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***Protecting our rural environment by promoting citizen participation  
in sustainable land use planning since 2006***

4/26/22

Calaveras County Planning Commission  
C/o Calaveras County Planning Department  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249

(transmitted by email)

RE: Proposed Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Reduction Strategies

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed GHG emission reduction strategies. My name is Tom Infusino, and I am making these comments on behalf of the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC).

The CPC is a group of community organizations and individuals who want a healthy and sustainable future for Calaveras County. We believe that public participation is critical to a successful planning process. United behind eleven land use and development principles, we seek to balance the conservation of local agricultural, natural and historic resources, with the need to provide jobs, housing, safety, and services.

We have the following comments on the list of GHG emission reduction strategies.

First, many of the strategies are helping people willing to reduce GHG emissions.<sup>1</sup> Strategies that empower the willing to reduce GHG emissions rely on the people of Calaveras County and their historically proven capacity for hard work. That is why we believe that these strategies will be effective at reducing GHG emissions.

Second, many of the strategies have great benefits other than GHG emission reduction. Reducing the risk of wildfire ignition in the wildland-urban interface will not only reduce GHG emissions, it will make our families and our property safer. Implementing our Safe Routes to School plan will keep our children safer. Making our businesses more energy efficient will reduce their costs and make them more profitable. Improving the fertility of the soil on our farmlands and rangelands can help agricultural operations to survive in very competitive marketplaces. Having electric vehicle charging stations at tourist-serving locations will help our tourism industry to stay competitive. Diversifying our energy supply with local renewable sources and microgrids could provide our homes and businesses with more reliable power in the face of public safety power shutoffs. Because of these major benefits, we should be implementing these strategies even if they provided no GHG emission reductions, and even if we did not care about global climate change.

Third, many of the strategies take advantage of existing state and federal funding programs to help those willing to work to reduce GHG emissions.<sup>2</sup> The hardworking people of Calaveras County pay plenty of taxes to the state and federal governments every year. It is about time we got more of that money back to help our homeowners, business operators, farmers and ranchers.

Fourth, some of the strategies involve purely County activities.<sup>3</sup> When it comes to GHG emission reduction, we at the CPC support the County leading by example.

Fifth, as currently drafted, only seven of the strategies are regulatory in nature.<sup>4</sup> We do not trust that the County will adopt or enforce these measures. Furthermore, we do not want any County official to use any of these seven regulatory strategies as a pretext for not adopting and implementing the other more promising GHG reduction strategies.

Sixth, we note that in order to make the most out of GHG emission reduction programs to enhance farmland and rangeland it is necessary to ensure that those lands are not converted to other uses. We encourage Calaveras County to assist, educate, and incentivize farmers and ranchers interested in pursuing conservation easements to maintain their lands in agricultural uses long into the future.

In conclusion, we want to acknowledge the good work being done recently by the County staff working on economic development and affordable housing. By giving the people who live in Calaveras County more opportunities to work here, we can reduce out-commuting and the GHG emissions associated with it. By creating affordable housing options for the people who work here but currently can't afford to live here, we can reduce the need for in-commuting and the

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<sup>1</sup> See RE-1, EB-1, EB-2, EB-3, EB-4, ZNE-4, TR-1.10, WW-3, AG-1.5, AG-1.8, AG-2.4, WF-1.3, and WF-1.5.

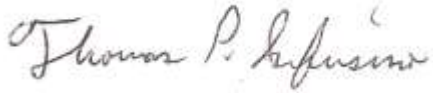
<sup>2</sup> See EB-3, TR-1.6, TR-1.10, TR-2.3, TR-3.3, AG-1.5, AG 1.8, AG-2.4, AG-2.5, WR-1.4, WF-1.8, and WF-2.3.

<sup>3</sup> See EB-7, TR-1.4, TR-2.1, TR-2.3, TR-2.7, TR-3.3, and TR-4.3.

<sup>4</sup> See EB-6, ZNE-1, TR-1.2, TR 1.5, WW-4, AG-1.2, and WF-1.1.

GHG emissions associated with it. We hope that these staff proposals and actions to promote economic development and workforce housing will be successful in revitalizing community centers, reducing GHG emissions, and improving people's lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Thomas P. Infusino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'I'.

Thomas P. Infusino, Facilitator

Calaveras Planning Coalition