



December 6, 2013

Ken Alex, Chair
 Strategic Growth Council
 1400 Tenth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Funding of Public Health Module for Urban Footprint

Dear Chairman Alex:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to thank you for your ongoing support for improved planning and healthier California communities and urge your support for important health analysis tools to advance these goals. The Strategic Growth Council will discuss data priorities and funding recommendations for improving scenario planning at the December 11th meeting, including a proposal for funding to refine and advance the public health modeling capabilities of the Urban Footprint planning model. We urge you to approve this proposal to ensure health modeling tools are available in time for the next round of SCS sustainable communities planning.

We believe the Urban Footprint scenario planning tool, combined with a robust public health module, is a critical next step to further the goals of SB 375 implementation and ensure stronger consistency with state health and air quality goals, including those outlined in the Council’s Sustainable Planning Grant guidelines. Dramatic efforts are needed to change the way our communities are planned to improve our state’s air quality and reduce our chronic disease burdens. Reducing vehicle dependency will help reduce preventable air pollution-related respiratory diseases and health emergencies. Evidence shows that investing in community designs that increase physical activity and active transportation will result in significant

reductions in diabetes, heart disease, obesity and stroke. Making tools available to policymakers that can illustrate the important health benefits of more compact community designs is essential to guide more health protective and informed planning decisions.

We appreciate the time and effort that the Strategic Growth Council and others have invested in the Urban Footprint health module to date and support the additional efforts proposed to evaluate the methodology with input from a wide variety of expert stakeholders. We support the proposal for a technical review committee involving a broad group of state and local stakeholders and believe the committee process should include a substantive review of all stages of the health analysis methodology and reporting of results. We also urge the council to test the tool in local contexts to ensure it is as vigorous and effective as possible, and in time to inform the next round of SCS planning that is already underway.

In conclusion, we urge the Strategic Growth Council to dedicate additional funding to ensure the health evaluation capacities of Urban Footprint can be developed and deployed as soon as possible.

Thank you for your dedication to sustainable land use in California. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the health analysis capacities are built in to the Urban Footprint model to help further the goals of SB 375 and create healthier, more sustainable communities.

Sincerely,

Kris Calvin, CEO
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

James K Knox, Vice President, Advocacy
American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network, California

Bonnie Holmes-Gen
Senior Director, Policy and Advocacy
American Lung Association in California

Robert Vinetz, MD, Chair
Asthma Coalition of Los Angeles County

Andy Katz, JD, Government Relations Director
Breathe California

Darcel Lee, President/CEO
California Black Health Network

Scott Clark, Associate Director
Center for Medical & Regulatory Policy
California Medical Association

California Thoracic Society

Patricia Ochoa, Deputy Policy Director
Coalition for Clean Air

Rachelle Wenger, MPA
Director, Public Policy and Community Advocacy
Dignity Health

Eric Lerner, Climate Director
Healthcare Without Harm

Elisa Nicholas, MD, MSPH
Chief Executive Officer
The Children's Clinic, "Serving Children and Their Families"

Elisa Nicholas, MD, MSPH, Project Director
Jessica Tovar, MSW, Project Manager
Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma

Angelo Bellomo, Director of Environmental Health
Charlene Contreras, Chief Environmental Health Specialist
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Sister Judy Moresci, Vice President of Mission Integration
Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield

Harry Wang, MD, President
Physicians for Social Responsibility – Sacramento

Robert Gould, MD, President
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Jeremy Cantor, MPH, Program Manager
Prevention Institute

Rye Baerg
Regional Policy Manager
Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Jim Mangia, MPH
President and CEO
St. John's Well Child and Family Centers

Michael Kelly, MD, Chair
San Diego Regional Asthma Coalition

Gloria Thornton, MA, LMFT, Chair
San Francisco Asthma Task Force

William C. Parrish, Jr, CEO
Santa Clara County Medical Association

Teri Duarte, MPH
Executive Director
WALKSacramento

Sonal Patel, MD, MS
Pediatric/Adult Allergy & Immunology
White Memorial Pediatric Medical Group

Luis Pardo, CEO/President
Worksite Wellness LA

Individuals

Viki Chaudrue, RN, MSNEd, Ed.D
Los Angeles, CA

Carmen Garcia, RN BSN
Downey, CA

Leslie Hata, DDS
Oakland, CA

Karen Jakpor, MD, MPH
Riverside, CA

Carlos Bello, MPH, CHES
Bakersfield, CA

Cindy Lee Russell, MD
Santa Clara, CA