

April 17, 2008

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors  
700 H Street, Suite 2450  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Sycamore Village Housing Development, Orangevale

Dear Members of the Board,

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (District) is writing to express support for the proposed Sycamore Village Housing Development. It is the District's position that the project's density, design, and location are consistent with smart growth principles that will reduce the per capita VMT associated with future residents. The project is also consistent with goals of the SACOG Regional Blueprint and the County's draft 2030 General Plan (General Plan), which designates the area as part of the Greenback Lane mixed-use corridor<sup>1</sup>. The project presents Sacramento County Board of Supervisors with an opportunity to approve a project that puts into practice essential policies from the General Plan.

Recognizing that 47 percent of our/the region's ozone precursor emissions come from on-road mobile sources<sup>2</sup>, it is essential that new residential units incorporate design features that reduce the use of personal motor vehicles and corresponding emissions. The design of Sycamore Village features housing in a variety of sizes, laid out in a compact manner, and situated within an infill area-features that have been linked to a reduction in personal motor vehicle use<sup>3</sup>.

There is a close relationship between land use decisions and air quality. Consequently, California Health and Safety Code Section 40961 directs the District to "represent the citizens of the Sacramento District in influencing the decisions of other public and private agencies whose actions may have an adverse impact on air quality." The Code also states in Section 41015 that in exercising this duty, the District may not infringe upon the authority of local governments to plan or control land use. The District is always cognizant that it is up to the Board of Supervisors to shape the land use policies for the County, but it is our responsibility to attempt to bring air quality considerations to the forefront. These comments are consistent with the County's goal for increased regional coordination<sup>4</sup>, as outlined in Background Topics section of the General Plan.

The District encourages the Board of Supervisors to consider the project's significant potential to benefit regional air quality when it is presented to the Board for approval.

Sincerely,



Joseph Hurley

<sup>1</sup> February 11, 2008 staff report on Sycamore Village, page 13

<sup>2</sup> Sacramento Region 2005 Ozone-Precursor Emissions Inventory, available online at: <http://www.airquality.org/>

<sup>3</sup> Online TDM encyclopedia, Victoria Transportation Institute; <http://www.vtpi.org/tdm/tdm81.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Sacramento County General Plan, Circulation Element, pages 23-24