

August 19, 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 have been honored to serve on the SoCal Greenprint Advisory Committee and applaud the efforts of SCAG in undertaking this effort which will substantively benefit regional planning for all stakeholders. The advisory committee represents a broad range of interest groups who have been actively engaged in providing input on development of this GIS tool.

Therefore I am deeply concerned about the July 1 discussion about the future of the SoCal Greenprint, I urge the SCAG Regional Council to keep the project on track and ensure that the free, interactive, easy-to-use resource is completed in time to make it possible to plan for the sustainable growth needed to build a healthy and vibrant Southern California.

The SCAG Regional Council's efforts to ensure that there is rigorous debate and substantive public input for the launch of the informational resource tool welcomed, clearly this needs to be a transparent process. However, it is essential that the plan move forward in order to make more than 100 publicly available data sources available via interactive maps to make it easier to integrate nature into the future growth and development of the region.

The data layers chosen were selected based on feedback provided on what information is essential to the five primary stakeholders that will be building the future of the region: developers, planners, government agencies, community organizations and conservation professionals. Data such as the location of essential infrastructure like sewage lines, where wildfires have historically occurred, groundwater sources and where tree canopies are located are among the maps that will make it clear what the most efficient locations are for building new housing, what natural resources need to be protected and the climate change impacts that need to be considered to build resilient communities.

Access to information will make it easier to build the housing needs required to sustain an economically dynamic region, and that is what the SoCal Greenprint offers. It does not establish new rules, create new regulations or alter existing data, as some opponents have claimed. It was built by experts on environmental stewardship and data, with transparent input from a diverse number of stakeholders, including the building industry, to make it a free, useful and optional resource to protect the environmental assets of the region.

I enthusiastically support the project and agree that it is important to listen to other stakeholders who may have additional feedback to strengthen the usefulness of the tool. However, I hope that the Aug. 24 public hearing and subsequent action serve as a way to improve the tool and process and not derail it. At a time when the threats of climate change – including drought, wildfire, environmental degradation and air quality – are clearer than ever, now is not the time to ignore the information that will empower us to make smarter decisions.

Thank you,



Belinda Faustinos  
Retired Executive Director  
Nature for All