

February 14, 2014

TO: Christopher Calfee, Senior Counsel
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Kevin Greene, Director, Governmental Affairs
Sacramento Metro Chamber

Subject: Measuring environmental impacts related to transportation—LOS Alternatives

On behalf of the Sacramento Metro Chamber I wanted to provide some brief comments on possible alternatives to measuring impacts related to transportation. While we applaud efforts to streamline the CEQA process and create more cost effective means of measuring traffic impacts, any alternatives must create flexibility for local governments to manage traffic impacts in their jurisdictions.

One size doesn't fit all development scenarios. The need to adopt criteria that encourages multiple transportation modes and more efficient use of resources is important to long term sustainability goals highlighted by recent state policy. The criteria presented by the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) must be combined with the reality that locations exist that have limited transit options and that the automobile will remain a pivotal mode of transportation.

Finally, there are some concerns from the business community around ambiguities associated with other planning elements that use LOS standards. While changes being discussed will impact CEQA and environmental review documents, questions surrounding how this will impact local planning documents (General/Specific Plans) and project mitigation still remain.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide brief comments and the Sacramento Metro Chamber looks forward to continuing to work with OPR to further streamline the environmental review process that will be a catalyst for additional economic development opportunities throughout the Sacramento region and across the State of California.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at kgreene@metrochamber.org or at (916) 321-9154.