



September 13, 2022

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

Via Email

Re: Climate Action Campaign FY 2024 Budget Priorities Memo

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,

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

Efficient public spending is critical to improving residents' quality of life while achieving our zero-carbon targets. Governor Newsom's Climate Package, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), all include significant funding opportunities to build green, sustainable, and resilient communities.

We hope that the City will take advantage of this once-in-a-generation opportunity to fund the goals established in the Zero Carbon Climate Action Plan (CAP) and achieve climate justice. The following are the key areas of focus that we propose for FY24:

Funding Implementation of the CAP

To implement the CAP the City will need to increase the Sustainability and Mobility (SuMo) Department's capacity. We provide the following recommendations to do so:

Increase Sustainability and Mobility Department Funding for CAP Implementation

We recommend that the City allocate funds to hire a senior level Program Manager and provide resources to lead and accelerate CAP Strategy 1 *Decarbonization of the Built Environment*. Additionally, the City should hire a grant writer to seek state, federal and private grants to meet the SuMo Department needs.

Estimated Cost: \$300,000

Council District(s) Impacted: All

Building Decarbonization

Building decarbonization is key to accelerate San Diego's and California's long term climate goals. We urge the city to take the following steps to accelerate this goal:

Funding and Implementation of the MEIP and ZEMBOP

We urge the City to fully fund the implementation of the Municipal Energy Implementation Plan (MEIP) and Zero Emission Municipal Building Operations Plan (ZEMBOP), to decarbonize all City facilities. Funding can be directed to ensure Asset Managing Departments have necessary resources to develop and implement Fossil Fuel Elimination Plans and Fleet Charging Plans identified in ZEMBOP.

Estimated Cost: Unknown

Council District(s) Impacted: All

Building Decarbonization Roadmap Funding

To keep on track with decarbonization goals, we ask the City to allocate funding for outreach on existing building retrofits through the Building Decarbonization Roadmap. Community engagement is critical for the success of retrofitting existing buildings throughout the City and appropriate funds must be allocated accordingly. Funds should be directed to hire additional staff to develop and implement a plan for community retrofits.

Estimated Cost: Unknown

Council District(s) Impacted: All

Equitable Neighborhood Development

To help advance equitable neighborhood development and achieve our zero-carbon goals, the City must prioritize the following items:

Equitable Blueprint SD and CPU Outreach

The Blueprint SD framework must create more efficient and equitable CPUs with specific modeshift targets that align with CAP *Measures 3.1* and *3.2*, which call for a 50% modeshift target for biking, walking, and transit by 2035. More specifically, we recommend the FY24 budget allocates funds to:

- Hire a grant writer for the Planning Department that specializes in grants related to Blueprint SD goals and *Measure 3.1 Safe and Enjoyable Routes for Pedestrians and Cyclists* and *Measure 3.2 Increase Safe, Convenient, and Enjoyable Transit Use*
- Hire 2 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) CPU Outreach staffers that will lead meaningful and equitable CPU outreach, ensuring that specific modeshift data is shared with communities at the beginning of the CPU process.

Estimated Cost: \$300,000

Council District(s) Impacted: All

Climate Equity Fund

To ensure equitable infrastructure investments, we ask the City to increase the Climate Equity Fund budget to \$10,000,000 in FY24. The CEF should be utilized to fund projects in Communities of Concern including the construction of Beyer Park and the Cypress Drive Cultural Corridor in San Ysidro and the Chollas Creek Trail in Barrio Logan.

Estimated Cost: \$10,000,000

Council District(s) Impacted: 4, 8, 9

Cost of Service Study for City-Provided Trash Service

The City should allocate funds for a cost of service study for city-provided trash service. A “pay-as-you-throw” program would help the City achieve its zero waste goals, and the opportunity that could be presented through repeal of the People’s Ordinance should not be ignored. Details on cost are outlined in the Independent Budget Analyst [report](#) 22-23 from August 18, 2022.

Estimated Cost: \$1,000,000

Council District(s) Impacted: All

World Class Transportation

Not only do public transportation and bike infrastructure help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but they also contribute to a higher quality of life by bringing communities together, reducing traffic, and increasing healthy physical activity.

Mobility Master Plan

The City must provide more complete bus stops with shade and protected bike lanes that intersect with public transportation to encourage more San Diegans to be less car-dependent (see CAP Measure 3.1 *Safe and Enjoyable Routes for Pedestrians and Cyclists*). To accelerate the construction of this much-needed infrastructure, we urge the City to allocate funding to complete the Mobility Master Plan (MMP) by December 2023. In last year’s budget, \$350,000 was allocated for this purpose, though the total cost had been estimated at \$500,000. Without knowing whether that initial \$350,000 was spent, we are requesting the full amount again this year, to ensure that this critical plan is completed as soon as possible.

Estimated Cost: \$500,000

Council District(s) Impacted: All

Updated Bicycle Master Plan

The City’s Bicycle Master Plan has not been updated since 2013, when the safest, Class IV classification of bikeways was not used. We recommend that the City fund and complete an

updated bicycle master plan to put San Diego on the right track toward its CAP mobility goals.

Estimated Cost: \$500,000

Council District(s) Impacted: All

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations for the FY 24 Budget. We look forward to partnering with you on these important initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bmmfa.", written in a cursive style.

Brenda Garcia Millan
Research and Policy Analyst
Climate Action Campaign