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

Planning Commission
County of Calaveras
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249
(Sent by email.)

August 9, 2023

RE: Thank You for the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Measures

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Tom Infusino and I am presenting 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 are pleased to see the GHG reduction measures on your agenda for August 10. Previously we have submitted comments in support of the proposed greenhouse gas reduction measures under consideration by the Planning Commission. Our prior comments are attached to this email for the convenience of the commissioners new to this process.

We thank you and your consultants for coming up with a reasonable list of actions with achievable GHG reduction targets. Thank you also for including the measures to implement some parts of the 2019 General Plan that are supportive of GHG reduction. Thank you for seeking to reduce GHG emissions predominantly through programs to support those willing to reduce GHG missions rather than through regulations to try to force those unwilling.

We understand that the plan does not rely heavily on GHG reductions from carbon sequestration through conserving rangeland and reducing wildfire. We respect that the plan explicitly leaves these efforts out, rather than including programs the County does not intend to implement. This gives a clear message to those in our community who wish to more aggressively pursue those carbon sequestration opportunities: do so through other planning processes and with other agency partners. We thank you for this clarity.

Thank you also for recognizing the availability of state and federal funding to support these GHG reduction programs. With this funding the County can secure trained staff to build the County's capacity to implement the GHG reduction programs. You are correct that it is critical for the County to timely apply to receive that funding.


Toward that end, please encourage the Planning Department to identify no later than May of 2024 the staff and funding needed to implement the GHG reduction programs. Then the County will be poised both to promptly apply for state and federal funding and to adopt a fiscally sound County budget.

Please recommend to the Planning Department and others responsible for implementing the GHG reduction measures that they track GHG reductions on an ongoing basis, and produce an implementation progress report in 2030 to verify the effectiveness of the GHG reduction measures.

Finally, we encourage the Planning Commission to update the GHG reduction plan in 2030 to adopt the additional GHG reduction measures needed to meet the 2045 GHG reduction target.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these and our prior comments.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas P. Infusino". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial 'T' and 'I'.

Tom Infusino, Facilitator

Calaveras Planning Coalition