

August 28, 2020

Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: San Joaquin Council of Governments Sustainable Transportation Equity Project
Implementation (STEP) Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the University of the Pacific, I am pleased to submit this Letter of Support to the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) for its Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) Implementation Grant application.

Facilities

3601 Pacific Avenue
Stockton, CA 95211
Tel 209.946.7615
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The University of the Pacific is a nationally ranked university with three distinct campuses united under one common goal: to educate and prepare the leaders of tomorrow through intensive academic study, experiential learning, and service to the community. The university offers more than 80 undergraduate areas of study in 11 schools and colleges, more than 30 graduate and professional programs and 12 accelerated programs. The university's distinctive Northern California footprint includes its Stockton Campus, widely recognized as one of the most beautiful private university campuses in the West; its San Francisco Campus, home to the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry and graduate programs in health care and technology fields; and the Sacramento Campus, home to the Pacific McGeorge School of Law and graduate programs in health, education, public policy, public administration, data science and organizational behavior. The student population is made up of more than 3,700 undergraduates and more than 2,600 graduate and professional students.

The University of the Pacific is deeply committed to engaging community members and shaping the future of Stockton to address historical disinvestment and support social and economic equity in the broader community. We see a direct connection between the well-documented needs in our community and the project scope outlined in SJCOG's proposal, which aims to address: (1) emissions reduction, especially in areas facing one of the highest rates of pollution across the state; (2) connectivity and accessibility, helping residents meet their first and last mile goals; and (3) quality of life, enhancing the overall area with implementation of clean and sustainable transportation projects.

We are particularly supportive of the bike sharing concept and see a direct connection between this program and the mobility needs of our students. We look forward to further

engaging in the process in hopes of hosting some of the bike sharing activities on the University of the Pacific campus.

The proposed projects fall in line with City of Stockton's ongoing efforts to prioritize transportation projects that reduce travel demand and greenhouse gas emissions.^{1 2} They simultaneously alleviate regional public health concerns in areas facing the highest disinvestment when compared to the rest of the state, through encouraging more active forms of transportation.³ Lastly, these innovative initiatives would align with public input collected by several Stockton community organizations, which called for more shared mobility options such as electric car and bike share systems.⁴

The proposed projects by SJCOG directly address identified and ongoing needs and are a vital step forward in advancing transportation equity and environmental sustainability in one of the state's most disadvantaged communities. Because this effort aligns community needs with local and state goals and resources, the University of the Pacific strongly urges CARB funding of the SJCOG STEP Implementation proposal.

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Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at sgreenwood@pacific.edu or via phone at (209) 946-2423. Thank you for the opportunity to convey our interest and support for this much needed work in Stockton.

Sincerely,

Steve Greenwood

Steve Greenwod
AVP and Chief Facilities Officer
The University of the Pacific

¹ City of Stockton General Plan

² Green Economy Analysis: opportunities for Stockton

³ San Joaquin County Public Health-Community Improvement Plan

⁴ Stockton RISE Sustainable Neighborhood Plan






UOP Letter of Support_STEP

Final Audit Report

2020-08-28

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