



*Climate Resilient SD: Community Engagement Summary*

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## Overall Findings

*Climate Resilient SD* will be the City of San Diego's (City) comprehensive climate adaptation and resiliency plan which will increase local capacity to adapt, recover, and thrive amidst a changing climate. Community engagement is a critical component of this planning effort, and extensive outreach and engagement has been conducted to ensure that this plan speaks to the needs and vision of City residents. This document was prepared to summarize these engagement events and how community feedback received through them has shaped the development of the *Climate Resilient SD* plan.

## High Level Findings

- Participants in the initial Goals and Vision Engagement Tool showed strong levels of support for the draft *Climate Resilient SD* goals, which the City used to develop plan policies and potential adaptation strategies that would support progress towards these goals.
- Community feedback received from participants in the second Adaptation Strategies Engagement Tool showed a strong preference for softer, nature based solutions strategies, which helped the City in its selection of potential draft strategies and shaped the focus on nature based solutions that is now a key element of the plan.
- Feedback received through the community engagement conducted by the City's community-based organization (CBO) partners revealed that residents within the City's Communities of Concern supported an equity focus in climate planning, and strategies to address air quality; environmental and climate education; and increased street trees, parks, and natural spaces. This feedback helped shape the policies and strategies included in the plan, as well as the decision to incorporate Core Benefits, including Social Equity and Natural Resources Protection and Air Quality Improvement, that are associated with the potential adaptation strategies and can help inform strategy selection and prioritization at the time of implementation.
- Participants in the first Preparing for Climate Change Workshop expressed a strong desire for climate change education and collaboration strategies, which helped shape the draft policies and adaptation strategies that are included in the plan. Workshop participants also communicated that strategies should be prioritized not only by their long term effectiveness, but also based on equity prioritization and their potential environmental benefits, which helped shape the Core Benefits that were ultimately included in the plan.
- Community members who participated in the Paper and Sticker Polls at in person community events expressed a strong preference for shaded areas and parks, safe

spaces to walk and bike, and shared their feedback about potential strategies that helped to refine the selection of adaptation strategies included the *Climate Resilient SD* plan.

- Participants in the third Resiliency Engagement Tool also shared important feedback on what would best help them prepare for wildfires and flood impacts in their community, and many participants prioritized having safe spaces to walk or bike in their neighborhood. The strong support for more trees, green spaces, and safe active transportation infrastructure seen in this survey is a theme that was present across engagement responses the City has received for Climate Resilient SD, and all of this feedback has helped refine the selection and prioritization of strategies in the plan.
- Community members who attended the second Climate Resilient San Diego workshop expressed their concerns about how air quality could be negatively affected by wildfires, and how potential projects would be funded. They also expressed strong preferences for increased collaboration and partnerships; greater usage of native plants along with street trees; and continued community engagement. These concerns have been incorporated into the plan's policies and proposed strategies, and have shaped the inclusion of a section of the plan that directly discusses potential funding opportunities.

The valuable feedback received from members of the public has been instrumental in shaping the goals, policies, strategies, and individual focus areas that now comprise *Climate Resilient SD*. However, this plan is also a living document, and continuous community engagement will be critical to ensure that it is implemented in a way that best serves San Diego's communities. The City looks forward to further engagement, and to receiving additional input so that *Climate Resilient SD* can continue meeting the needs of City residents for decades to come.



*Climate Resilient SD: Vision and Goals Engagement Tool Results*

## About the Engagement Tool:

*Climate Resilient SD* will be the City of San Diego's (City) comprehensive climate adaptation and resiliency plan which will increase local capacity to adapt, recover, and thrive amidst a changing climate. Community engagement is a critical component to the planning effort to ensure that the plan speaks to the needs and the vision of the City residents. The Vision and Goals Engagement Tool (Engagement Tool) was created to share foundational information on climate change driven impacts for the City of San Diego and to share the drafted goals of the Climate Resilient SD plan.

The Engagement Tool included an overview of the four primary climate change hazards: wildfire, extreme heat, sea level rise, and flooding/drought. It covered how these hazards will intensify in the future and what potential impacts may be for San Diegans. The tool then presented the drafted goals and asked participants to indicate their level of support for each goal. At the end of the survey, participants were able to share their own experience with the effects of climate change in their community, as well as any ideas they had for how San Diego could adapt to changing climate conditions.

The Engagement Tool went live online on December 21, 2020 and was open to public participation through February 19, 2021. The survey was shared widely on the City's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram); shared directly with local non-profits and community-based organizations working in the climate, environment, and equity space; and distributed through the DSD Insider and City Insider newsletters.

## Participant Demographics:

A total of 607 people participated in the Engagement Tool. Of those participants who chose to provide demographic information, a little less than half (42%) were below 50 years of age, and one third (33%) were age 60 or older (See Figure 1). Of those participants that chose to disclose their race or ethnicity, just over half selected White (56%; See Figure 2). Hispanic/Latino/Spanish and Asian were the two next frequent selections, and together made up 18% of the responses.

Figure 1: Participant Age (total number of responses)

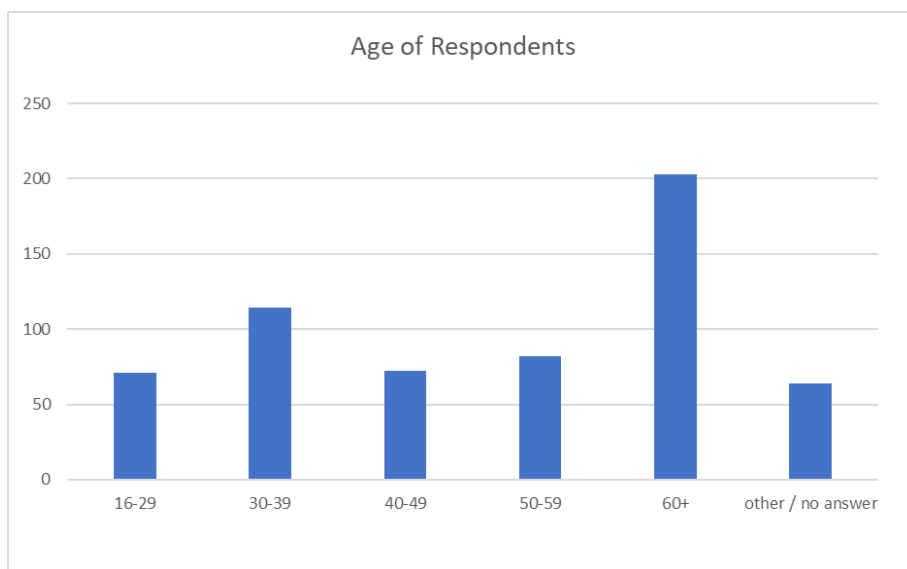
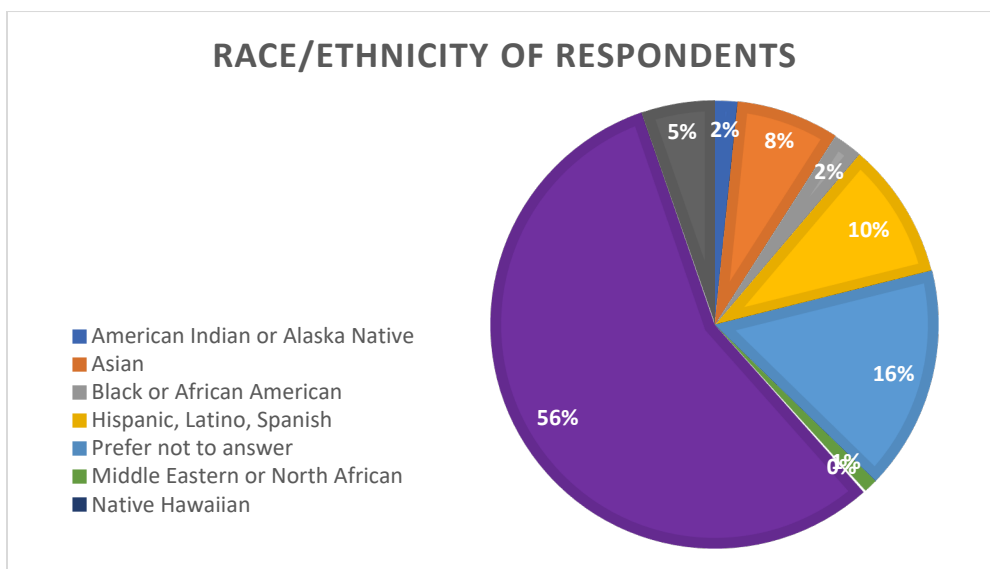


Figure 2: Participant Race/Ethnicity



## Survey Results:

The Engagement Tool sought public feedback on drafted goals for Climate Resilient SD. The following goals were included in the survey for input:

- 1) Enhance the ability of communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate hazards.
- 2) Prioritize the City's Communities of Concern and vulnerable populations.
- 3) Increase green spaces and natural shade within communities.
- 4) Provide safe and easily accessible options to walk, bike, or recreate in your community.
- 5) Foster connections between neighbors.
- 6) Provide easily accessible information on climate change impacts. Provide resources to assist communities in responding to wildfires, flooding, and extreme heat events
- 7) Preserve and protect historic and tribal cultural resources.
- 8) Honor and share traditional knowledge of land management and cultural significance.
- 9) Protect environmental quality, such as clean air and water for everyone.
- 10) Maintain diversity of plants and animals.

In the Engagement Tool, participants were asked to rate their level of support for each of the goals. Overall, most participants expressed strong support for all the Climate Resilient SD goals.

The goals most strongly supported by participants were those related to protection of the environment and access to green spaces. 82% of participants supported Goal 9 to protect environmental quality (with 67% expressing strong support), and 80% of participants supported the Goal 3 to increase green spaces and natural shade within communities (with 60% expressing strong support).

Participants also showed strong support for Goal 1: Enhance the ability of communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate change hazards with 77% of participants supporting (58% expressing strong support). Prioritization of Communities of Concern, Goal 2, also had strong support with 70% supporting (49% strongly supporting).

Even the goals with the least support comparatively, Goal 5: Foster connections between neighbors and Goal 8: Honor and share traditional knowledge of land management and cultural significance, were still supported by over two thirds (67-68%) of participants.

Figure 3: Goal 1, Enhance the ability of communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate hazards.

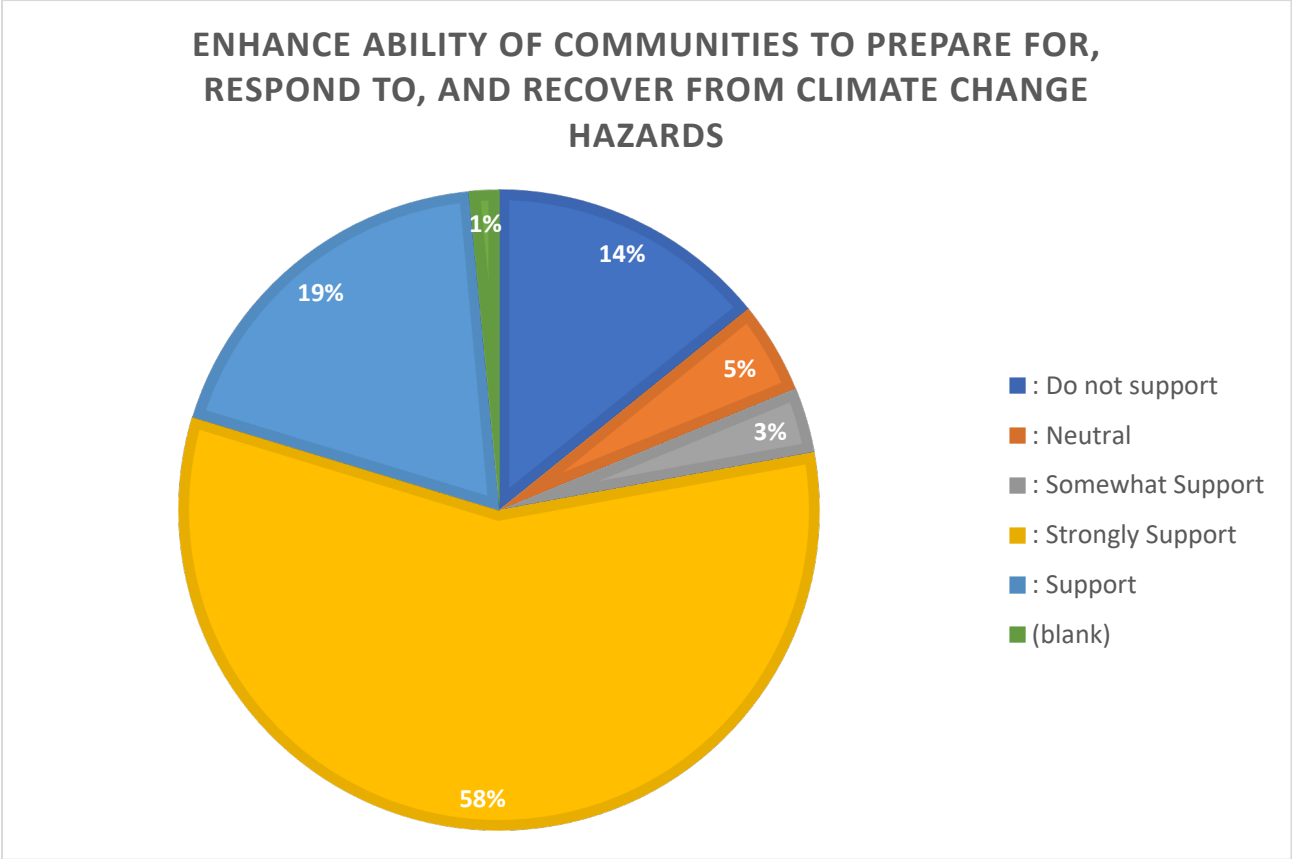


Figure 4: Goal 2, Prioritize the City's Communities of Concern and vulnerable populations.

