



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

### AGENDA ITEM

**DATE:** January 13, 2021

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

#### **SUBJECT**

**FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FUTURE: ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE BOLD CLIMATE ACTION AT THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

We need to take bold steps to address climate change in San Diego County. Climate change is already impacting our communities, and disproportionately affects those who have contributed the least to our collective problem, furthering climate injustice.

San Diego County needs to do our part. The 2011 General Plan included the development of a Climate Action Plan as mitigation for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the build-out of the General Plan. Now, almost a decade later, the County still lacks a Climate Action Plan and other regional strategies to address climate justice, climate resilience, mitigation, and adaptation. County staff have begun the environmental review to create a new Climate Action Plan, but this board letter serves to identify and prioritize those climate action objectives we expect.

To achieve bold climate action, we are asking the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a Climate Action Plan that meets and exceeds state mandates and guides our region toward Zero Carbon. The Climate Action Plan will be comprehensive and legally enforceable, use updated data and modeling, and will not rely on the purchase of carbon offsets to meet emission reduction targets. It will be shaped by community input and center environmental justice.

This will just be the first of many actions that support a Framework for Our Future to tackle climate change in San Diego County.

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHAIRMAN NATHAN FLETCHER & SUPERVISOR TERRA LAWSON-REMER**

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

**SUBJECT:** FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FUTURE: ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE BOLD CLIMATE ACTION AT THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

1. Develop a Climate Action Plan for the County of San Diego that is comprehensive and legally enforceable, does not rely on the purchase of carbon offsets to meet emission reduction targets, uses updated data and modeling, emphasizing environmental justice and equity, is shaped by community input, and will achieve at a minimum Senate Bill 32 greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 40% below the 1990 level by 2030 and establish actions to meet a goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2045 (in line with Executive Order B-55-18).
2. Conduct stakeholder engagement, hold public hearings, and undertake environmental review.
3. Report back to the Board bi-monthly with progress.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

N/A

**BACKGROUND**

We need to take bold steps to address climate change in San Diego County.

Scientists agree that we now have less than ten years to make deep cuts to greenhouse gas emissions in order to avert the worst effects of climate change. But this timeline masks the true necessity to reduce emissions today. Climate change is already impacting communities and disproportionately affects those nations and communities who have contributed the least to our collective problem, furthering climate injustice.

San Diego County needs to do our part. The 2011 General Plan included the development of a Climate Action Plan as mitigation for emissions associated with the build-out of the General Plan. Now, almost a decade later, the County still lacks a Climate Action Plan. It is time to get this right and to aggressively adopt strategies foundational to our region. This represents an opportunity to ensure that climate justice is the centering force for this Climate Action Plan and subsequent strategies.

County staff is beginning a new draft of a Climate Action Plan. In this new Plan, we should not just meet the minimum requirements that are needed for California Environmental Quality Act compliance. We need to align with statewide and national efforts to achieve net-zero emissions no later than 2045. We need to cut emissions drastically over the next decade to meet Senate Bill 32 targets of a 40% cut in emissions below 1990 levels by 2030. Achieving these long-term goals should align with an effort to invest in our communities most impacted by climate change.

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CLIMATE ACTION AT THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

We should lay out a pathway to 100% clean energy, not just 90% that was in the previous Climate Action Plan. We should not rely on carbon offsets to meet our obligations but rather scale up the ambition of our mitigation measures. We should ensure that our communities of concern are prioritized in the Plan and that stakeholder voices are heard through this process. We should look at land use patterns to reduce vehicle miles traveled and support housing infill. Adaptation and resilience should be included, rather than just climate mitigation.

To achieve bold climate action, we are asking the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a Climate Action Plan that can address climate change and its impacts in San Diego County. It will go above and beyond state requirements, be legally enforceable and comprehensive, use updated data and modeling, and will not rely on the purchase of carbon offsets to meet emission reduction targets. It will be shaped by community input and center environmental justice.

The steps included in this board letter are part of a Framework For Our Future, and will ensure that the County takes meaningful steps to address climate change and put environmental justice at the heart of strategies undertaken by the County.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today’s proposed action to create and allocate responsibilities to the Advisory Committee supports the Sustainable Environments Strategic Initiative in the County of San Diego’s 202-2025 Strategic Plan by addressing the risks posed by climate change, particularly for our communities of concern.

Respectfully submitted,



NATHAN FLETCHER  
Chairman, Fourth District



TERRA LAWSON-REMER  
Supervisor, Third District

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

N/A

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**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:**  Yes  No

**WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED**

Yes  No

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**

N/A

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**

N/A

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**

N/A

**MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:**

N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):**

N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Districts 4 and 3, Board of Supervisors

**OTHER CONCURRENCE(S):** N/A

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