

DOCKET

09-OII-1

DATE June 24 2009

RECD. June 30 2009

Sent to the California Energy Commission via Email on June 24, 2009

To: The California Energy Commission

The Proposal

The Local Government Commission requests that the CEC guidelines for expenditure of Energy Efficiency Block Grants for small cities allow these funds to be used on general plan amendments and the creation of zoning changes consistent with the goals of AB 32 and SB 375.

Rationale

- Local governments typically fund their planning departments using developer fees. Because development has ceased in most communities, planning departments are being downsized or completely eliminated. Yet, this is the perfect time for local governments to update their general plans and zoning codes so that they can be proactive rather than reactive when development begins again.
- The successful implementation of SB 375 will require cities, counties and regional planning agencies to work together to assure that local land use patterns and the regional transportation infrastructure work in tandem to reduce VMT. Local jurisdictions would be wise to begin now to involve community residents in the process of making the needed changes to general plans and zoning codes.
- Developers and planners almost unanimously agree that out-of-date zoning codes have made smart growth more difficult and costly to build than traditional, single-use, low-density development.
- To have a chance of meeting the State's 2050 GHG reduction goals, land use requirements must be brought up-to-date before development begins again.

--

Judy Corbett
Executive Director
Local Government Commission
1303 J Street, Suite 250
Sacramento, CA 95814
ph: (916) 448-1198
fax: (916) 448-8246
email: jcorbett@lqc.org
web: www.lqc.org