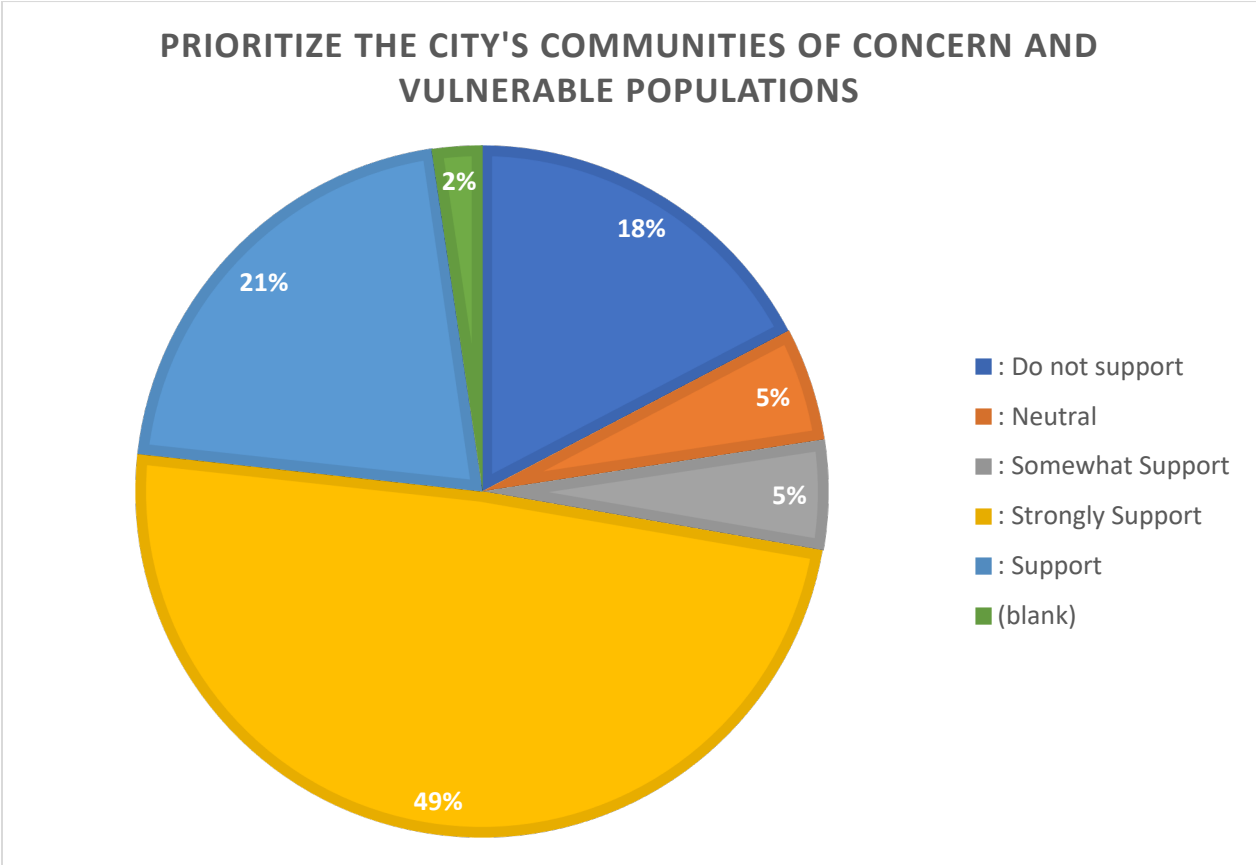


Figure 5: Goal 3, Increase green spaces and natural shade within communities.

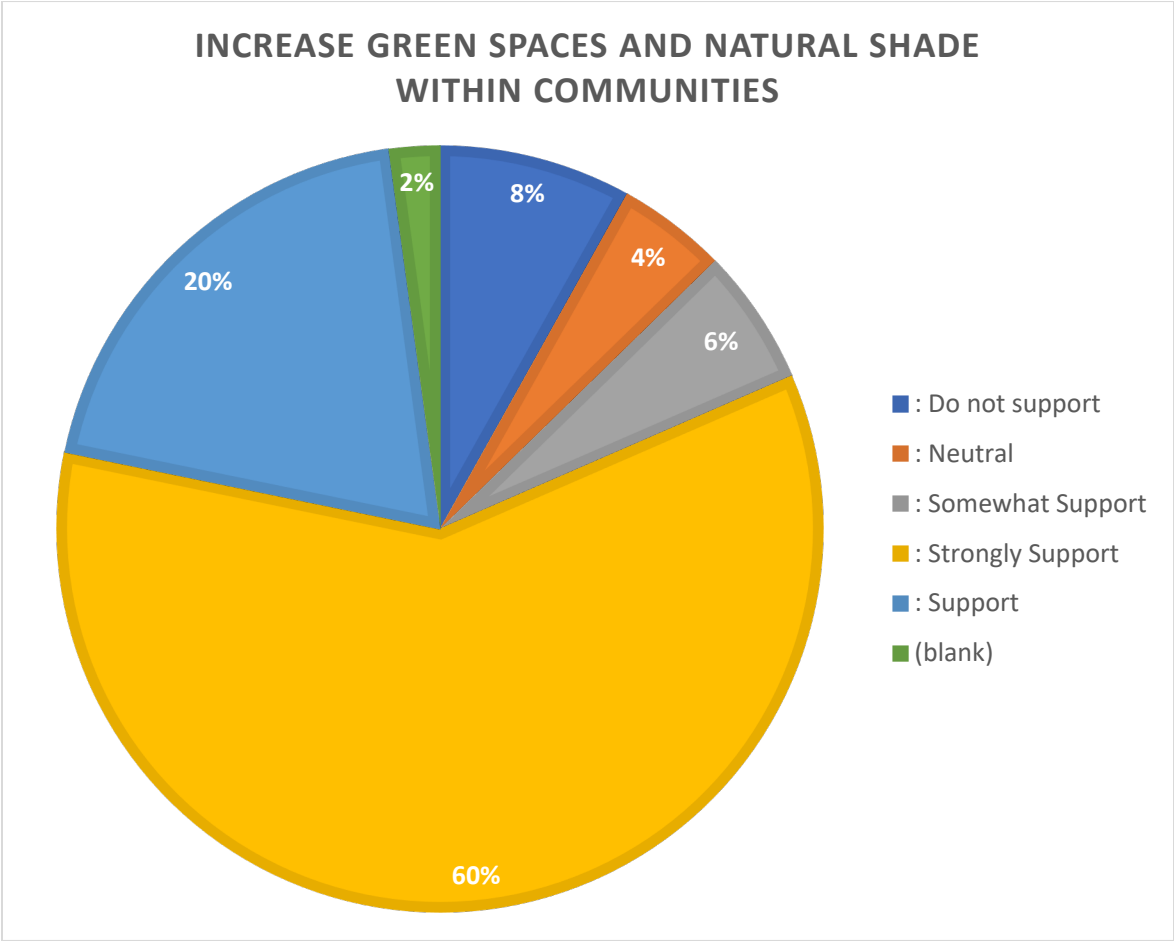


Figure 6; Goal 4: Provide safe and easily accessible options to walk, bike, or recreate in your community.

