



October 14, 2015

Mayor Jack Dale and Councilmembers
City of Santee
Melanie Kush, Development Services
Santee City Council
10601 Magnolia Avenue
Santee, CA 92071

RE: Item 6D CAP - “Sustainable Santee Action Plan Update and Selection of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Measures”

Dear Mayor Dale, Councilmembers and Ms. Kush,

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 comments on the proposed list of GHG reduction measures for your Sustainable Santee Action Plan, which would meet 2020 and 2035 State-mandated reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to account for the growth expected by your General Plan and allow for the streamlining of the environmental review of future projects.

Overall Recommendations:

- All reduction measures qualifying for CEQA streamlining and mitigation for your General Plan GHG emissions must be *measurable and enforceable*
- All reduction measures qualifying for CEQA streamlining and mitigation for your General Plan GHG emissions must have *detailed timelines for implementation*

- All reduction measures qualifying for CEQA streamlining and mitigation for your General Plan GHG emissions must be *monitored and reported annually* to assess success and allow for course correction as needed

Insufficient Information Available to Prioritize GHG Reduction Measures:

At this point, the Council has not been given sufficient information to prioritize the list of proposed GHG reduction measures. Every Climate Action Plan is essentially a math equation that takes the baseline GHG emission levels and subtracts emissions per each quantified reduction strategy to reach necessary targets.

In this case, there is no information about the baseline GHG levels, the GHG reductions needed to hit that target or how much each strategy will help you reach that target. Without that information, it is nearly impossible for the Council or public to provide feedback to your staff about what measures to include in your Action Plan.

Nonetheless, as other cities have been through this process and identified which strategies offer the biggest value for both climate reductions and economic and public health benefits, we recommend the following goals and strategies:

- 100% clean electricity by 2035 using Community Choice Energy (given that electricity is your biggest driver of GHG emissions, it will take fully greening the electrical grid to reach 2030 GHG reduction targets)
- Mandatory solar installations on all new development (a good strategy, but may not get you significant GHG reductions because of limited new development)
- Quantified increase in non-car transportation use, such as biking, walking and public transportation in transit priority areas (with the necessary implementation measures to ensure a measurable shift in mode-share use)
- Quantified increase in use of electric vehicles (including City fleet and in providing incentives to increase private use of EVs)
- Quantified reduction in Vehicle-Miles-Traveled (with adoption of Smart Growth development requirements)
- Adoption of a Energy Conservation Ordinance for commercial (and maybe residential) buildings at time of sale

- Adoption of Zero Waste Goal and implementation program
- Adoption of quantified water use reduction goals and strategies

Conclusion:

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this critically important planning document. According to the most recently available data, there is no greater threat to the future of humanity than climate change. It is incumbent on us to protect our kids and grandkids from the adverse impacts of a much hotter, drier planet.

We look forward to working with you to continue to improve this draft plan, and again urge you to get more detailed data to help you make it can pass legal muster and protect public health and safety of all Santee residents.

Sincerely,



Nicole Capretz
Executive Director