



May 9, 2022

Mayor Sotelo-Solis and Council
National City
1243 National City Blvd.
National City, CA 91950

Re: Climate Action Campaign recommendations for National City's Climate Action Plan Update

Honorable Mayor Sotelo-Solis and City Councilmembers,

Climate Action Campaign (CAC) is a San Diego and Orange County based nonprofit organization with a simple mission: stop the climate crisis through effective policy action. We have played an active role in the development of every Climate Action Plan (CAP) in the region since 2015.

This letter summarizes four high level recommendations in preparation for the release of National City's CAP Update. Once the draft is released for public review, we will follow up with a letter that includes our specific comments.

Commit to Zero Carbon by 2045 or Sooner in Line With State Targets

As a long-range planning document, we recommend that National City's CAP planning horizon extend until at least 2045, and align with Executive Order B-55-18 to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible and no later than 2045.

Earlier this year, the UN IPCC released an assessment warning of the dire effects of climate inaction and failing global leadership, which has now placed nearly half of humankind in very vulnerable climate situations, prompting the UN Chief to declare fossil fuels as a "dead end for our planet, for humanity, and yes, for economies". To achieve the transition to a zero carbon future, we need all of our cities to establish a deep decarbonization roadmap today.

Adopt an Implementation and Funding Plan with Associated Cost

National City must adopt an implementation and funding plan with associated costs that aligns with their CAP. The implementation plan should include detailed specific costs, timelines, agencies, departments, and funding strategies for all decarbonization measures within the CAP. To obtain the state and federal funds necessary to implement the CAP, we recommend that National City complete this comprehensive plan as soon as possible.

Set Overall Mode Share Targets for Biking, Walking, and Transit

The largest source of emissions in our region is from the transportation sector. In order to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the CAP must commit to specific mode share targets for biking, walking and transit. We recommend the CAP include those targets and build in measures and strategies to achieve them, such as optimizing transit options in partnership with MTS and SANDAG, and other efforts to create bikeable, walkable neighborhoods. We look forward to sharing more information and collaborating on this effort as the CAP update continues.

Center and Strengthen Equity

Climate change hits hardest in communities of concern that are disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution and face health and socioeconomic challenges. California's Environmental Health Screening Tool, CalEnviroScreen 3.0, identifies communities most vulnerable to pollution and climate impacts so that state and local governments can direct attention and resources toward the pursuit of economic, environmental, and racial justice in those places.

We recommend that each measure within the CAP center equity and uplift communities of concern. To do this, the development and implementation of CAP measures must take place in consultation with a variety of stakeholders and organizations that represent and are a part of these communities. An equitable implementation plan should also address patterns of historical underinvestment and proactively plan for long-term and sustainable economic and quality of life opportunities.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on the development of this critically important document. National City's CAP is an opportunity to develop a comprehensive climate strategy and implementation plan that meets the scale of the challenge the climate crisis poses and helps bring clean air, safe streets, affordable clean energy, and economic benefits to families and businesses in National City.

Sincerely,

Madison Coleman

Madison Coleman
Policy Advocate
Climate Action Campaign