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City of San Diego Releases Update to Landmark Climate Action Plan

DRAFT VERSION OF UPDATED PLAN INCLUDES CITY'S AIM TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 2035

SAN DIEGO – In a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and making San Diego a more sustainable, healthy and economically dynamic city, today the City of San Diego released its <u>updated Climate Action Plan (CAP) draft</u> seeking feedback from people who live and work in our region.

This new draft CAP builds upon the 2015 Climate Action Plan and sets an ambitious goal to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2035. It details six strategies that set a foundation for achieving this goal while advancing climate equity in historically underserved neighborhoods, supporting healthier buildings and lifestyles, strengthening economic security and creating high quality jobs, improving natural and urban spaces and providing more choices for how we travel throughout the City.

"This update will take the original Climate Action Plan that I authored for our city in 2015 to the next level with a commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2035," said Mayor Todd Gloria. "Meeting this goal requires accelerated, bold action to fulfill the vision of our residents for a brighter future and demonstrate responsible leadership to our peers around the world. This update is all about reflecting the needs and ambitions of our residents, so I urge everyone to get involved and provide feedback on the draft plan."

Mayor Gloria is currently participating in COP26, the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference that brings parties together from across the globe to exchange information and strategies to advance international climate goals. Mayor Gloria has been invited to speak on panels detailing how subnational governments are addressing the climate crisis and highlight San Diego's leadership on climate change, which includes the City's Climate Action Plan.

The CAP update is part of Mayor Gloria's <u>Our Climate, Our Future</u> initiative, which includes other evolving City plans and programs to address the climate crisis.

Residents can read the draft, provide comments and interact with others giving input by visiting the <u>City's CAP webpage</u>. Feedback can also be submitted to <u>Sustainability@sandiego.gov</u>. The plan is being translated into Spanish and will be made available when translation is complete.

Additionally, City staff will hold public forums on <u>Thursday</u>, <u>Dec. 2</u>, <u>from 6 to 7:30 p.m.</u> and <u>Saturday</u>, <u>Dec. 4</u>, <u>from 9 to 10:30 a.m.</u> Interpretation services will be available in Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Chinese. They will introduce the plan, listen to public feedback and share how to provide even more extensive input on the document through the use of online tools.

"The latest science shows the window to avert catastrophic climate impacts is rapidly closing," said Alyssa Muto, the City's Sustainability and Mobility Department Director. "We are proud to release a plan that will allow us to take meaningful action and hold ourselves accountable. But first, public input is crucial to making sure we have accurately addressed the priorities, concerns and hope for the future of our City."

Alongside this major CAP update, the City will be taking steps to improve implementation and accountability. For example, all staff reports for items heard by City Council will now describe their alignment with the City's climate goals. The CAP will be followed by a more detailed Implementation Plan and department-level work plans to ensure the city is fully aligned toward the CAP targets.

The City has seen progress on climate action in recent years. Since 2010, San Diego has decreased GHG emissions by 25%. Jobs that support climate action grew 20.3% from 2010 to 2019, adding 24,156 new jobs.

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