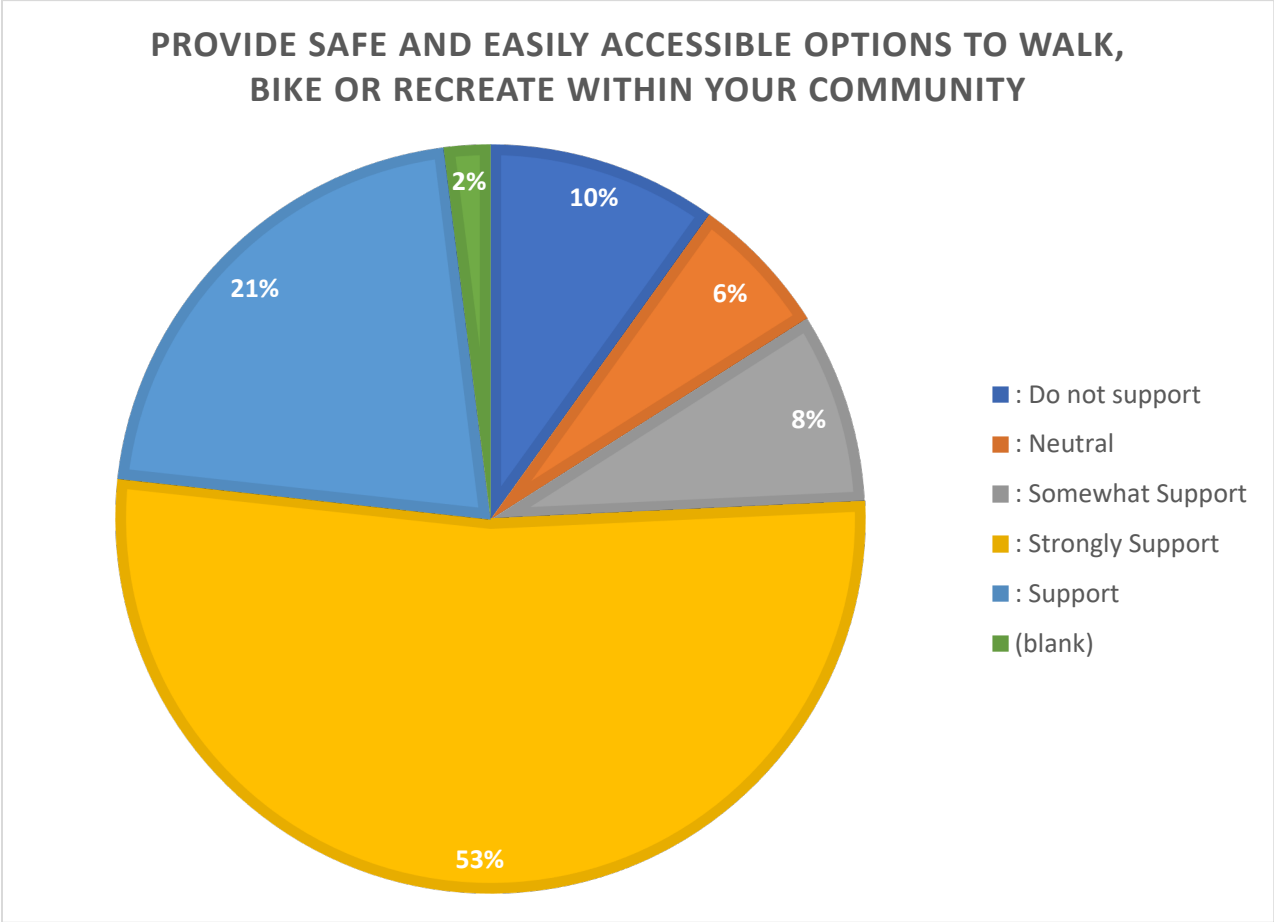
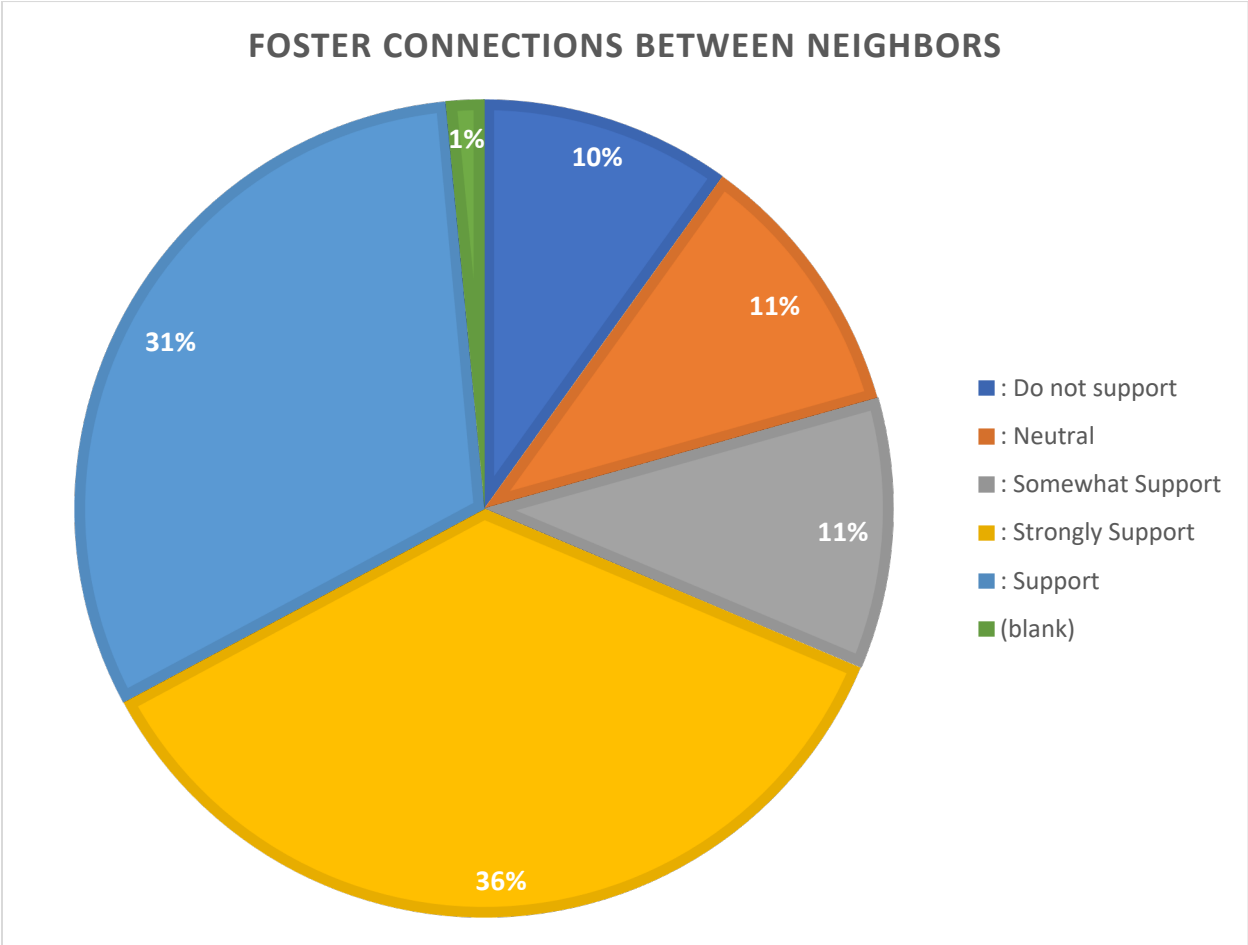
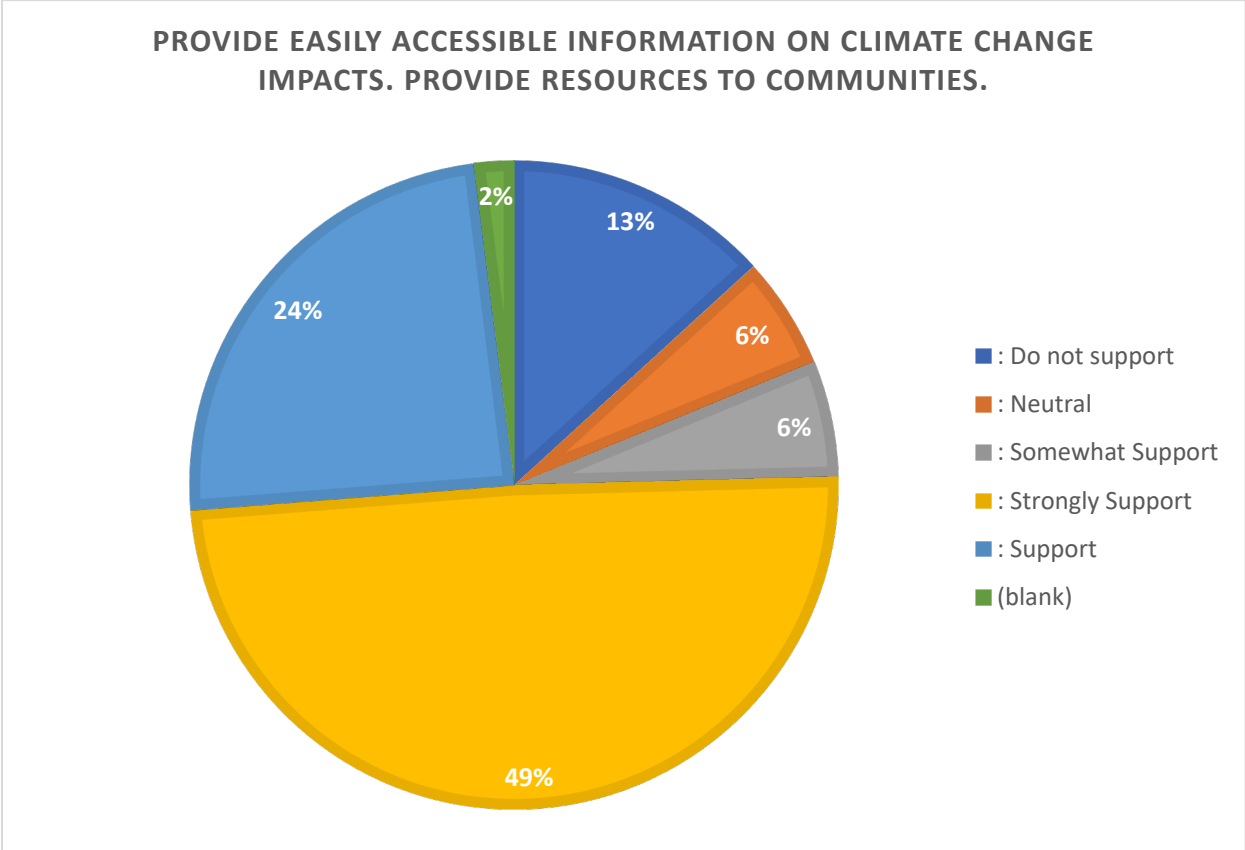


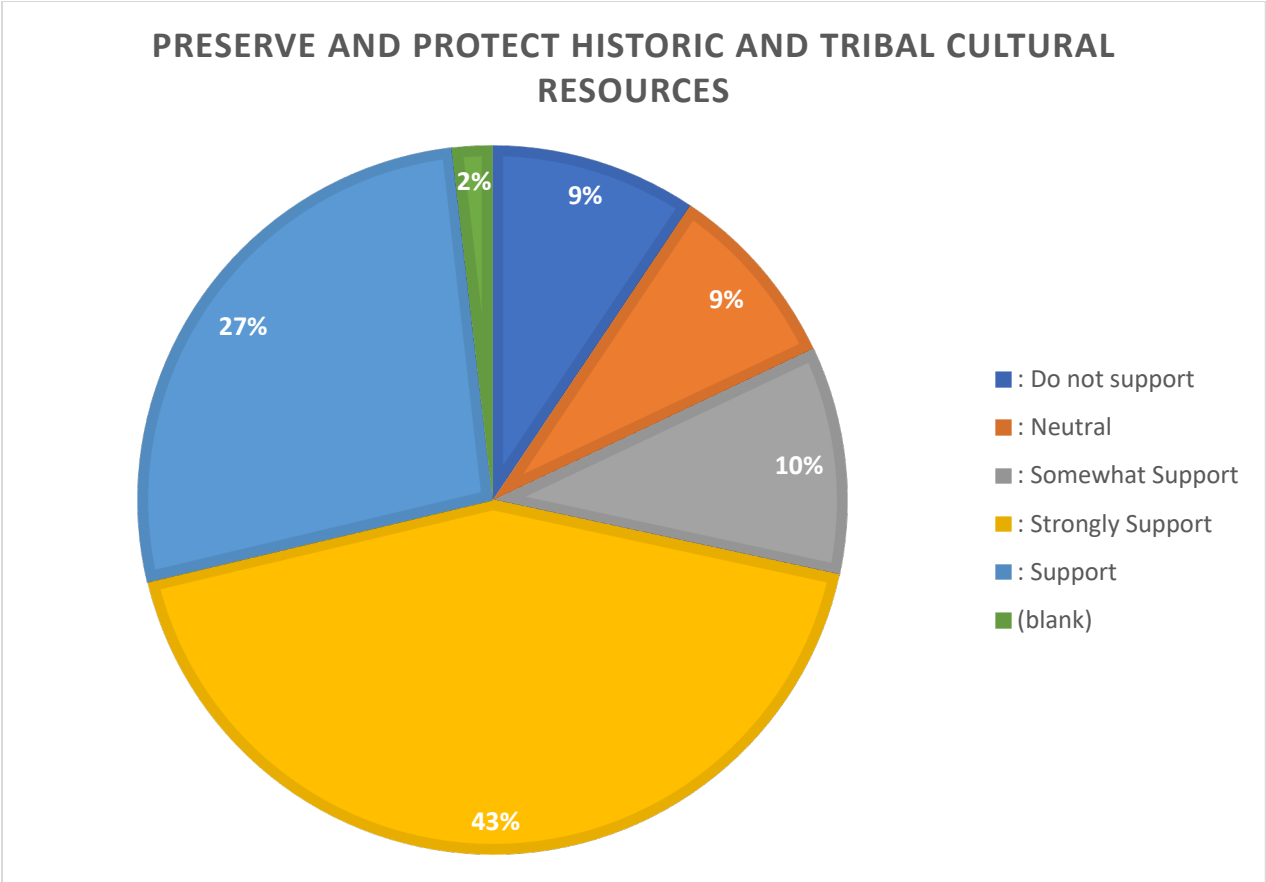
Figure 7: Goal 5: Foster connections between neighbors.



