



November 10, 2021

Mayor and City Council
San Diego City Hall
2020 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Climate Action Campaign Mid-Year FY 2022 Budget Priorities Memo

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,

Climate Action Campaign is a non-profit organization based in San Diego and Orange County with a simple mission: stop the climate crisis through effective policy action.

We are pleased by recent reports of a surge in hotel occupancy and sales taxes that have helped stabilize the FY 2022 budget. The City is now in a unique position to make key investments in equitable climate policy at a time when climate science tells us we must dramatically cut emissions and achieve a zero carbon economy. We urge you to address our economic, public health, and safety emergency—climate change—by investing in key climate policies as part of the Mid-Year Budget. We offer the following FY 2022 Mid-Year Budget recommendations:

Implementation Plan with Associated Costs and Funding Sources for the CAP Update

While we celebrate the City’s commitment to a CAP that aligns with the urgency of the crisis, we are concerned that without detailed specifics around implementation and funding, the CAP 2.0 will suffer the same fate of the 2015 CAP, which has largely gone unimplemented and underfunded.

In order to plan for success for CAP 2.0, the City should fund and adopt Recommendation #5 of the 2021 CAP Performance Audit, which states: “Once CAP 2.0 is developed, Sustainability should develop an implementation plan, including an estimate of associated costs, information on funding sources, and identification of funding gaps. Sustainability should consider seeking assistance, such as from the Department of Finance, Department of Performance and Analytics, or a consultant, if necessary.”

Due to the urgency of the climate crisis and the fact that the City is behind on its legal commitments to reduce emissions as mitigation for continued project development, we urge the City **to** fund the Implementation Plan in the Mid-Year Budget **and to** approve the plan within six months of adopting the CAP Update.

More specifically, we recommend the Implementation Plan include:

- Detailed associated cost estimates for each measure and strategy.
- Specific funding/financing sources for each measure and strategy, including local, state, federal, non-governmental and private sector opportunities.
- Clearly identify implementation funding gaps and challenges for the City to prioritize and problem solve.
- A strong commitment to prioritizing Communities of Concern, as identified in the City's Climate Equity Index, and Climate Equity Fund projects and programs.

Estimated Cost: \$300,000

Council District(s) Impacted: All

Implementation Plan with Associated Costs and Funding Sources for the Climate Resilient SD Plan

While we applaud the City's plan to form an adaptation working group to coordinate on climate adaptation implementation efforts, and we appreciate the City's ongoing collaboration with community-based organizations to shape the resiliency plan, we are also concerned and disappointed that the Climate Resilient SD Plan is not in fact a plan, but a framework that lacks the specificity necessary to implement projects and programs to protect San Diegans from the harmful effects of climate change.

In order to plan for success for the Climate Resilient SD Plan, the City should fund and develop an implementation plan, including a precise estimate of associated costs for each proposed strategy, information on funding/financing sources, and identification of funding gaps, similar to the recommendations for the CAP Update above.

Estimated Cost: \$300,000

Council District(s) Impacted: All

Procedural Equity

We thank the City for collaborating with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to conduct outreach on the CAP Update in our most vulnerable communities. We think this is a critical step to advancing procedural equity not only for the Climate Action Plan, but for other City projects and plans. To ensure success, the City should aim to create authentic partnerships between the CBOs, communities, and the City that is collaborative, transparent, and communicative.

At a high level, we recommend the City dedicate funds to the following points of action to ensure procedural equity:

- Continue collaborations with CBOs to ensure robust outreach to Communities of Concern in all stages of the adoption of the CAP and Resiliency Plan process so the City can incorporate community insights into project objectives and outcomes. This involves ensuring that feedback is considered, responded to, and meaningfully integrated into all stages of the CAP.
- Compensate community members for their time to encourage and make possible continuous participation in decision-making processes.
- Implement education initiatives to build capacity and knowledge about climate impacts and possible solutions.

Estimated Cost: \$350,000

Council District(s) Impacted: All

Mobility Action Plan (MAP) 2.0

Transportation accounts for more greenhouse gas emissions than any other sector. Accordingly, the 2015 CAP called for 50% of commutes in Transit Priority Areas to be taken by bike, walk, and transit by 2035. However, annual monitoring shows that the City has made little progress towards these mode shift targets, which are key to the CAP's overall emissions reductions.

The CAP update proposes even more aggressive mode shift targets. We urge the City to fully fund and finish MAP 2.0, to provide the needed roadmap to achieve the CAP's legally-binding mode shift targets. MAP 2.0 should demonstrate through mode shift modelling (similar to the Downtown Mobility Plan) how the City's proposed network of sustainable transportation projects will close the gap between SANDAG's 2021 Regional Plan and the CAP's requirements for mode shift. MAP 2.0 should include specific projects, costs, and implementation timelines. See our latest report—[Missing the Mark](#)—for further analysis.

Estimated Cost: \$500,000

Council District(s) Impacted: All

Conclusion

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations for the FY 22 Mid-Year Budget. We look forward to partnering with you on these important initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maleeka Marsden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Maleeka Marsden
Co-Director of Policy
Climate Action Campaign