and public health goals.

I commend SCAG for its leadership and urge you to continue supporting the SoCal Greenprint to its launch this fall. Thank you for building an essential resource that once again demonstrates the region's economic and environmental leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Friedman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Assemblymember Laura Friedman,
43rd Assembly District

June 29, 2021

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

Re: SoCal Greenprint

Dear SCAG President Lorimore,

I am reaching out to express enthusiastic support for the SoCal Greenprint project and convey how essential the interactive, web-based mapping tool will be to Bowman Change, Inc. and the stakeholders who are shaping the future of the region.

Through the SoCal Greenprint, the Southern Association of Governments is creating a resource to integrate nature into the planning process for infrastructure and housing projects, reducing the risk for delays and costly expenses from community opposition or litigation. Integrating conservation information into infrastructure planning has shown to be a best practice in transportation planning and project delivery, as well as other sectors, such as water and energy infrastructure and housing development.

As Southern California grows and develops, the vibrancy and health of its communities requires an understanding of how to incorporate nature into the vision of the region. Data is a critical tool in planning for communities that will have the environmental resources needed to sustain economic vitality and public health, including park space, clean air and water, and habitat for the diverse plants and wildlife that call Southern California home. The SoCal Greenprint will make it easy for stakeholders to easily access and visualize the information they need to understand the benefits and opportunities of planning for nature. It comes at an important time, as the pandemic demonstrated the importance of the outdoors and green space for the mental and physical wellbeing of our communities.

SCAG has demonstrated exemplary leadership in helping the 191 cities and six counties in its jurisdictions prepare for a future where housing, increased transportation options and good jobs will be needed. SCAG has also made it clear that sustainability and climate readiness are compatible priorities with a growing region. The SoCal Greenprint is an example of SCAG's continued leadership in creating a roadmap for the future that proactively balances economic, environmental and public health goals.

In a region where watersheds, wildlife corridors, air quality and economic activity overlap among various jurisdictions, the ability to comprehensively visualize these issues at a regional scale is a game changer. The SoCal Greenprint will convert more than 100 publicly available data sources into interactive maps that tell an important story about the role that nature plays in the health and vibrancy of our region. The SoCal Greenprint is a free, easy-to-use, one-stop resource that offers developers, residents, planners, environmental groups and city officials a valuable tool to build the green, sustainable communities that will prepare us for the climate challenges that lie ahead.

We urge you to continue moving the project along and we look forward to its launch in Fall 2021. Thank you for building an essential resource that once again demonstrates the region's economic and environmental leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas E. Bowman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Thomas E. Bowman
President



Fighting for Life

East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice – 2317 Atlantic Blvd. Commerce, CA. 90040

Chair Clint Lorimore and the Regional Council
Southern California Association of Governments
ATTN: Maggie Aguilar <aguilarm@scag.ca.gov>
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Support for the SoCal Greenprint (Hearing date, July 1, 2021)

Dear Chair Lorimore and Councilmembers,

We would like to express enthusiastic support for the SoCal Greenprint project and convey how essential the interactive, web-based mapping resource will be to help shape the future of the Southern California region. The SoCal Greenprint will help local governments, infrastructure agencies, the private sector, land use planners, community based organizations and other stakeholders incorporate nature into communities, increase access to nature and protect and enhance the extraordinary natural resources and working lands that are essential to healthy, vibrant and resilient communities.

In a region where watersheds, wildlife corridors, air quality and economic activity overlap among various jurisdictions, the ability to comprehensively visualize these issues at a regional scale is essential to success. As Southern California grows and develops, the vibrancy and health of its communities requires an understanding of how to incorporate nature into our growing region, including ensuring that vulnerable communities and communities of color have equitable access to nature. Data is a critical tool in planning for communities that will have the environmental resources needed to ensure resilience in the face of climate threats, sustainability, economic vitality and public health; including park space, clean air and water, and habitat for the diverse plants and wildlife that call Southern California home.

Moreover, the SoCal Greenprint will help integrate nature early into the planning process for transportation, water and energy infrastructure and housing projects, reducing the risk for delays and costly expenses from potential mitigation needs, permitting challenges or community opposition. Integrating conservation information into infrastructure and other development processes through tools like greenprints is a common practice that has been successful throughout the SCAG region, in California and nationwide.

The SoCal Greenprint will help the 191 cities and six counties in the SCAG region prepare for a future where housing, increased transportation options and good jobs will be needed. The SoCal Greenprint will help SCAG and its member jurisdictions create a roadmap for the future that proactively balances economic, environmental and public health goals.

We commend SCAG for its leadership and urge you to continue supporting the SoCal Greenprint to its launch this Fall. Thank you for building an essential resource that once again demonstrates the region's economic and environmental leadership.