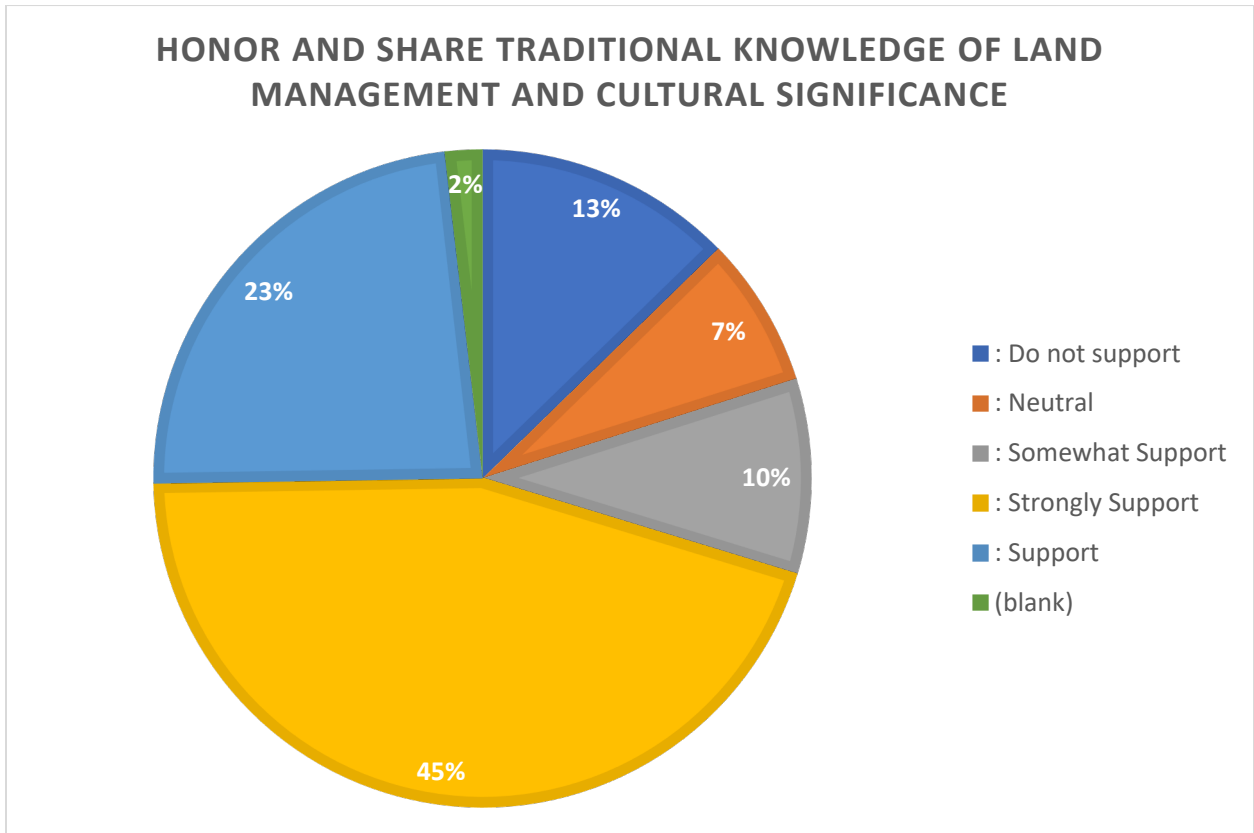
Goal #6: Provide easily accessible information on climate change impacts. Provide resources to assist communities in responding to wildfires, flooding, and extreme heat events.



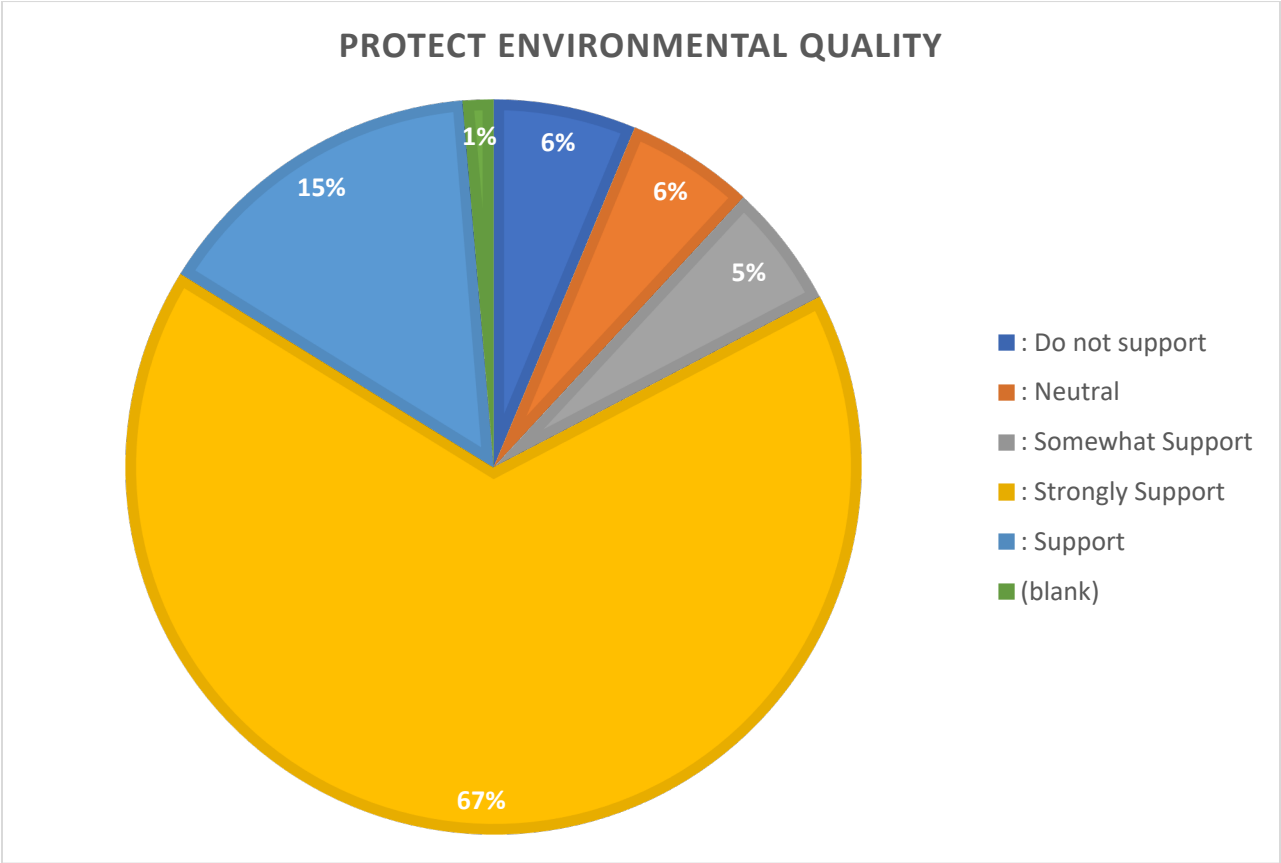
Goal #7: Preserve and protect historic and tribal cultural resources.



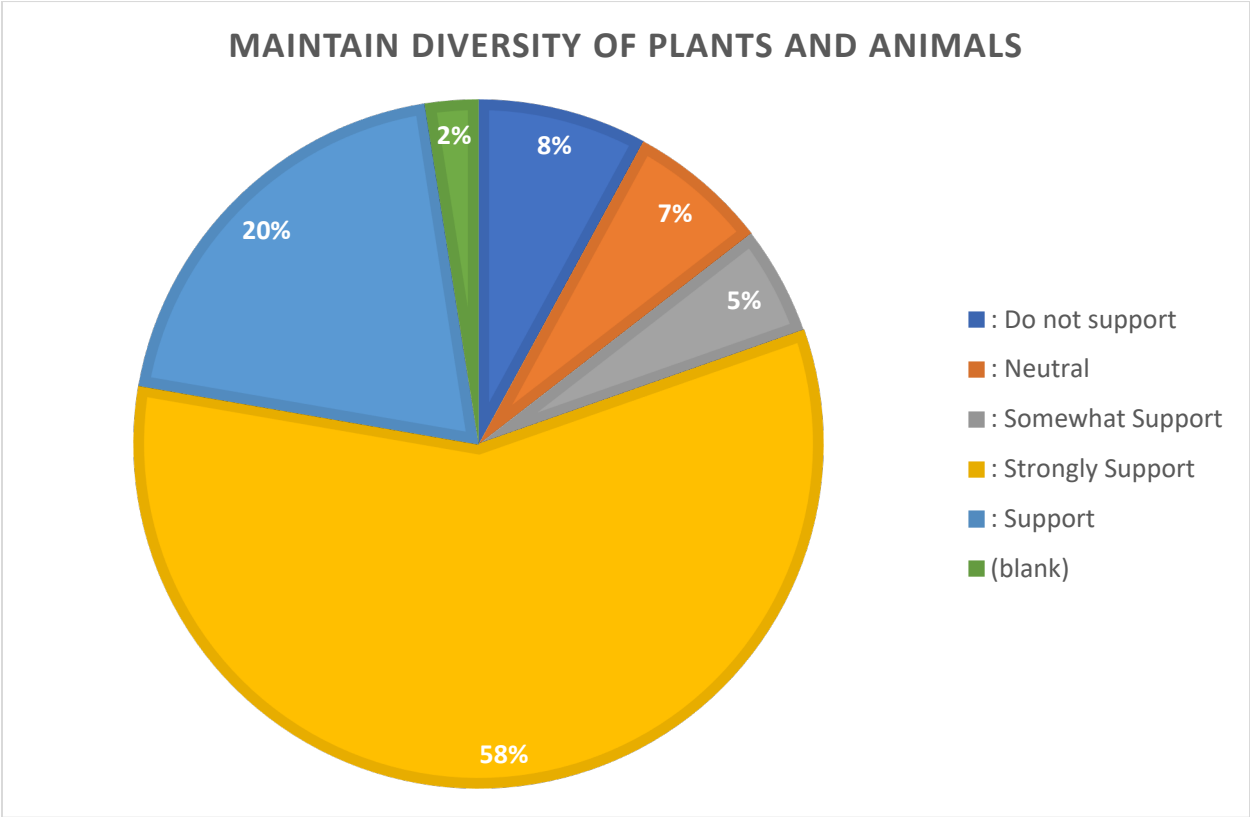
Goal #8: Honor and share traditional knowledge of land management and cultural significance.



Goal #9: Protect environmental quality, such as clean air and water for everyone.



Goal #10: Maintain diversity of plants and animals.



## Open Ended Responses:

Participants in the Engagement Tool were also presented with the following open-ended question prompt: “Please share your experiences with the effects of climate change in your community, and any ideas you have for how San Diego can adapt and thrive in these changing climate conditions.”

In their responses, participants expressed common areas concern about a wide variety of climate related impacts and well as common priority areas for action. Common concerns centered around :

- Increasing number of extremely hot days and their homes not being built for such conditions, either due to lack of insulation or lack of air conditioning.
- Impacts of sea level rises, both causing flooding and as a threat to the beaches
- Increased erosion, due to flooding, or precipitation events following wildfire
- Greater risk of wildfire

Common priority areas included:

- Need to take proactive action
- Need for ecological or nature focused solutions, such as planting more trees or protecting/planting native species
- Need for more awareness and prevention of wildfires
- Better transit and active transportation infrastructure
- More action around carbon sequestration

Here are a few representative examples of the responses that were received:

- “...high heat days are occurring more often and I don't have AC in my apartment, which makes dealing with the heat exhausting and affects my physical and mental well-being.”
- “Our house was damaged in the Cedar Fire. At the time the Cedar Fire was the largest recorded in CA, but with changing climate it has been superseded many times in the last few years, in terms of both lives lost and homes destroyed. This is tragic.”
- “I have seen King Tides bring the ocean right up to our built shoreline. For adaptation, we need living shorelines that are much more cost effective and have many more related benefits than built infrastructure in most situations.”
- “Trees are affordable and amazing ways to cool neighborhoods, implement Climate Action Plans, reduce water and air pollution, and retain stormwater. As we face climate change, summer heat events, and community inequities, we are reminded that trees can be cost-effective public and private investments in all neighborhoods.”

## Findings and Next Steps:

Most people who participated in the Engagement Tool expressed support for all of the draft proposed Climate Resilient SD goals. The strong levels of support for these goals indicates that there was overall support for the vision of a resilient San Diego. The City will use the results of this survey to help inform the planning process of *Climate Resilient SD* and to ensure that strategies are included in the plan which support progress towards all the goals that participants supported.

While this survey did receive participation across a range of race/ethnicities, the representation was not fully reflective of the diversity of the City's population. As 16 percent of the respondents declined to answer, the City is unable to determine the exact representation of respondents. As a priority of the City is to have broad reaching public engagement, the City will be partnering with community-based organizations for the second survey to work towards getting a more diverse and representative participant pool. Additionally, for each question on the goals, not all participants responded (8-15 respondents left blank for each question). This is a small percentage of the overall participants, but important to note.

The feedback received through the open-ended question helped to identify common areas of concern, common priorities, and ideas for future action. This feedback helped shape the suite of adaptation strategies as the City moves forward in developing *Climate Resilient SD*.



