June 26, 2020

Mayors Steinberg and Cabaldon:

Re: Support for the Mayor’s Commission on Climate Change Recommendations

I am writing on behalf of Breathe California Sacramento Region (Breathe) to express our strongest support for the recommendations of the Mayor’s Commission on Climate Change identified in the report to be adopted Monday, June 29, 2020.

For more than 100 years, Breathe has been working in the capital region to foster clean air and healthy lungs for all residents; clean air is a human right and a matter of public health. We work very closely with many of the communities most affected by poor air quality that stand to benefit the most from the changes proposed in the plan.

Through the exhaustive work of the Commission, bold goals and strategies have been suggested to reduce the region’s greenhouse gas emissions. The strategies proposed will be effective in putting the region on a path to cleaner air and improved health for all residents. In our years of experience, we have seen far too many times that residents of underserved neighborhoods often suffer the most disparaging health effects created by poor land use decisions, heat exposure, food deserts, and the lack of clean transportation options. Our clean air initiatives focus on addressing those issues by working directly with the communities, with government agencies, and our fellow NGO’s.

Thanks to the leadership of the two Mayors, the Commission, and the staff support provided by the Local Government Commission and SACOG, the plan presented contains bold and audacious goals that will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants and increase livability for not only the residents of the two cities, but for the entire region. The work accomplished will prove that the leaders in the Sacramento Region are forward thinking and willing to act to improve and protect the health of residents.

Now, at the end of an almost two-year journey, it is imperative that the Mayors adopt and implement the recommendations put forward in the Commission’s plan. With initiatives spanning the next 20-30 years, we must invest in the next generation and work to create the conditions in which they can thrive.

On behalf of Breathe California Sacramento Region, we thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Stacy Springer, CEO

CC: Julia Burrows