



County of San Diego

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May 13, 2024

TO: Supervisor Nora Vargas, Chairwoman
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice Chair
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe
Supervisor Jim Desmond

FROM: Vince Nicoletti, Director
Planning & Development Services

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE PROGRESS REPORT: 2024 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROPOSED ADOPTION PROCESS

Overview

On January 13, 2021 (5), the San Diego County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) approved policy guidelines to guide the development of a Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (Supplemental EIR) that would establish actions to meet a net zero emissions reduction goal by 2045. The CAP is a comprehensive planning document that demonstrates specific steps the County will take to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that contribute to climate change. The County's CAP is a required mitigation measure for GHG emissions associated with existing and new development anticipated to occur under the County's 2011 General Plan, which guides growth and development in the unincorporated areas of the county.

The CAP outlines measures and actions that the County will take to reduce GHG emissions generated from activities within unincorporated areas and emissions generated by County facilities and operational activities throughout the region to reach 2030 and 2045 reduction targets. With a CAP in place, new discretionary development projects that are consistent with the CAP and the 2011 General Plan, as amended, are eligible for streamlined analysis of GHG emissions under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff's key accomplishments on the CAP since the last progress report on September 11, 2023, include the release of a Draft CAP and Draft Supplemental EIR on October 26, 2023, and stakeholder engagement during the 71-day public review period that ended on January 5, 2024.

Staff have made three presentations to the Board and provided four progress reports since the CAP Update was initiated in late 2020. On July 14, 2021 (2), October 20, 2021 (3), and August 31, 2022 (6), staff presented the approach for engaging diverse stakeholders and prioritizing equity and received direction to develop two programs and

staffing, outreach, and budget efficiency. To view the Draft CAP and Draft SEIR, visit Engage San Diego County (engage.sandiegocounty.gov/hub-page/climate-action-plan).

Public Review of Draft CAP and Draft Supplemental EIR

The Draft CAP and Draft SEIR were released for an extended (71-day) public review period from October 26, 2023, through January 5th, 2024. Throughout this phase of the project, staff remained committed to a community-centered outreach approach and conducted a workshop to walk through the draft documents and process for submitting comments, held five in-person office hours hosted at County libraries in each district throughout in the unincorporated area, and participated in 25 community events and meetings to meet with stakeholders and answer questions. In addition, staff continued to reach out to stakeholders virtually through more than 350 tailored emails, reached more than 24,000 listserv recipients who automatically received notifications on the draft documents, and posted 29 social media posts through the County Communications Office. The public review website received over 2,000 visits during the public review period and staff received 53 comment letters on the Draft CAP and Draft Supplemental EIR. Staff are currently working on incorporating comments into revised documents in preparation for CAP adoption in fall 2024.

Upcoming Project Activities at a Glance

The next steps in the CAP Update process include developing a Draft Final CAP and Draft Final Supplemental EIR and releasing supplemental implementation information including an implementation cost analysis and an Equity Framework. The Equity Framework is a guide for County departments on how to achieve equitable outcomes in CAP implementation. Staff anticipates presenting the project to the Planning Commission in the Summer of 2024 and to the Board in the Fall of 2024. At these public hearings, staff will recommend that the Board adopt the Draft Final CAP and certify the Draft Final Supplemental EIR. Although direction on the SGAs is not required to adopt the CAP, the Board will have the option to provide direction on the SGAs. The Board may also or alternatively provide SGA-related land use direction through the Sustainable Land Use Framework, an effort that will return to the Board in Summer 2024.

There are many ways to stay involved in the CAP Update. For more information on the project, interested persons are encouraged to visit the project website (sandiegocounty.gov/sustainability) to subscribe to notifications about upcoming outreach events and to see project materials, including summaries of public outreach workshops or follow our progress on social media: [Facebook](#), [X](#), or [Instagram](#).

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (619) 993-0042 or via email at Vince.Nicoletti@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vince Nicoletti', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

VINCE NICOLETTI, Interim Director
Planning & Development Services

Cc: Dahvia Lynch, Interim Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Land Use and
Environment Group
Andrew Potter, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors