

Resolution No.
Meeting Date: 5/21/2021

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF POLICIES
SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF SB 743 (2013) IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

WHEREAS, the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District is tasked with protecting and improving the air quality for San Diegans; and

WHEREAS, SB 743 updated the way that transportation impacts of new development projects are analyzed under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") in order to promote the State's goals of reducing greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions and traffic-related air pollution, promoting the development of a multimodal transportation system, and providing clean, efficient access to destinations by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the new metric to analyze potential project impacts; and

WHEREAS, implementation of SB 743 began throughout the State of California including in the County of San Diego in 2020, when the San Diego County Board of Supervisors adopted its "Transportation Study Guide;" and

WHEREAS, environmental groups have filed a lawsuit against the County of San Diego, alleging its adoption of the "Transportation Study Guide" violated CEQA requirements. The case and the court's decision are still pending; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego's implementation of SB 743 per its Transportation Study Guide does not promote the goals of SB 743 and will continue to negatively impact San Diego communities of concern which already bear disproportionate health impacts which results in heightened rates of illness such as asthma in children and cancer in adults; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to consider the combined costs of housing and transportation to families along with air pollution and environmental harm when developing land use policies; and

WHEREAS, there are recent pressures to maintain limits to the implementation of proper accounting for the VMT caused by new housing infrastructure projects in rural areas of San Diego County, using the justification that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color ("BIPOC") have experienced suppressed generational wealth via roadblocks to home ownership; and

WHEREAS, institutional proponents of these red herring housing equity arguments have historically promoted sprawl housing projects which are predominantly purchased by wealthy, non-BIPOC first time home buyers; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no tangible policy solutions offered to implement greater access to first time home purchase for disproportionately impacted BIPOC communities associated with the argument that SB 743 is a financial barrier; and

WHEREAS, 100% affordable housing projects are currently exempt from CEQA under

specified conditions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District Governing Board hereby:

1. Supports San Diego County strictly adhering to the State's Office of Planning and Research, Technical Advisory regarding SB 743 implementation, specifically on how to calculate "Average Daily Trips" and ensuring its "Transportation Study Guide" does the same; and
2. Supports the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and County staff in identifying data-driven, attainable solutions to provide pathways to first time home ownership for BIPOC; and
3. Refutes disingenuous arguments that offer frontline communities a false choice between promises of generational wealth and poor health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District Governing Board, within its mission to *improve air quality to protect public health and the environment*, stands ready and willing to partner with the community in developing solutions that provide affordable, healthy housing for those most in need.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
Paula Forbis, Senior Deputy County Counsel