*Climate Resilient SD: Adaptation Strategies Engagement Tool Results*

## About the Survey:

*Climate Resilient SD* will be the City of San Diego's (City) comprehensive climate adaptation and resiliency plan which will increase local capacity to adapt, recover, and thrive amidst a changing climate. Community engagement is a critical component to the planning effort to ensure that the plan speaks to the needs and the vision of the City residents. The Adaptation Strategies Engagement Tool (Engagement Tool) was created to share potential adaptation strategy options and receive feedback about the strategies from members of the public.

The Engagement Tool included a short summary of projected changes for four primary climate change hazards: sea level rise, flooding, extreme heat, and wildfire. The tool then presented a range of potential adaptation strategies for each climate hazard and a brief summary explaining each strategy. A comparison table was also included for each climate hazard, overviewing the pros, cons, estimated costs, and effectiveness of the adaptation strategies presented for feedback. Participants were asked to rank their level of support for each strategy, to provide feedback on their priorities for strategies selection, and to share their concerns regarding each of the climate change hazards. Lastly, the end of the survey also provided space for additional comments or input.

The Engagement Tool went live online on April 6, 2021 and was open to public participation through June 5, 2021. The survey was shared widely on the City's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram), shared by the City's CBO partners and through NextDoor, and was also circulated to subscribers of the *Climate Resilient SD* and Climate Action Plan newsletters.

## Participant Demographics:

A total of 105 people participated in the Engagement Tool. Of those participants who chose to provide demographic information, a little less than half (43%) were below 55 years of age, and almost one third (30%) were age 65 or older (See Figure 1). Of those participants that chose to disclose their race or ethnicity, more than two-thirds selected White (71%; See Figure 2). Hispanic/Latinx/or Spanish Origin and Asian were the two next frequent selections, and together made up 17% of the responses.

Figure 1: Participant Age (total number of responses)

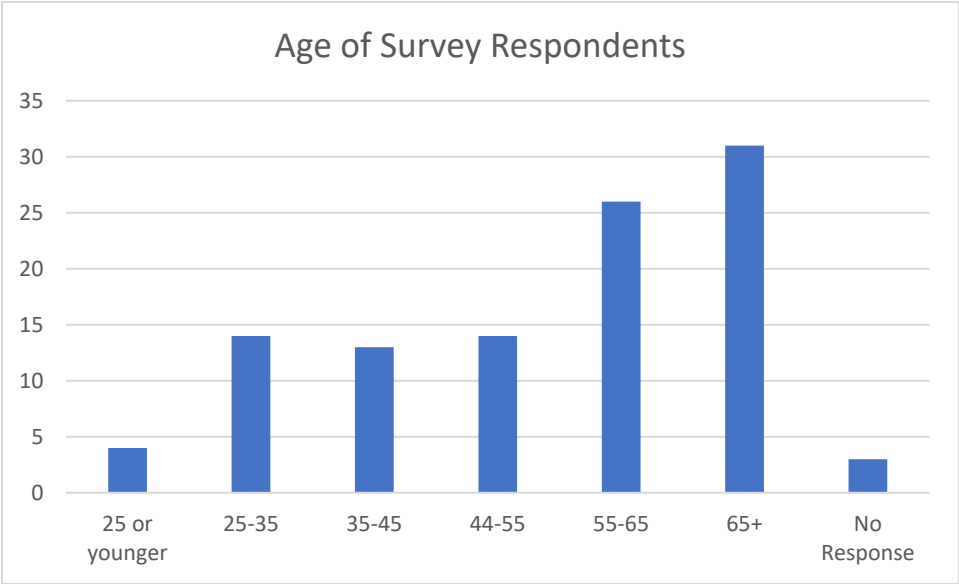
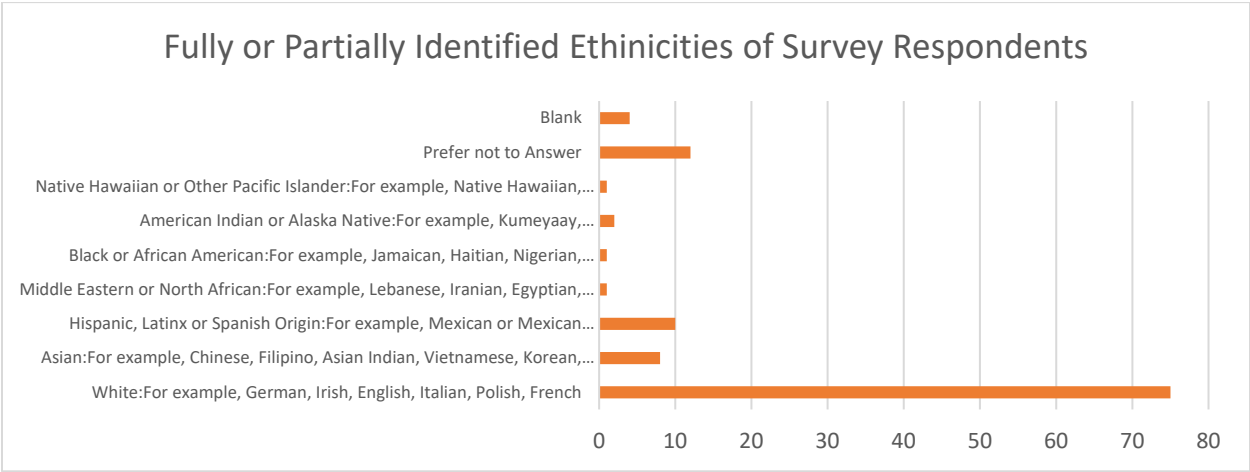


Figure 2: Participant Race/Ethnicity (total number of responses)



## Survey Results:

The Engagement Tool sought public feedback on a suite of potential adaptation strategies for inclusion in *Climate Resilient SD*. Participants were asked to indicate their level of support for each of the following potential strategies:

- 1) Regulation Options
- 2) Beach Nourishment
- 3) Nature Based Solutions
- 4) Sea Wall
- 5) Land Use Change
- 6) Reactive Maintenance
- 7) Raise Roadways
- 8) Green Infrastructure
- 9) Infrastructure Relocation
- 10) Community Engagement
- 11) Cool Zones
- 12) Shade Structure
- 13) Tree Canopy Cover
- 14) Green Roof
- 15) Cool Roofs
- 16) Public Outreach Campaigns
- 17) Land Use Planning
- 18) Hardening of Buildings/Assets
- 19) Post-Fire Treatments
- 20) Vegetation Management

Overall, most participants expressed support for soft (nature based) strategies. When asked which strategies they would prefer to address sea level rise, over three quarters of participants (77%) strongly supported nature based solutions along the coast. Less than 3% of participants, on the other hand, said that they would strongly support sea walls.

Participants also prioritized additional trees and green spaces to help address flooding and extreme heat within their neighborhoods. When asked which strategies they would prefer to address flooding, over three quarters of participants (76%) strongly supported green infrastructure, and well over half (59%) strongly supported community engagement. 84% of participants strongly supported tree canopy coverage and almost two thirds (63%) strongly supported green roofs to address extreme heat.

Two thirds (67%) of participants indicated that they strongly supported land use planning as a strategy to address wildfire, while vegetation management was the second most preferred strategy to address this hazard, with over half of participants (54%) expressing strong support.

After they provided feedback about each of the individual strategies, participants also had the opportunity to indicate what their top priorities were when selecting potential adaptation strategies. Environmental benefits and the long term effectiveness of each strategy were by far the top priorities that participants selected, with 82% of participants prioritizing the environmental benefits of potential strategies and 65% prioritizing the long term effectiveness of potential strategies.

Figure 3: Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy Preferences (total number of responses)

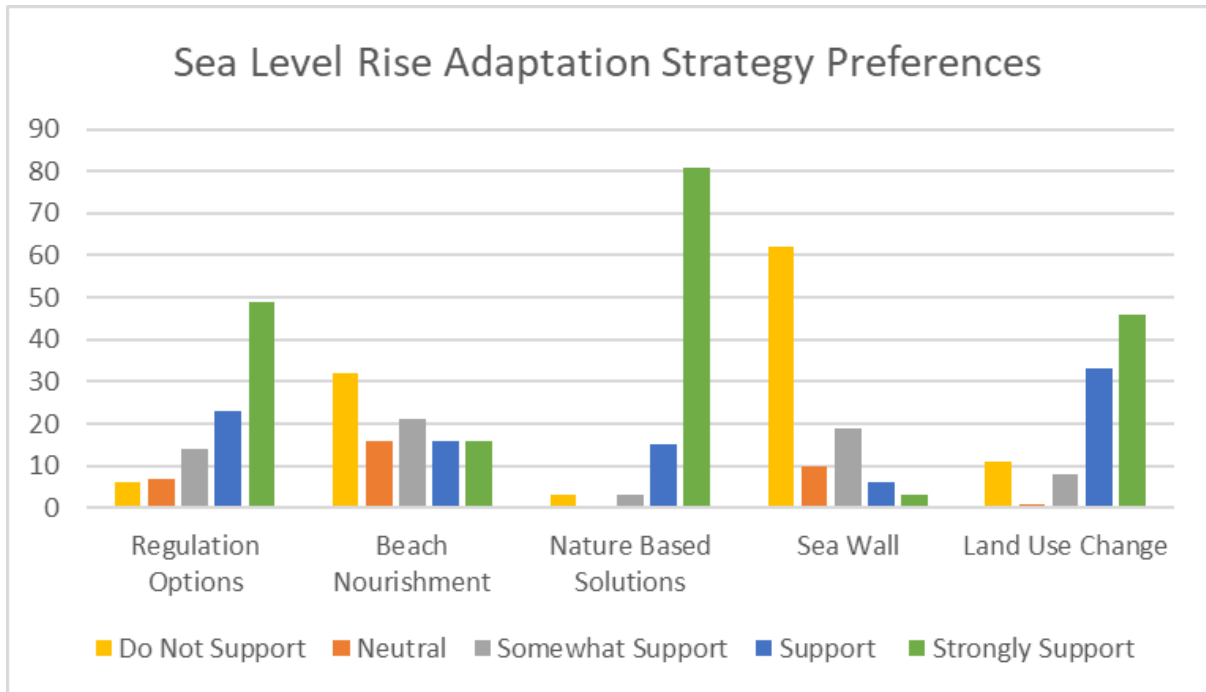


Figure 4: Do You Prefer Hard or Soft Strategies Along the Coast?

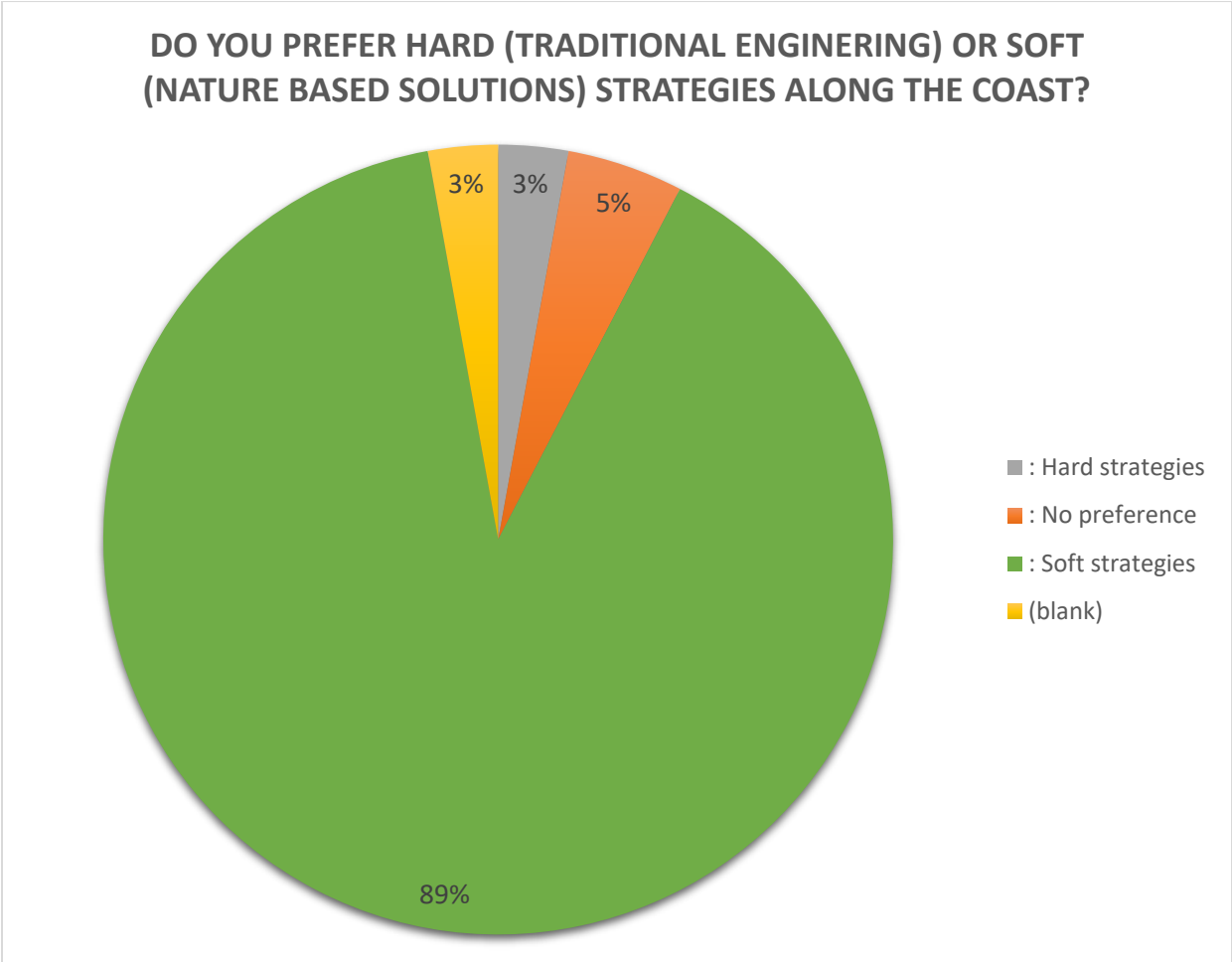


Figure 5: What Concerns You Most About Sea Level Rise?

