



Partnership for the
Advancement of
New Americans



ClimatePlan



IBEW569



Honorable Chairwoman Nora Vargas, Board of Directors and Staff
San Diego Association of Governments
401 B St #800
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Time to Create a Regional Climate Readiness Table to Secure

Dear SANDAG Chairwoman Nora Vargas, Board of Directors and Staff,

Climate Action Campaign and our coalition partners believe that all local entities deserve a successful pathway to secure once-in-a-lifetime climate and infrastructure dollars through federal and state climate funds.

These historic resources enable local governments to implement their Climate Action Plans, slash GHGs, protect public health, achieve climate justice, create high road jobs, and transform our region into a clean energy economy.

But, success will only happen if we organize and create a broad coalition of the willing to successfully identify and apply for these resources smartly and strategically. Regional coordination and collaboration is key.

We stand together to call for the creation of a diverse and equitable Regional Climate Readiness Table at SANDAG where local governments, private business, frontline communities and community-based organizations can work in partnership to attract more state and federal funding for regional projects that further climate resilience and create a more healthy environment for generations to come.

Everyone deserves clean air, a zero carbon future, and equitable implementation of neighborhood climate projects, such as:

- safe active transportation networks
- homes and schools free of dangerous methane pollution
- local solar and storage systems
- expanded tree canopies and white roofs/streets
- affordable housing near jobs
- pollution-free heat pumps for air conditioning and heating
- climate resilience centers that offer cool zones to help burdened communities reduce and eliminate heat related health issues

We can help make these projects and programs a reality throughout the San Diego region.

We know that we can do this because we have seen very successful regional collaboration in other parts of California, and we ask that we follow the lead of other regions and create or re-appropriate space within SANDAG to work in concert and less in silos. The three examples listed below, have maximized their potential for attracting limited funding to implement their regional-scale climate adaptation and resilience projects.

- Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability (LARC)
- Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC)
- Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative (CRCRC)

Currently, there is no coordinated, multi-stakeholder effort within the San Diego region to secure this funding, or even a joint approach by multiple sub-areas, to successfully draw in implementation dollars, despite state and federal officials and guidelines emphasizing the need to see collaboration before awarding funds.

Critical regional climate mitigation and climate resilience projects addressing everything from sea level rise to building electrification to extreme heat are at stake.

SANDAG's Regional Planning Committee could be a natural fit for the type of regional collaboration we need; however, it does not currently have the type of governance structure and participation necessary to ensure we are as competitive as LARC, BARC, and CRCRC have been in attracting state and federal funds. Without this specific type of regional coordination, it continues to be difficult for our region to win highly competitive state and federal funding.

We need quick and comprehensive regional coordination to immediately pursue competitive climate funding. Doing so helps local jurisdictions and agencies successfully collaborate on regional-scale projects. A Regional Climate Readiness Table will allow for better coordination between various agencies and jurisdictions to advance regional projects that create climate justice and climate resilience in the San Diego region.

We ask you to voice your support for SANDAG to create a Regional Climate Readiness Table.

We look forward to hearing you champion regional collaboration and help our region successfully compete for unprecedented quantities of federal and state funding to modernize our infrastructure and implement much needed projects and programs here at home.

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