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August 23, 2021

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

Re: SoCal Greenprint Initiative

Dear SCAG President Lorimore,

On Aug. 9, the International Panel on Climate Change announced new findings that climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying. While the report's findings were dire, the message was clear that proactive action today is needed to mitigate the increasing threats of climate change. We urge you to keep the SoCal Greenprint project on track to have it as an important asset in striving to build an economically vibrant and sustainable region.

We at the US Green Building Council-Los Angeles (USGBC-LA) work toward sourcing data, as well as educating and developing a greener economy via building a green workforce that includes all. Our work encompasses issues heavily influenced by climate change –wildfires, affordable housing, electrification, transportation, air quality, water, equity and more. With people spending over 90% of their time indoors, the built environment (and moving between buildings) is key to addressing climate change.

The SoCal Greenprint provides the information and resources we need for the region to make smarter and more reliable decisions that will improve the sustainability of our environment and economic systems while planning for growth. Given the challenges that lie ahead, we know that our planning has to be smarter and focused on protecting our treasured natural resources.

The SoCal Greenprint does not create new data or put new regulations in place. Instead, it makes it easy for the people who are planning the future of the region to understand how to best integrate nature into future growth and development. Here are a few examples: 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 that our 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.

As potential users of the SoCal Greenprint, we applaud SCAG's leadership for making more than 100 sources of already publicly-available data and converting them into a useful tool that helps stakeholders visualize how to build healthier communities. Data can help us make better decisions and 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 that climate change is a challenge that requires data, action, and visionary leadership.

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

Sincerely,



Ben Stapleton
Executive Director, USGBC-LA

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