

July 1, 2025

August 12, 2025 updates

RE: City of San Diego Climate Action Plan Request for Information

Dear Shelby Buso (Chief Sustainability Officer) and Andrew Martin (Climate Action Program Manager),

In alignment with the City of San Diego Climate Advisory Board's role to support the City in 'implementing the Climate Action Plan and attaining the City's stated goals in these areas', the Board respectfully requests that you provide relevant information and be prepared to address questions regarding the City's obligations and progress related to the Climate Action Plan at the upcoming Climate Advisory Board meeting scheduled for August 2025.

The notes in red are based on information provided by staff (Andrew Martin, CAP manager) at the 7/1/25 Climate Advisory Board meeting. Please provide any corrections.

The Board would like to hear an update from you on the following topics:

Reporting and Implementation

1. Is the intent that the City will utilize the CAP Dashboard as a replacement moving forward for the CAP Implementation Plan? **No, some items may overlap, but the two are complementary**
 - a. Is there any information pertaining to the City's efforts and the tracking of the CAP Implementation that can be found in places other than the Dashboard? **Yes - other places include budget reports, CAP Annual Report, city CAP website**
 - b. The CAP Implementation Plan included resource/funding needs for each action, where is the current status on this provided? **Not yet answered. Can this information be added to the CAP Dashboard and be updated annually?**
 - c. Does the City intend to update the 2023 CAP Implementation Plan? When? **The CAP Implementation Plan updates are in early stages now, actively working on it, and it will be updated by the end of 2025 calendar year.**
 - d. **The indicator for tracking all-electric new building construction was recently removed from the CAP Dashboard Indicator page, and had never been reported. What is the plan for making this data available?**
2. Is the City planning to provide 2024 GHG inventory by Spring 2025? **No, it is always one year further back, simply don't have 2024 data, e.g. in 2025 the city will provide the 2023 data. The 2023 GHG Inventory was wrapped up last week and is on the CAP Dashboard, and will be included in the 2025 CAP Annual Report.**
 - a. If not, what data from what source is not available in time? **Not yet answered.**
 - i. **What steps did staff take to understand the sources of the delay and attempt to improve the timeline?**
 - b. What is the target date for 2024 GHG inventory? **Not yet answered.**

- i. Do you have any data yet for 2024? Can you publish parts on CAP Dashboard as it becomes available and notify us?
- 3. When is the City planning to release the annual CAP Report? **In the near term.**
 - a. How is this impacted by the recent CAP Admin Regulation that requires data for the CAP Report from CAP implementing departments by the 3rd quarter of the calendar year for analysis of the preceding year? **Not yet answered.**
- 4. When will you know whether changes to the CAP Implementation Plan are needed in 2025 based on progress towards the 2030 CAP goals? **Already working on CAP Implementation Plan update to be completed by the end of 2025. Will bring up to date, including status/timing.**

Impact of Proposed FY26 Budget Reductions

The 4/29/25 IBA Report 25-11 "IBA Review and Analysis of the Mayor's FY 2026 Proposed Budget" included the following information:

If transfers had not been made, the General Fund Proposed Budget for the Sustainability and Mobility Department would have been \$6.3 million, which is a decrease of \$1.5 million (19.4%) from the FY 2025 Adopted Budget. 8.59 FTEs were eliminated, and the remaining 26.00 FTEs are transferred to various departments, as summarized in the table on the previous page.

Significant Budget Reductions

Discussion of the various budget reductions can be found in the appropriate *Department Review* section. Reductions include:

City Planning:

- (\$562,000) – Mobility Programs
- (\$362,567, 2.00 FTEs) – CAP Positions
- (\$112,000) – Building Decarbonization Planning

Engineering & Capital Projects:

- (\$205,000, 1.00 FTE) – ADA Position

Transportation:

- (\$170,000, 1.00 FTE) – Parking District Position

General Services:

- (\$140,000, 1.00 FTE) – ZEV Projects Position
- (\$50,000) – ZEV Planning

Significant Budget Reductions

(\$562,000) – Mobility Programs

This reduction removes consultant funding for mobility planning efforts and programs. In particular, this reduction will slow implementation of the Mobility Master Plan unless additional funding can be procured.

(\$363,000, 2.00 FTEs) – Climate Action Plan (CAP) Positions

This reduction includes a reduction of a Community Development Specialist 4 (CDS 4) and the Program Manager for Decarbonization. The CDS 4 work will be distributed to existing staff as this position primarily oversaw implementation of the Climate Equity Fund and establishment of the Climate Advisory Board. The Program Manager would have overseen the Decarbonization program as a whole, but this work will also be absorbed by existing staff.

(\$112,000) – Building Decarbonization

This reduction removes consulting support for the City's ongoing building decarbonization programs, including support for the development of Building Performance Standards and other policies. Funding for this program moving forward will require successful grant applications and revenue. Of note, decarbonization of existing buildings had the largest Greenhouse Gas Reduction impact in the latest Climate Action Plan, and work on this effort scored highly through [Council Policy 900-22](#).

5. Will the CAP Implementation Plan be updated in 2025 to account for these reductions to ensure progress towards the 2030 CAP goals? **Not yet answered.**
 - a. Given \$112K removal of BD consultant, what was produced before they were paused?

CAP update status

6. Is the City planning to do a 2027 CAP update? **Yes, this is the timeframe working towards**
 - a. Why is it being updated in that timeframe? **5 year update envisioned by 2022 CAP.**
 - b. How is this different than updating the CAP Implementation Plan based on progress towards the 2022 CAP each year? **CAP Implementation Plan discusses implementation, who is responsible, costs. CAP update will reassess latest GHG emissions, latest trends for population/economic growth, projected**

emissions, update state/federal action impacts – set future baseline, establish new targets, reassess actions.

Discussion was paused at this point, remaining questions were not yet addressed.

7. What resources are needed for the update?
8. What would be the impact of delaying the update by 1 year so that those resources can be allocated towards implementation of the current CAP?
9. How will you determine whether to change the city's current 2035 net-zero target date, and what the new date will be?
10. How will you determine whether to include the equivalent of Strategy 6, which prioritizes focusing on known solutions and allows residual emissions to be addressed in the future?

AB306/AB130

11. Regarding the General Plan exception, when can you share with Climate Advisory Board the City Attorney's analysis on how that impacts the city's ability to address CAP Strategy 1 "Decarbonization of the Built Environment"?

We look forward to supporting the City in achieving its Climate Action Plan goals by having access to this key information needed to track progress.

Written on behalf of the Climate Advisory Board and the Committee on CAP Reporting, Implementation and Budgets