Sincerely,

Hector Alessandro Negrete
Director of External Affairs



June 30, 2021

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

Re: SoCal Greenprint

Dear SCAG President Lorimore,

We are reaching out to express enthusiastic support for the SoCal Greenprint project and convey how essential the interactive, web-based mapping tool will be to Warehouse Worker Resource Center (WWRC) and the stakeholders who are shaping the future of the region.

Through the SoCal Greenprint, the Southern Association of Governments is creating a resource to integrate nature into the planning process for infrastructure and housing projects, reducing the risk for delays and costly expenses from community opposition or litigation. Integrating conservation information into infrastructure planning has shown to be a best practice in transportation planning and project delivery, as well as other sectors, such as water and energy infrastructure and housing development.

As Southern California grows and develops, the vibrancy and health of its communities requires an understanding of how to incorporate nature into the vision of the region. Data is a critical tool in planning for communities that will have the environmental resources needed to sustain economic vitality and public health, including park space, clean air and water, and habitat for the diverse plants and wildlife that call Southern California home. The SoCal Greenprint will make it easy for stakeholders to easily access and visualize the information they need to understand the benefits and opportunities of planning for nature. It comes at an important time, as the pandemic demonstrated the importance of the outdoors and green space for the mental and physical wellbeing of our communities.

SCAG has demonstrated exemplary leadership in helping the 191 cities and six counties in its jurisdictions prepare for a future where housing, increased transportation options and good jobs will be needed. SCAG has also made it clear that sustainability and climate readiness are compatible priorities with a growing region. The SoCal Greenprint is an example of SCAG's

continued leadership in creating a roadmap for the future that proactively balances economic, environmental and public health goals.

In a region where watersheds, wildlife corridors, air quality and economic activity overlap among various jurisdictions, the ability to comprehensively visualize these issues at a regional scale is a game changer. The SoCal Greenprint will convert more than 100 publicly available data sources into interactive maps that tell an important story about the role that nature plays in the health and vibrancy of our region. The SoCal Greenprint is a free, easy-to-use, one-stop resource that offers developers, residents, planners, environmental groups and city officials a valuable tool to build the green, sustainable communities that will prepare us for the climate challenges that lie ahead.

We urge you to continue moving the project along and we look forward to its launch in Fall 2021. Thank you for building an essential resource that once again demonstrates the region's economic and environmental leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mirella Deniz Z". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mirella Deniz-Zaragoza

Research and Policy Coordinator

[Warehouse Worker Resource Center](#)



June 30, 2021

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

Re: SoCal Greenprint

Dear SCAG President Lorimore,

We are reaching out to express enthusiastic support for the SoCal Greenprint project and convey how essential the interactive, web-based mapping tool will be to the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and the stakeholders who are shaping the future of the region.

Through the SoCal Greenprint, the Southern Association of Governments is creating a resource to integrate nature into the planning process for infrastructure and housing projects. Integrating conservation information into infrastructure planning has shown to be a best practice in transportation planning as well as other sectors, such as water and energy infrastructure and housing development.

As Southern California grows and develops, the vibrancy and health of its communities requires an understanding of how to incorporate nature into the vision of the region. Data is a critical tool in planning for communities that will have the environmental resources needed to sustain economic vitality and public health, including park space, clean air and water, and habitat for the diverse plants and wildlife that call Southern California home. The SoCal Greenprint will make it easy for stakeholders to easily access and visualize the information they need to understand the benefits and opportunities of planning for nature. It comes at an important time, as the pandemic demonstrated the importance of the outdoors and open space for the mental and physical wellbeing of our communities.

SCAG has demonstrated exemplary leadership in helping the 191 cities and six counties in its jurisdictions prepare for a future where housing, increased transportation options and good

jobs will be needed. SCAG has also made it clear that sustainability, natural resources and economic growth are not in conflict. The SoCal Greenprint is an example of SCAG's continued leadership in creating a roadmap for the future that proactively balances economic, environmental and public health goals.

In a region where watersheds, wildlife corridors, air quality and economic activity overlap among various jurisdictions, the ability to comprehensively visualize these issues at a regional scale is a game changer. As a representative of NPCA's California Desert team, we are especially interested in how The SoCal Greenprint will impact conservation land use decisions within the Southern California desert areas of the Inland Empire and Imperial Counties. The California desert is susceptible to various extractive development projects including mass corporate solar projects and warehouse logistics centers. The SoCal Greenprint will convert more than 100 publicly available data sources into interactive maps that tell an important story about the role that nature plays in the health and vibrancy of our region, and especially to support the conservation of the biodiversity existing in the Southern California desert area.

