



March 7, 2022

Chair LaCava and Environment Committee
San Diego City Hall
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92102
[Via Email](#)

RE: Recommendations for the Climate Action Implementation Plan

Chair LaCava, Vice Chair von Wilpert and members Campbell and Campillo,

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

We are supportive of the City adopting a Climate Action Implementation Plan (CAIP), and hopeful that this step will lead to significant uptick in the deployment of policies outlined in the City's newly adopted 2022 Climate Action Plan (CAP). It is clear that addressing the climate crisis is critically urgent, and that the effects of the climate crisis are having the most immediate and greatest impact on communities of concern.

Historic Opportunity - Federal and State Climate Funding

The message from the federal government through historic investments in climate outlined in the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is clear. There are only two choices for regions throughout the United States: lean into the transition to the clean energy economy of the future, or be left behind. Governor Newsom's state budget commitment of over \$50 billion for climate projects in California implies a similar directive.

In both cases, funding will be competitive, and any region that fails to show its commitment and ability to adopt and implement serious policies that can result in provable GHG mitigation, increased air quality, and improvements to public health will lose out, and communities in those regions will suffer. As residents of the eighth largest city in the country, and the second largest in

the state, the opportunity is great, and missing it would be an unconscionable failure for San Diego.

Aspiration to Take a National Leadership Role - 2022 CAP Goals

The City's 2022 CAP outlines an ambitious path to net zero emissions by 2035. Getting there will take an unprecedented amount of effort, community will, political bravery, and capital investment. The rewards for these commitments will improve the quality of life for all San Diegans for generations to come. This can only happen if our City leads our region in showing how ready we are to attract and deploy the funds made available by the federal and state commitments outlined above. We must show a detailed roadmap, with benchmarks and clearly defined costs to prove that we are indeed ready to effectively manage these investments. When applying for federal and state support, we cannot ask to fund yet another plan. It is time to move to action.

As such, we are optimistic that the CAIP includes a commitment to bring an all electric ordinance for new development to Council within the next few months. This is a step that nearly 100 other cities have already taken. The inclusion of a commitment to bring a completed draft of a Master Mobility Plan to Council before the end of fiscal year 2023 is also encouraging. However, these policies are among the fundamentals for CAPs.

Areas for Improvement - Timelines, Benchmarks, Reporting Transparency

The ambitious parts of our 2022 CAP are going to be difficult and expensive, and they will require the most dedication to detail and rigor. Retrofitting 90% of existing buildings to be all electric is a world-leading commitment. Inducing demand for walking, biking, and transit use to 50% through smart land use decisions would be an absolute paradigm shift, and inspirational across the country. These elements of the CAIP currently lack the level of detail and commitment to transparent reporting on progress necessary to attract the kind of federal and state investment needed to make them reality.

We need to do better. If our City can move quickly to show national leadership on policy implementation outlined in the CAP, economic development in the region will benefit greatly as we attract private investment and increased tourism to our region. Communities will benefit through safer, walkable, bikeable neighborhoods; reliable, convenient, clean, and safe transit options; all-electric buildings powered by renewable energy, free from dangerous methane gas leaks that cause asthma and heart disease.

The future in San Diego can be bright. The leadership of this committee is a key factor in whether that future is made manifest. We must hold ourselves to the highest standards and commit to best-in-class implementation, transparency in reporting progress, and unwavering dedication to building the clean green economy of the future. Communities throughout San Diego are counting on us to get this right.

As a community-based organization, we look forward to working with the City Council and the Mayor's office to ensure that our implementation is as good as our plan, and that San Diego finally takes the lead to move into action mode.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mikey Knab". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke and a large loop.

Mikey Knab

Director of Policy
Climate Action Campaign