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Comment Received From: 25 Various Members Comments 1 Submitted On: 3/16/2023 Docket Number: 23-IEPR-01

2023 Scoping Order Please Include a Robust Land Use Analysis

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

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-The IEPR Scoping Order should include a focus on building more infill housing in climateresilient, high-opportunity areas near destinations as an essential element of equitable building energy efficiency and decarbonization, alongside electrification. Support for infill housing could include building code revisions, support for housing element development, zoning reform, and development of pre-approved, standardized building designs.

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-The IEPR Scoping Order should include micromobility and walking as legitimate transportation modes on par with driving and public transit, and as impactful climate and transportation justice measures that are an essential part of any transportation analysis.

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Three scenarios to consider are:

On a consumption basis, including VMT, this housing is roughly 1.5x as carbon intensive as equivalent-income infill housing, according to a UC Berkeley study and RMI analysis. It also results in long, debilitating commutes, increased fire risk, and increased exposure to extreme heat, particularly for lower income people and people of color.

3. Single family housing is built in sprawl areas out of state (e.g., Phoenix or Austin). This housing will generally be in even more extreme climates and in jurisdictions with less stringent code requirements and renewable energy penetration, and thus cause greater carbon/energy leakage.

As a matter of wise energy policy - and of following state laws such as SB 375 - the Energy Commission must support the transition to more sustainable, human-centered, and just communities, and not simply pursue an all-electric version of the status quo. It's past time to get serious about the benefits of walkable, bikeable communities with dense and abundant housing.

Martin Horwitz

Docket Unit Docket No. 23-IEPR-01 (Public Comment),

I rent a room in a house in the hills of Los Gatos, CA. There isn't any public transit near me, nor any stores within walking distance. Living in a semi-rural area is cheaper than living downtown, but if the price were the same, I would prefer to live in a walkable place with transit options.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2023 IEPR Scoping Order. I am writing to express my deep concern that the draft Scoping Order NEVER ONCE mentions the need to sustainably solve our housing crisis, end car dependency, or build walkable, sustainable communities.

California is short about 2.5 million homes, according to our Regional Housing Needs Allocation. And in calling for a 25% reduction in driving by 2030, the 2022 Scoping Plan Update was crystal clear: "Zero-emission vehicles are not enough to solve the climate crisis."

The Scoping Plan Update adds: "More compact infill development generally generates lower emissions because attached building types and smaller residential unit sizes require fewer emissions to construct and less energy to heat and cool. Studies have estimated that infill development uses 10 to 20 percent less residential energy due to changes in unit types, sizes, and locations. Additional benefits include reduced heat island effects from paved surfaces like parking lots, which lowers long-term building energy use, and reduced emissions from the construction of infrastructure."

Building sustainable communities is also a matter of equity. The Scoping Plan Update is unequivocal: "Shifting California's development patterns and transportation systems is critical to address existing injustices by making livable, affordable homes with multi-modal connections to jobs, services, open space, and education available to all Californians, not just the white and the wealthy."

We simply cannot meet our state goals of equity, climate justice, and housing justice without building more infill housing, taking on sprawl, and driving dramatically less. Yes, renewable energy is essential, and so are heat pumps and electric cars - but they are not enough.

The Scoping Plan Update already calls on the state to do better on land use: "Plan and invest in a sustainable transportation system. [...] Manage the use of the transportation system to advance climate and equity goals. Consider policies to optimize the use of California's transportation infrastructure by prioritizing the movement of people over vehicles. [And improve] alignment of land use planning and development with climate and equity goals. Consider policies to accelerate infill development, affirmatively further fair housing, and increase natural and working lands protection, in furtherance of the State's planning priorities."

Even beyond questions of alignment with state goals, unless it considers housing policy, the IEPR will not accurately or adequately model the range of energy outcomes in California. The state's housing stock has not kept up with historical population growth, and continued failure to build enough housing will surely lead to more displacement out of state. Meanwhile, continuing to underproduce housing will mean (on average) an older, less efficient, and less electrified housing stock than would be predicted by assuming housing follows directly from population forecasts. The Energy Commission simply cannot accurately account for the state's demography and building stock – and thus energy and environmental outcomes – if it continues to treat housing policy and population as exogenous variables.

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Three scenarios to consider are:

1. Compact, mixed use development is built in existing urban and inner suburban areas. These areas tend to be coastal and thus more temperate - particularly as our climate changes - with relatively low energy needs. This is the lowest-energy and most environmentally just pathway, and I call on the Energy Commission to prioritize it.

2. Single family housing is built in exurban sprawl areas in California.

On a consumption basis, including VMT, this housing is roughly 1.5x as carbon intensive as equivalent-income infill housing, according to a UC Berkeley study and RMI analysis. It also results in long, debilitating commutes, increased fire risk, and increased exposure to extreme heat, particularly for lower income people and people of color.

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Kendra Hershey

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Building sustainable communities is also a matter of equity. The Scoping Plan Update is unequivocal: "Shifting California's development patterns and transportation systems is critical to address existing injustices by making livable, affordable homes with multi-modal connections to jobs, services, open space, and education available to all Californians, not just the white and the wealthy."

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TIM LINERUD