



July 18, 2017

Mayor Blakespear, Deputy Mayor Kranz, Councilmembers Boerner Horvath, Mosca and Muir & Climate Action Plan Program Administrator Najera
505 S. Vulcan Ave.
Encinitas CA, 92024
Via email: climateaction@encinitasca.gov

RE: Recommendations on Encinitas Draft Climate Action Plan

Climate Action Campaign is an environmental nonprofit organization with a simple mission: to stop climate change and protect our quality of life. We are committed to helping cities in San Diego pass and implement successful Climate Action Plans that achieve 100% clean energy and protect the people and places we love for generations to come. We are pleased to submit our comments on the Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP).

First, we thank you for developing a legally binding Climate Action Plan that is CEQA qualified to allow for streamlined environmental review as well as accountability and transparency in assessing the CAP's implementation success. We're pleased to see the CAP greenhouse gas (GHG) goals extend to 2030 and align with state GHG targets: 1990 GHG levels by 2020 (AB 32) and 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 (EO B-30-15 and SB32). These elements ensure Encinitas is compliant with state goals that are based on the best available climate science.

In recent years, we have seen a huge momentum shift in the region toward proactive planning for climate change, and many cities in San Diego County and across the country have made great strides to join the modern era of climate action planning. For example, 26 American cities, including Del Mar, San Diego, Solana Beach, San Francisco, and San Jose, have committed to 100% clean energy. In San Diego County, Solana Beach has blazed the trail for Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), six cities have legally binding CAPs, and San Diego and Carlsbad have ambitious Mode Shift Goals of 50% and 32%, respectively, using alternative transportation by 2035. Due to the leadership of cities, there is legislation at the state by Senate Pro Tem Kevin de León to transition all of California to 100% renewable energy by 2045.

We wish to see Encinitas keep in stride with the progress of cities across the region, as well as the state. To that end, we offer the following recommendations to strengthen the Draft CAP.

Renewable Energy

Recommendation 1: Include a 100% Clean Energy Goal

The CAPs of the cities of San Diego, Del Mar, and Solana Beach commit to 100% clean energy by the year 2035. In addition, as noted previously, California Senate Leader Kevin de León has



introduced legislation to transition the entire state to 100% clean energy by 2045. We recommend updating Strategy 2 to read “Achieve 100% Renewables by 2030.”

By embracing a 100% clean energy future, Encinitas joins the ranks of major cities around the globe pushing towards 100% clean energy. Locally, such a commitment would signal a region-wide shift to renewables. We’re pleased to see Community Choice Aggregation included as a tool to increase renewable energy supply and reduce emissions at the local level. Furthermore, we commend Encinitas for engaging with Del Mar, Carlsbad, and Oceanside to coordinate a joint CCA feasibility study. However, it is important to identify and quantify how strategies beyond CCA will help power Encinitas with 100% renewable energy by 2030. Such strategies include quantification of clean energy provided from rooftop solar and municipal energy projects.

Clean and Efficient Transportation

Recommendation 2: Clarify Mode Share Targets for Walking, Biking, and Transit

Currently, the city actions listed under Goal 4.1: Reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled, of Strategy 4: Clean and Efficient Transportation, include implementing a local shuttle system and an incomplete city-wide Active Transportation Plan. Although we have been told by city staff the Active Transportation Plan won’t be completed in time be included and quantified in the CAP, we recommend the city update the CAP upon its completion to incorporate its reduction potential.

Furthermore, we recommend clarifying the performance metrics in Goal 4.1 to 1) state the percent to which the alternative commute rate (combined transit, walking, and biking) will increase, and 2) specify mode share targets that would enable the city to meet its overall alternative transportation targets.

Planning in a way that is inclusive and welcoming for your community members who may rely on alternative transportation will enhance quality of life in Encinitas, mitigate GHG emissions, and improve air quality. Articulating mode share goals clearly allows the development of aligned strategies to ensure goals are met. Mode share goals also help municipalities plan and budget to facilitate a shift away from car-centric growth, promote multi-modal commutes, as well as advocate for assistance for better transit infrastructure. Finally, they can also help communities plan for anticipated or desired health outcomes. Planning for all transportation modes should be paired with planning for a variety of types of housing, so the community can be diverse, inclusive, and more reflective of the wider swath of the American Community.

Social Equity, Smart Growth & Jobs

Recommendation 3: Include Social Equity & Jobs Section

Sustainability is often described as a “[three legged stool](#)”, where economic prosperity, ecological integrity, and social equity are the pillars required to achieve a community that is able



to sustain itself. Too often, social equity is a critical component that is forgotten. We recommend the Draft CAP incorporate a social equity section to achieve a sustainable future that is equitable.

Climate Action Campaign encourages the city to consider the extensive transit that runs through Encinitas, connecting people to job centers from San Diego to Los Angeles. Encinitas is a critical node in this transit corridor that is likely to expand to include double tracking and high-speed rail. To allow and sustain transit ridership, there needs to be adequate housing, including affordable housing, within a short distance of stations. We encourage Encinitas to make the high quality of life the city affords its current residents more accessible to people of diverse socio-economic strata by increasing the affordable housing stock and locating those homes near jobs and transit. We recommend the CAP include measures to support infill and transit-oriented development that supports high-density housing while reflecting the community's history and character. Otherwise, Encinitas is destined to be a city where car-centric transportation prevails and transit merely passes through instead of connecting people to jobs in the region.

Lastly, we recommend including language to ensure climate action-related developments created by city programs include prevailing wages and work with apprenticeship programs to ensure workers from around the region benefit equitably from projects in built in Encinitas. The city can also encourage local businesses working on climate action-related projects and programs to give advanced notice of job opportunities to Encinitas community members through local community-based organizations, educational institutions, and media outlets.

Implementation & Monitoring

Recommendation 4: Include Detailed Timeline and Cost Analysis for Each Strategy

We are pleased with the first iteration of the Draft CAP's implementation and monitoring plan as it includes a designated implementation coordinator and a high-level implementation strategy matrix with a general timeline and cost estimate for each city action. We recommend including a more detailed timeline with a system to prioritize implementation of each strategy, as well as a cost analysis for for each strategy. This level of detail is critical for public accountability of the CAP's success and will ensure the city sets sufficient budgeting and staffing levels at the appropriate time. Finally, we are pleased with the status of the CAP monitoring report plan and we recommend the city publish a CAP implementation progress report annually and a GHG inventory at least every three years. We applaud Encinitas for creating an online portal for the CAP, and we recommend using this platform to publish progress in order to allow the public to gauge progress made on CAP strategies, determine if the city is on track to meet GHG targets, and assess if adjustments are needed.



Conclusion

Once again, we applaud the City of Encinitas for its work on the Draft CAP. We believe the development of this CAP creates an exciting opportunity to show leadership, bolster the resiliency of residents and infrastructure against the impacts of climate change, and further enhance residents' quality of life.

In this modern era of climate action planning, cities across the region are moving aggressively toward 100% Clean Energy, CCA, significant commuter mode shift goals, and environmental justice. We hope to see Encinitas emerge as a regional climate leader and strongly urge you to incorporate the recommendations enumerated above.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this critically important planning document.

Sincerely,

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