

## Lockey, Heather@CNRA

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**From:** Santa Ana Active Streets <info@saascoalition.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2018 4:24 PM  
**To:** CEQA Guidelines@CNRA  
**Subject:** CEQA Update, Comments from Santa Ana Community Group

Hello,

My name is Kristopher Fortin, and I'm a board officer with Santa Ana Active Streets coalition. This email I hope finds you well.

I am emailing you to inform you of Santa Ana Active Streets Coalition support of CEQA changes, specifically the addition of VMT in new developments. Santa Ana and Orange County continue to widen its streets, with benchmark policy at our regional transit agency promoting said widenings. This has led a suburbanization of the county and making our roads less walkable and bikeable, and stretching our bus system to the point that whole lines have been cut in large parts of the county. We feel that the inclusion of VMT when analyzing new developments will help to curb our area's greenhouse footprint.

We also wanted to voice our concern for the lack of support for VMT when measuring for transportation projects. As said, street widenings continue to happen in Orange County. They are invasive and short sided as the main impetus for doing them is to keep car traffic flowing. Instead of prioritizing public transit options, or light synchronization as potential solutions, street widening is the knee-jerk solution to these problems. We hope CEQA includes a VMT requirement for transportation projects.

We also support policies that protect communities against gentrification caused by new developments. While analyzing for VMT may lead to more infill developments and high-density projects, we want to make sure that any investment is mindful that the trend of change has often followed areas that have been variable forgotten or demonized. They are called low-income or disadvantaged communities, and they are the ones that suffer the most in the long term when new developments come in. They are often renters, and the increased investment brings higher rents and more evictions. There are no rent control laws in Santa Ana, so renters often have very few tools to try and stay if a landlord wants to profit. If analyzing VMT will spur economic growth by way of new developments, we want to ensure our communities that they will be protected and be allowed to stay and enjoy all the benefits that come with investment.

Our four-year-old organization is made of members from housing, public health, youth development and bicycle professionals. We are a grassroots coalition that aims to get our community members involved to make Santa Ana streets safer and healthier for those that walk and bike. These issues impact our community greatly and we hope that the Office of the Governor heeds these remarks.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 626-766-1252.

Best.

Kristopher Fortin  
Secretary  
[Santa Ana Active Streets](#)

