



The City of San Diego

Staff Report

DATE ISSUED: 06/8/2026

TO: City Council

FROM: Council President Joe LaCava

SUBJECT: Resolution affirming the City of San Diego's commitment to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

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Council District(s): Citywide

OVERVIEW:

On February 12, 2026, the Trump Administration finalized the rescission of the EPA's 2009 Endangerment Finding that established that six greenhouse gases (GHG) taken in combination endanger both the public health and the public welfare of current and future generations. The proposed resolution upholds the City's Climate Action Plan goals.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

Approve the resolution affirming the City's commitment to limit greenhouse gas emissions to protect the public health and environment.

DISCUSSION OF ITEM:

On February 12, 2026, the Trump Administration finalized the rescission of the EPA's 2009 Endangerment Finding, the scientific finding that established that current and projected concentrations of six well-mixed greenhouse gases (GHG) threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations, and that emissions from motor vehicles cause and contribute to climate change. The Endangerment Finding was based on more than 200 pages of research and evidence including decades of research done by scientists globally and Supreme Court precedent. The repeal of this finding is expected to increase the country's GHG emissions by 10 percent over the next 30 years, according to the Environmental Defense Fund.

In 2015, the City of San Diego passed its first Climate Action Plan (CAP), committing to cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in half by 2035. The 2022 Climate Action Plan set an even more ambitious goal, committing the City to set net-zero GHG emissions by 2035. The City's Climate Action Plans demonstrate to San Diegans that the City acknowledges the existing and potential impacts of a changing climate and is committed to keeping it in the forefront of decision-making.

When the City Council adopted the 2015 CAP, the intent was to satisfy the General Plan Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) requirement set forth in General Plan Policy CE-A.13 to update what was then the City's Climate Protection Action Plan to be in "compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws." 2015 CAP at 14. The CAP was also intended to meet the requirements set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15183.5, whereby a lead agency may analyze and mitigate the

significant effects of GHG emissions at a programmatic level, such as in a general plan or a separate plan to reduce GHG emissions. 2015 CAP at 15.

California's AB32 (2006) and SB32 (2016) legislation set a state GHG avoidance goal of returning to 1990 emissions levels by 2020, and reducing a further 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. It required the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop a Scoping Plan that lays out California's strategy for meeting these goals, and CARB's 2022 plan laid a path to achieve targets for carbon neutrality no later than 2045, as directed by AB 1279 (2022). 2022 CAP at 16. On March 25, 2020, the San Diego City Council passed [Resolution Number 312891: Declaring a Climate Emergency and the Need for Accelerated Action to Address the Climate Crisis](#). The resolution acknowledges the need for accelerated local action to address the climate crisis and is the foundation for the ambitious net zero goal laid out within the CAP.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in part two of their sixth assessment report (AR6) released in February 2022, sounded the alarm on climate change more urgently than before. The report continues the trend of increasing scientific evidence that climate change is caused by human activity and accelerating at a pace beyond previous predictions. 2022 CAP at 10. Additionally, the effects of climate change, such as poor air quality, extreme heat, and infrastructure degradation, disproportionately impact communities of color and the City's Communities of Concern.

As we face a rapidly worsening climate crisis, the City of San Diego remains committed to reducing municipal and community-wide GHG emissions despite changing federal initiatives and actions.

Fiscal Considerations: N/A

Charter Section 225 Disclosure of Business Interests:
N/A; there is no contract associated with this action.

City Strategic Plan Goal(s)/Objective(s): N/A

Environmental Impact: This activity is not a project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), as it is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical changes in the environment. As such, this activity is not subject to CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(3).

Climate Action Plan Implementation: This action advances Climate Action Plan Strategies 1-6 to achieve a goal of net zero emissions by 2035.

Equal Opportunity Contracting Information (if applicable): N/A

Previous Council and/or Committee Actions: This item was heard at Rules Committee on 4/22/2026 and passed unanimously 5-0.

Key Stakeholders and Community Outreach Efforts:

The Council District 1 office engaged with key environmental stakeholders in advance of committee action.

Victoria Joes

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