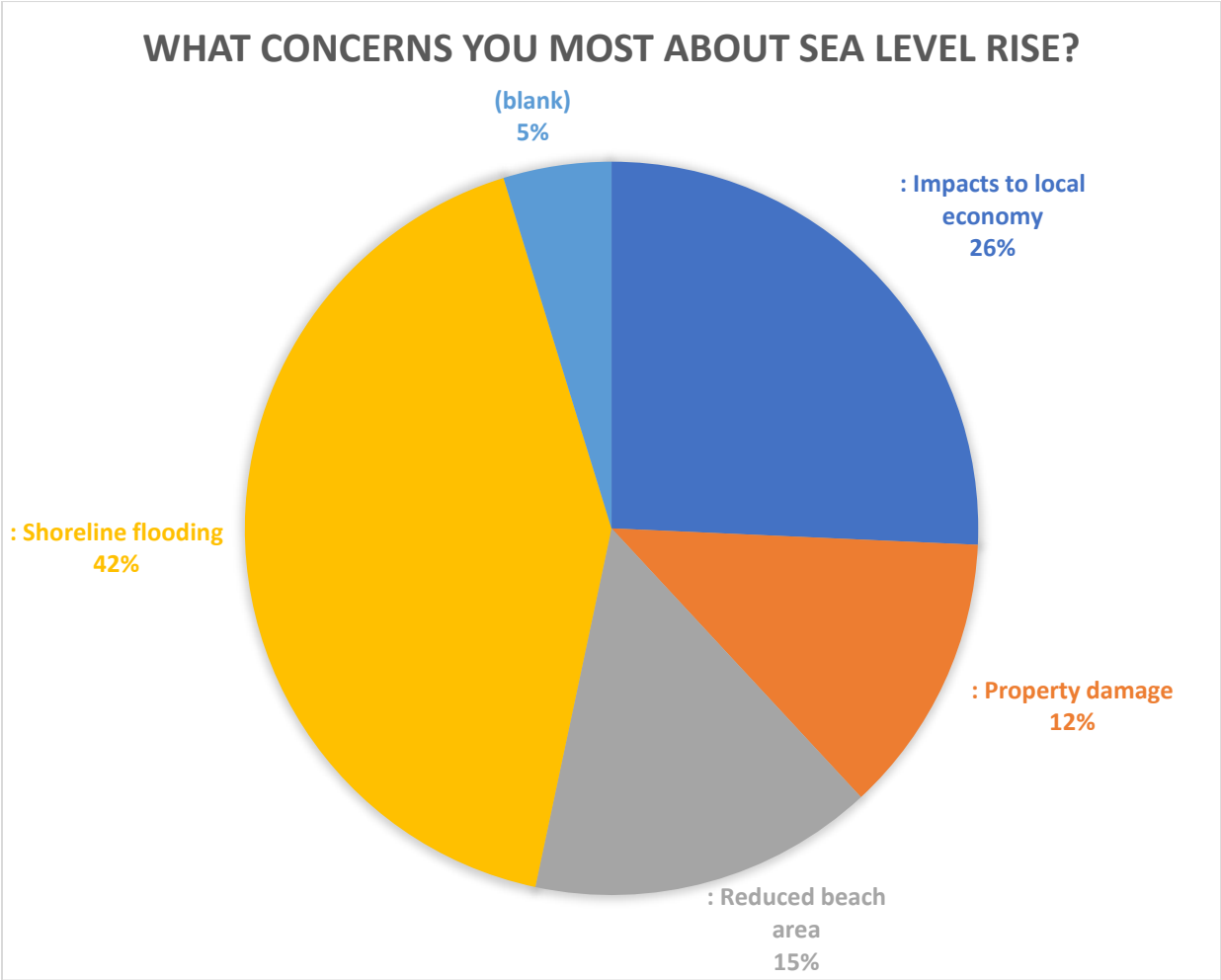


Figure 6: How Do You Utilize Coastal Resources?

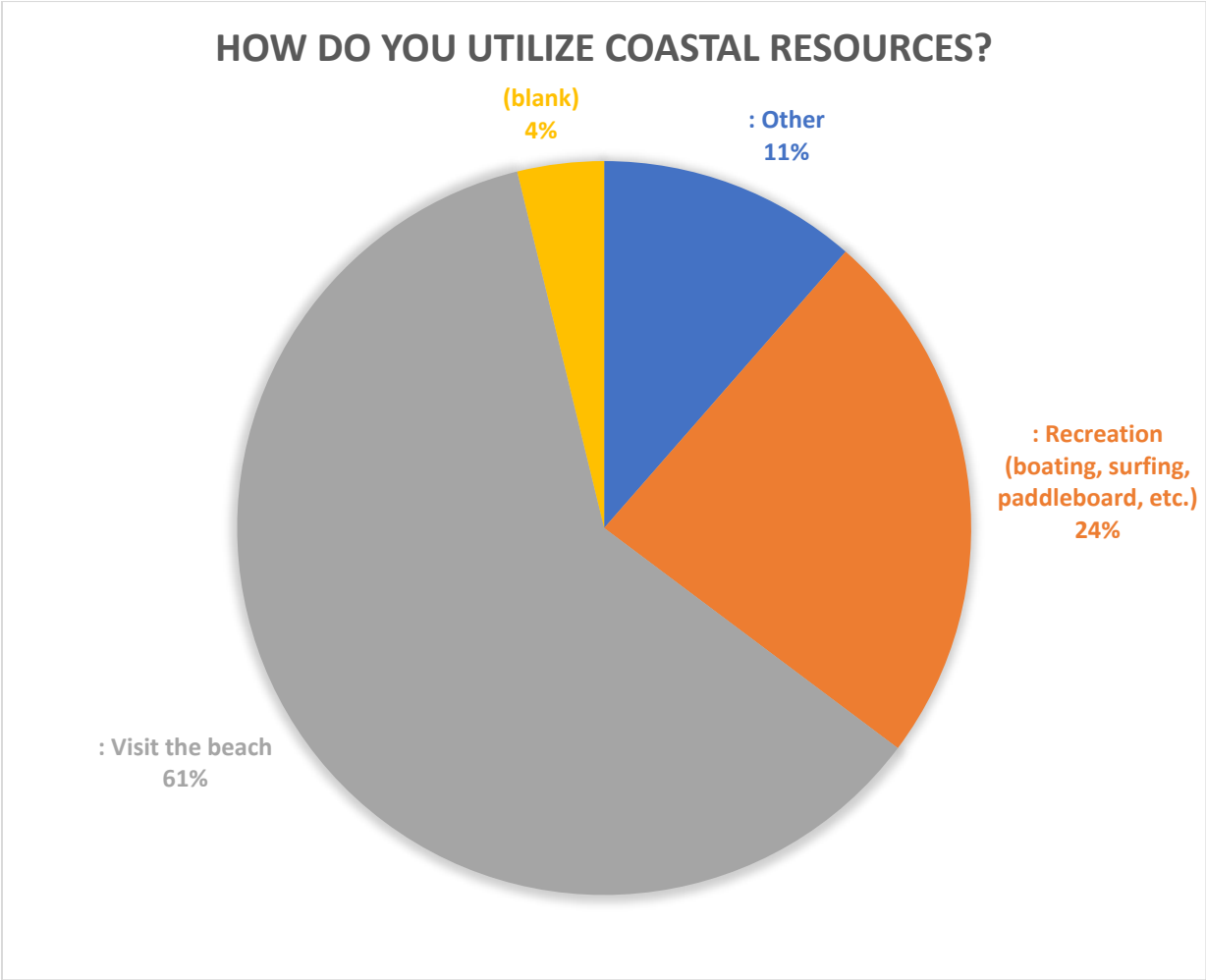


Figure 7: Flooding Adaptation Strategy Preferences (total number of responses)

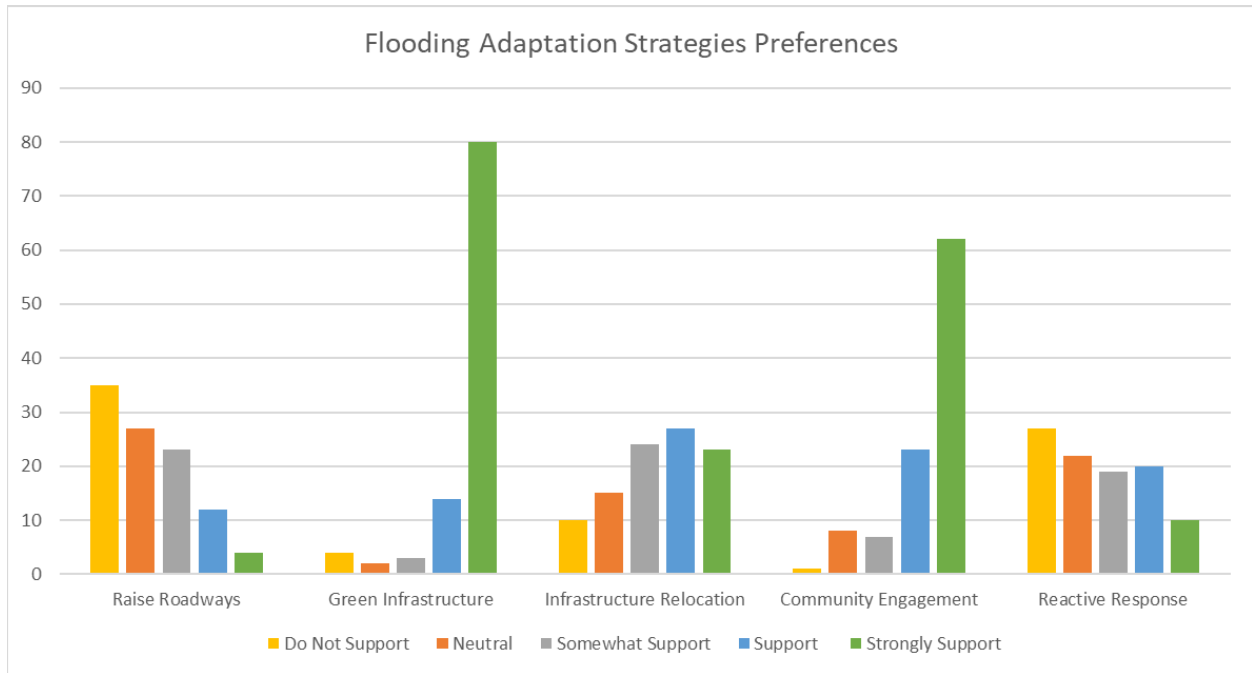


Figure 8: What Concerns You Most Regarding Flooding?

