

March 31, 2009

Mayor Randy Shelton and Councilmembers  
City of Galt  
380 Civic Drive  
Galt, CA 95632

### City of Galt 2030 General Plan

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) commends the City of Galt for bringing forth a general plan that will assist the SMAQMD in improving air quality for the citizens of Galt and the region. City staff and the Planning Commission have been amenable to suggestions from the SMAQMD throughout the general plan update process and we are grateful for the cooperation.

There is one remaining policy the SMAQMD requests you modify before adopting the 2030 General Plan. **Policy COS-5.10, New Development Operational Emissions Reduction**, states the City "should require all new development projects which have the potential to result in significant operational air quality impacts (exceeding SMAQMD adopted thresholds), to incorporate design or operational features that result in a reduction in emissions equal to 15 percent from the level that would be produced by an unmitigated project, based upon feasible mitigation under CEQA."

SMAQMD requests the City of Galt change this policy from "should" to "shall" require. The use of shall for this policy would show the City of Galt's commitment to its citizens and the region to reduce emissions from land development projects. Since our region does not meet the federal and state health based standards for ozone and particulate matter, emission reductions from land development projects are a critical component to realize and maintain healthy air.

The City of Galt would not be alone in providing this commitment to the region. The County of Sacramento's 1993 General Plan (AQ-15), Elk Grove's 2003 General Plan (CAQ-30), Rancho Cordova's 2006 General Plan (AQ.1.2.3) and the City of Sacramento's 2009 General Plan (ER 6.1.2) commit to this very same policy using the terms "shall" and "require."

You may also note the City of Galt is committing through policy to coordinate with the SMAQMD on review of development projects (COS-5.6), to require developers to implement construction mitigation measures (COS-5.11), and to enforce construction and operational mitigation measures (COS-5.9). Requiring operational mitigation in COS-5.10 would provide consistency within the 2030 General Plan.

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I appreciate your consideration of this request and your continued support of the SMAQMD's mission to achieve clean air and protect public health and the environment. Please contact me at (916) 874-4803 or Larry Robinson of my staff at (916) 874-4816 if you would like additional information or need clarification.

Sincerely,



Larry Greene  
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

cc: Curt Campion, City of Galt Community Development Director  
Sandra Kiriou, City of Galt Principal Planner  
Mike McKeever, SACOG  
Larry Robinson, SMAQMD

*SMAQMD Tracking # SAC200400168k*