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Commissioners
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz CA 95060

Re: Climate Change Information

Dear Commissioners:

The priorities your Commission sets, and the decisions you make, are important not only to the future of transportation in Santa Cruz County, but to a larger future as well. We now have available to us, very extensive scientific research telling us humankind must make substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in order to steer away from climate catastrophe.

In a number of brief comments in person before your Commission, I and others have not yet been successful in convincing you on the ethical importance and the scientific background of this issue. You also recognize, I believe, that your existing primary transportation plans have been jeopardized (and will continue to be) in part due to organized public opposition, with a significant portion of that opposition rooted in climate change concerns.

Might it be time to look further at the facts on climate change, and see if there can be some agreement on what those facts may be?

I propose that you dedicate all (or a good portion) of one or more Transportation Policy Workshops, to this matter. I can offer you an updated slide presentation on climate change, given by Michele Whizin, M.Ed., of the Climate Project. Ms. Whizin is a local science teacher and has an excellent presentation; her presentation can be tailored in length (1/2 hour, bare minimum; 1 hour, much better). She is available for your June 19, 2008 TPW. In addition, in the same session or a separate session, facts on the transportation angle on climate change could be examined.

My continued hope is that you can and will embrace new thinking on this matter, for that is what is most especially needed at this time from leaders such as yourselves. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jack Nelson

cc: George Dondero

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