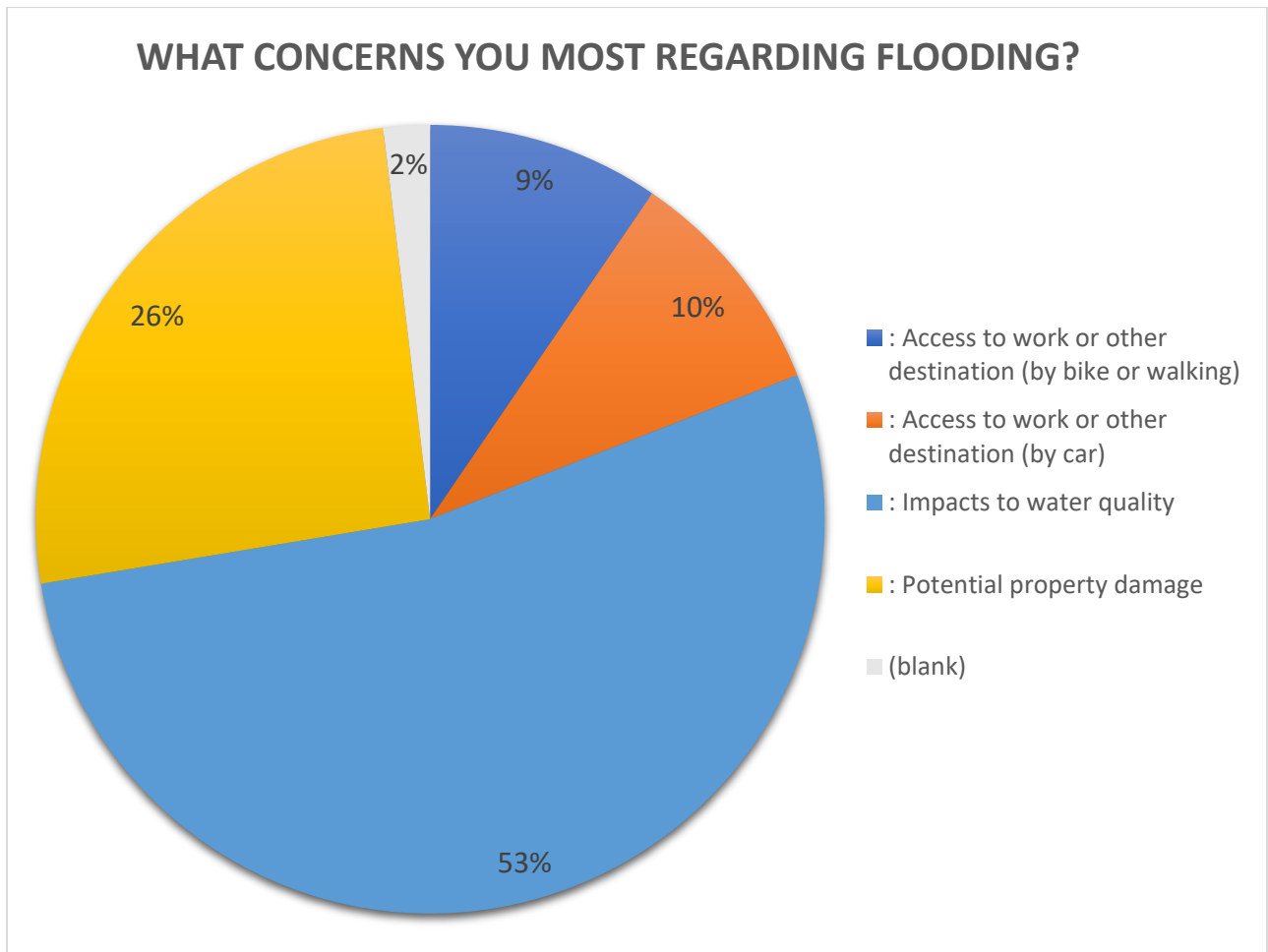


Figure 9: Would You Like to See Additional Trees or Green Spaces in Your Neighborhood?

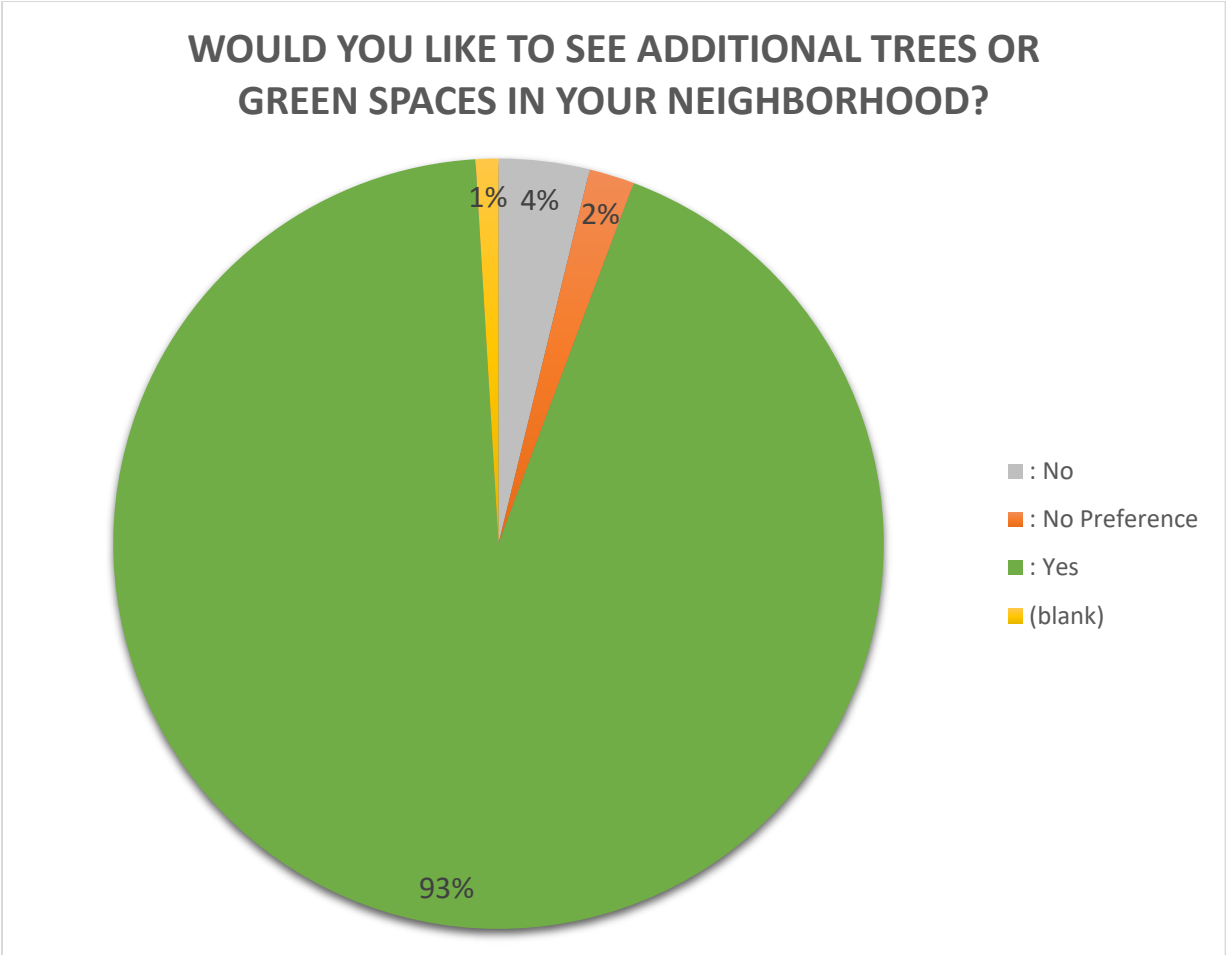


Figure 10: Extreme Heat Adaptation Strategy Preferences (total number of responses)

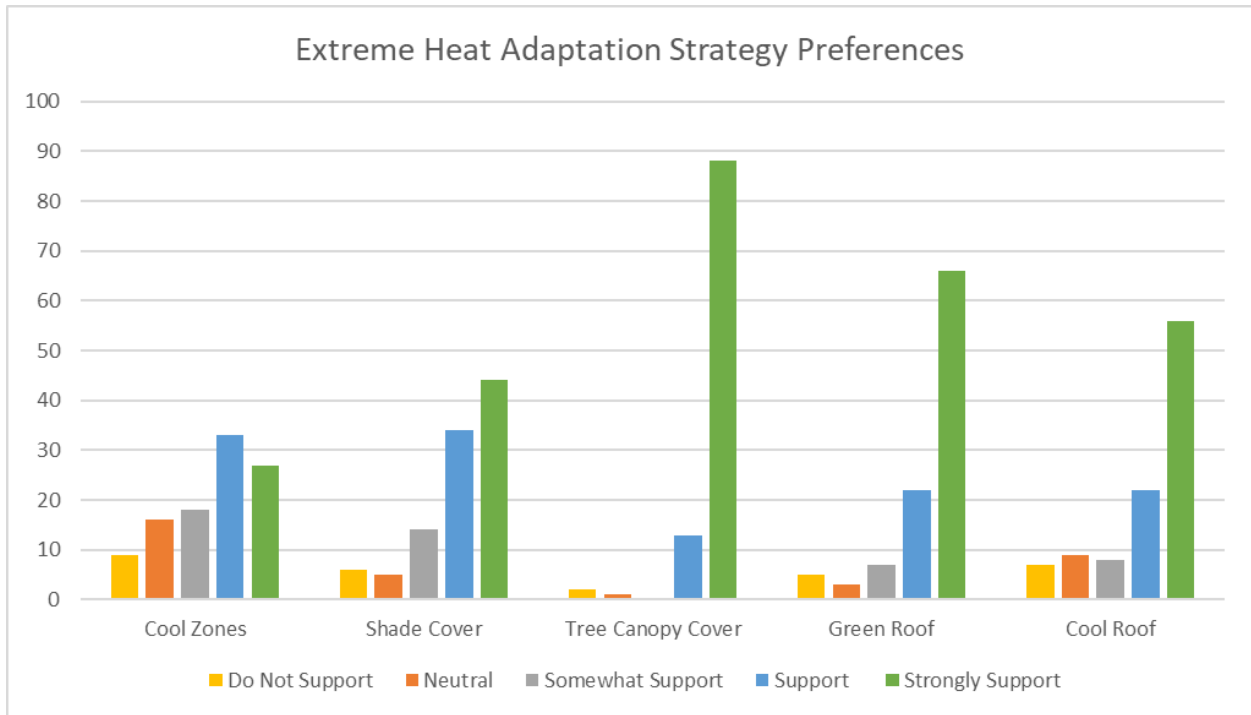


Figure 11: What Heat Strategies Would You Be Most Excited to See in Your Neighborhood?