We urge you to continue moving the project along and we look forward to its launch in Fall 2021. Thank you for building an essential resource that once again demonstrates the region's economic and environmental leadership.

Sincerely,

Demi Espinoza (she/they), California Desert Program Manager
National Parks Conservation Association



June 30, 2021

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

Re: TreePeople's Support for SoCal Greenprint Initiative

Dear SCAG President Lorimore,

We want to applaud and thank the Southern California Association of Governments for its visionary move to sponsor the development of the SoCal Greenprint project, and strongly urge the organization to keep the project on track for a Fall 2021 launch.

In a region defined by outdoor splendor, the SoCal Greenprint project will be an essential asset to help incorporate nature into planning the growth and development needed to support our economic prowess. Greenprints are online data tools that give planners, developers, community members and other stakeholders access to already available, publicly vetted and approved data sources in one easy location. Once the tool is live, Southern California will join dozens of other cities and regions that use Greenprints to make smart decisions that support housing, business, and industrial growth while ensuring that natural resources are incorporated into planning for the future. We have enjoyed contributing our expertise to the SoCal Greenprint development process and feel certain that the Greenprint will provide multiple benefits for SCAG member agencies and other regional stakeholders.

One clear benefit is an ability to plan for growth that includes the right number of parks and green spaces that are needed for healthy, vibrant living. The need for access to nature and open space has never been clearer than it is today. Greenprints also benefit the planning and permitting process by giving developers and planners the information they need to proactively address potential community concerns, avoid the need for additional environmental consultants, and create proposals that manage and preserve essential habitat and environmental resources. A Greenprint is a win-win tool for all stakeholders to give everyone the same baseline information so that projects reduce environmental hurdles, and ensure that natural resources are considered and included.

Southern California's leadership is essential. SCAG and its leaders have made our region a model for proactive planning that leverages data to look ahead on economic and housing needs, all while planning for climate change challenges that include air quality, water availability, wildfire mitigation, habitat preservation and park access. The SoCal Greenprint is an example of the region's leadership in balancing growth with environmental needs. There is no evidence from other cities with Greenprints in place that the data tool in any way hampers growth or development. More information can only be an asset that further prepares us to continue to lead.

We look forward to the ongoing engagement process and are eager to have this essential resource go live.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Manny Gonez".

Manny Gonez, Director of Policy Initiatives, TreePeople

June 30, 2021

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

Re: SoCal Greenprint

Dear SCAG President Lorimore,

We are reaching out to express enthusiastic support for the SoCal Greenprint project and convey how essential the interactive, web-based mapping tool will be to the California League of Conservation Voters and the stakeholders who are shaping the future of the region.

Through the SoCal Greenprint, the Southern Association of Governments is creating a resource to integrate nature into the planning process for infrastructure and housing projects, reducing the risk for delays and costly expenses from community opposition or litigation. Integrating conservation information into infrastructure planning has shown to be a best practice in transportation planning and project delivery, as well as other sectors, such as water and energy infrastructure and housing development.

As Southern California grows and develops, the vibrancy and health of its communities requires an understanding of how to incorporate nature into the vision of the region. Data is a critical tool in planning for communities that will have the environmental resources needed to sustain economic vitality and public health, including park space, clean air and water, and habitat for the diverse plants and wildlife that call Southern California home. The SoCal Greenprint will make it easy for stakeholders to easily access and visualize the information they need to understand the benefits and opportunities of planning for nature. It comes at an important time, as the pandemic demonstrated the importance of the outdoors and green space for the mental and physical wellbeing of our communities.

SCAG has demonstrated exemplary leadership in helping the 191 cities and six counties in its jurisdictions prepare for a future where housing, increased transportation options and good jobs will be needed. SCAG has also made it clear that sustainability and climate readiness are compatible priorities with a growing region. The SoCal Greenprint is an example of SCAG's continued leadership in creating a roadmap for the future that proactively balances economic, environmental and public health goals.

In a region where watersheds, wildlife corridors, air quality and economic activity overlap among various jurisdictions, the ability to comprehensively visualize these issues at a regional scale is a game changer. The SoCal Greenprint will convert more than 100 publicly available data sources into interactive maps that tell an important story about the role that nature plays in the health and vibrancy of our region. The SoCal Greenprint is a free, easy-to-use, one-stop resource that offers developers, residents, planners, environmental groups and city officials a valuable tool to build the green, sustainable communities that will prepare us for the climate challenges that lie ahead.

We urge you to continue moving the project along and we look forward to its launch in Fall 2021. Thank you for building an essential resource that once again demonstrates the region's economic and environmental leadership.

Sincerely,

Mike Young,
Political Director, CLCV