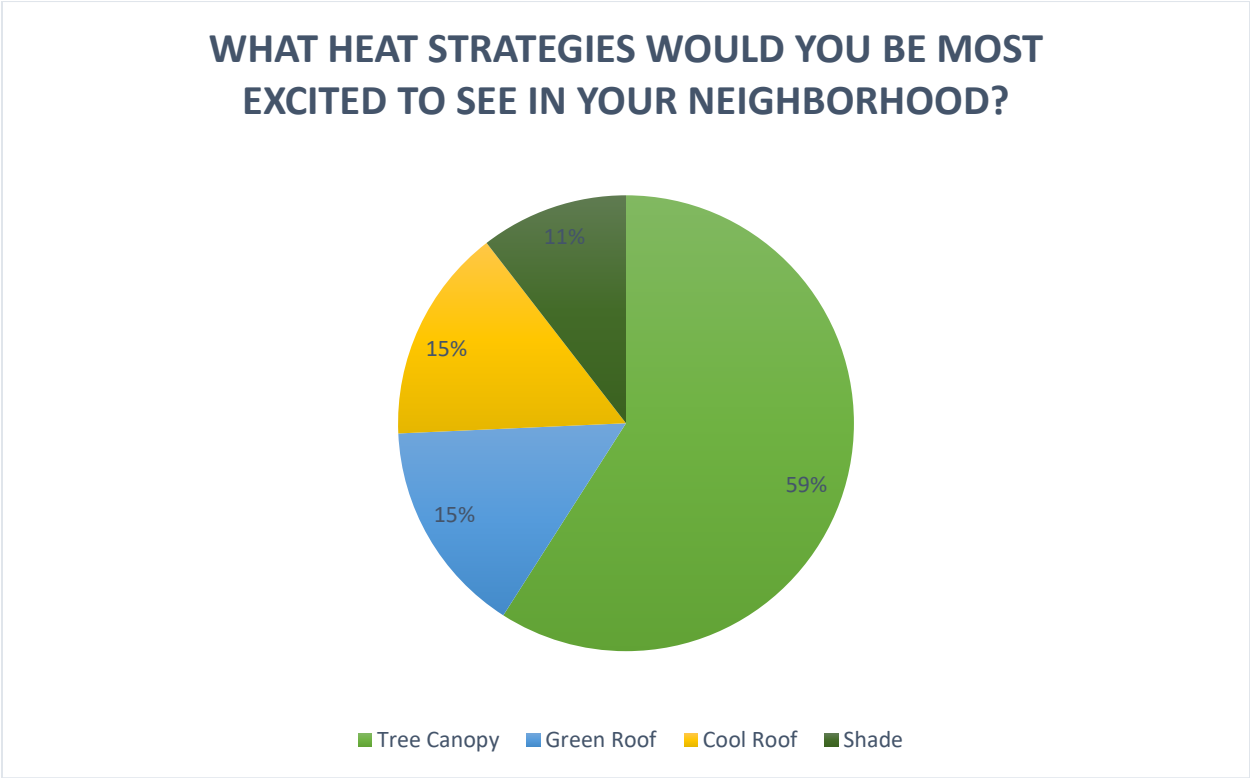


Figure 12: How Would You Access a Cool Zone in Your Neighborhood?

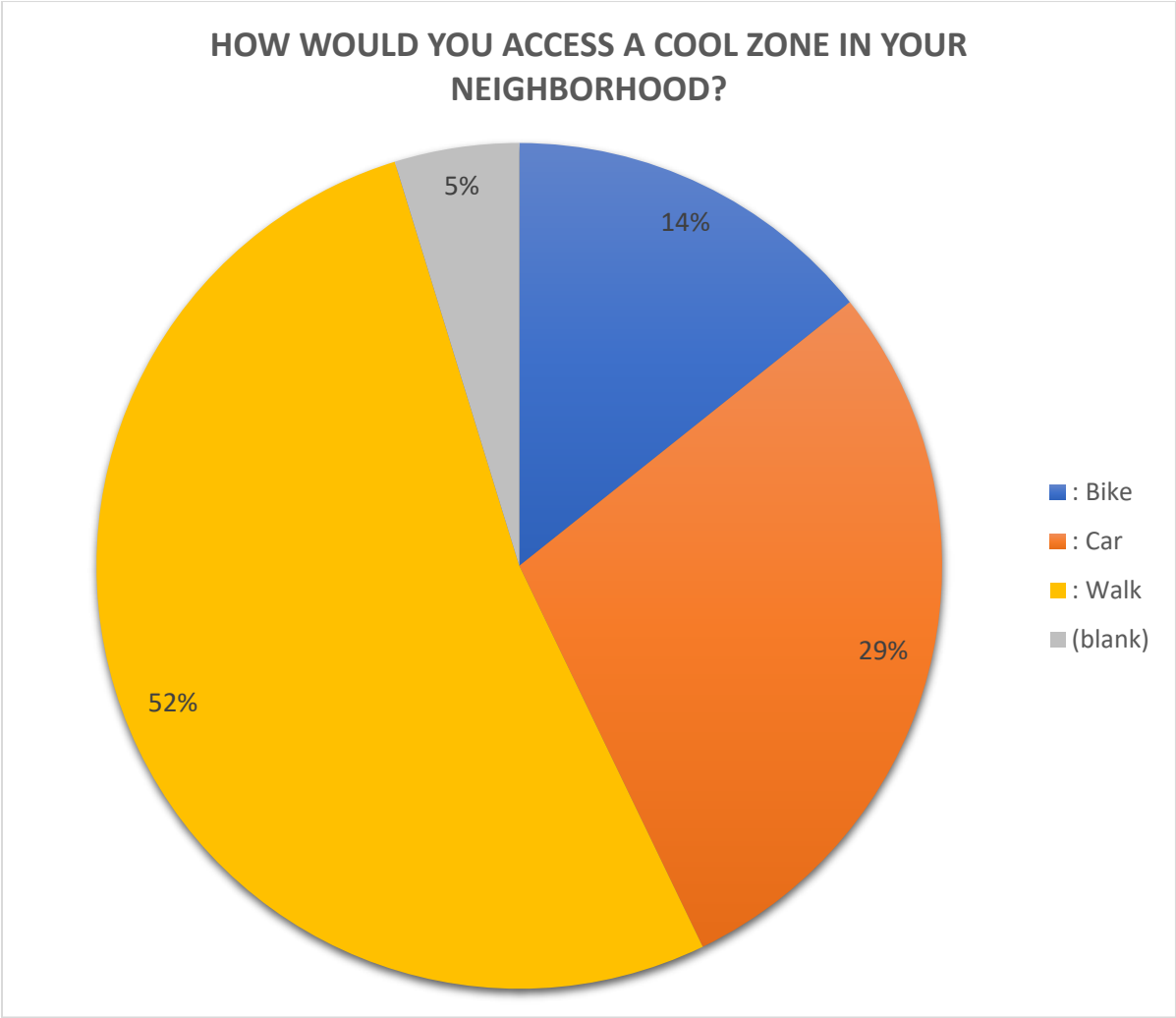


Figure 13: Wildfire Adaptation Strategy Preferences (total number of responses)

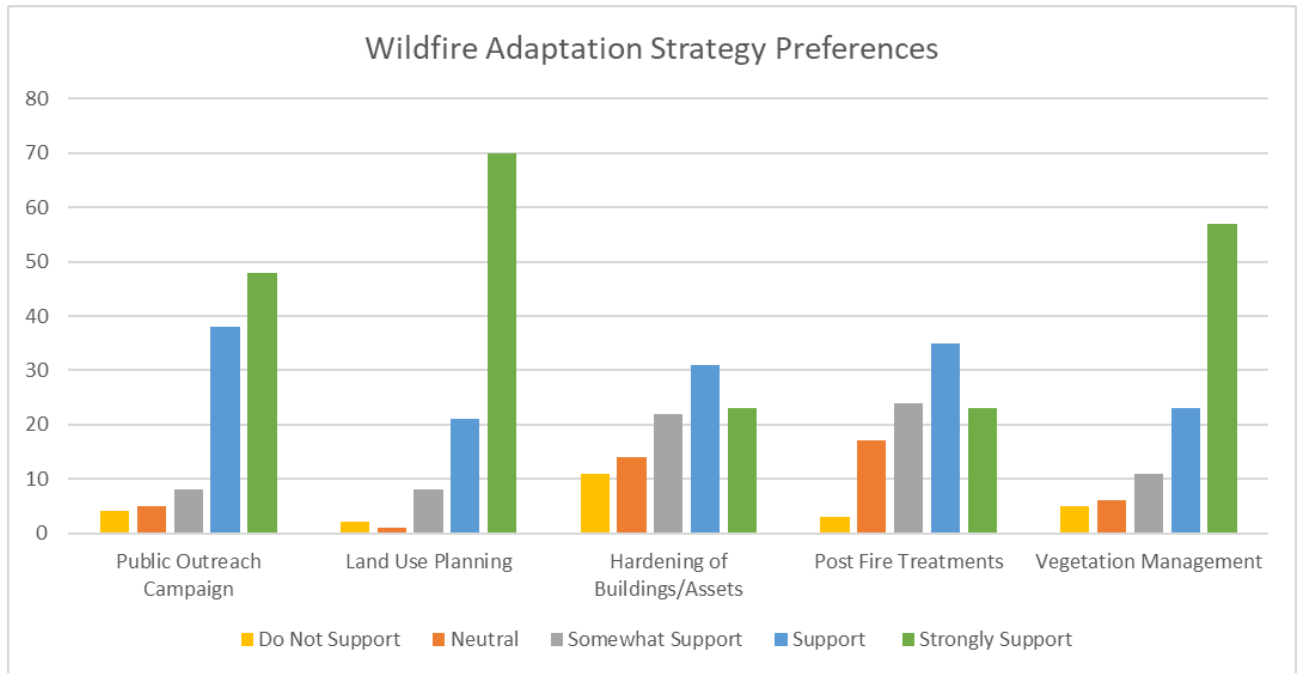


Figure 14: How Have You Been Impacted by Wildfires in the Past?

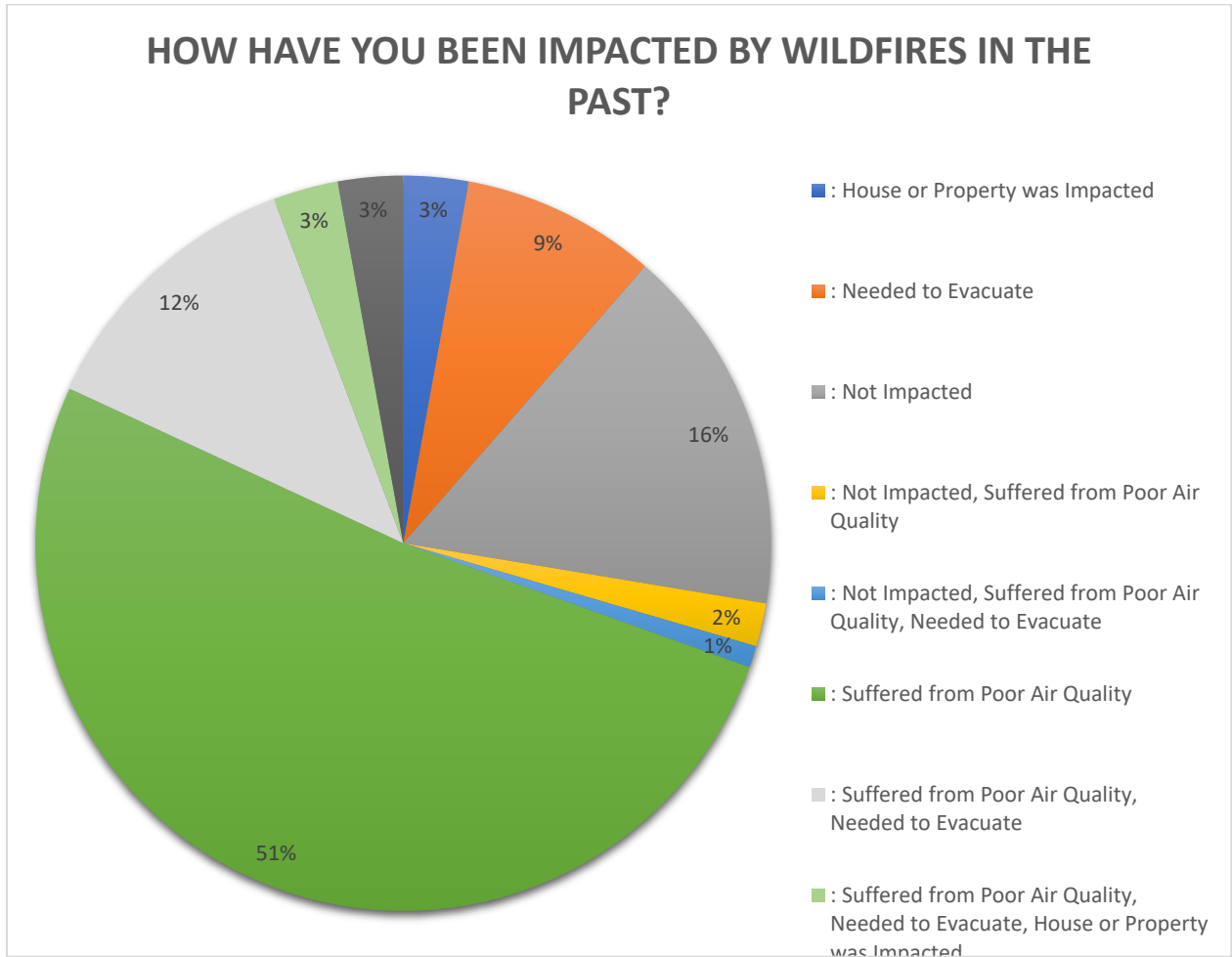
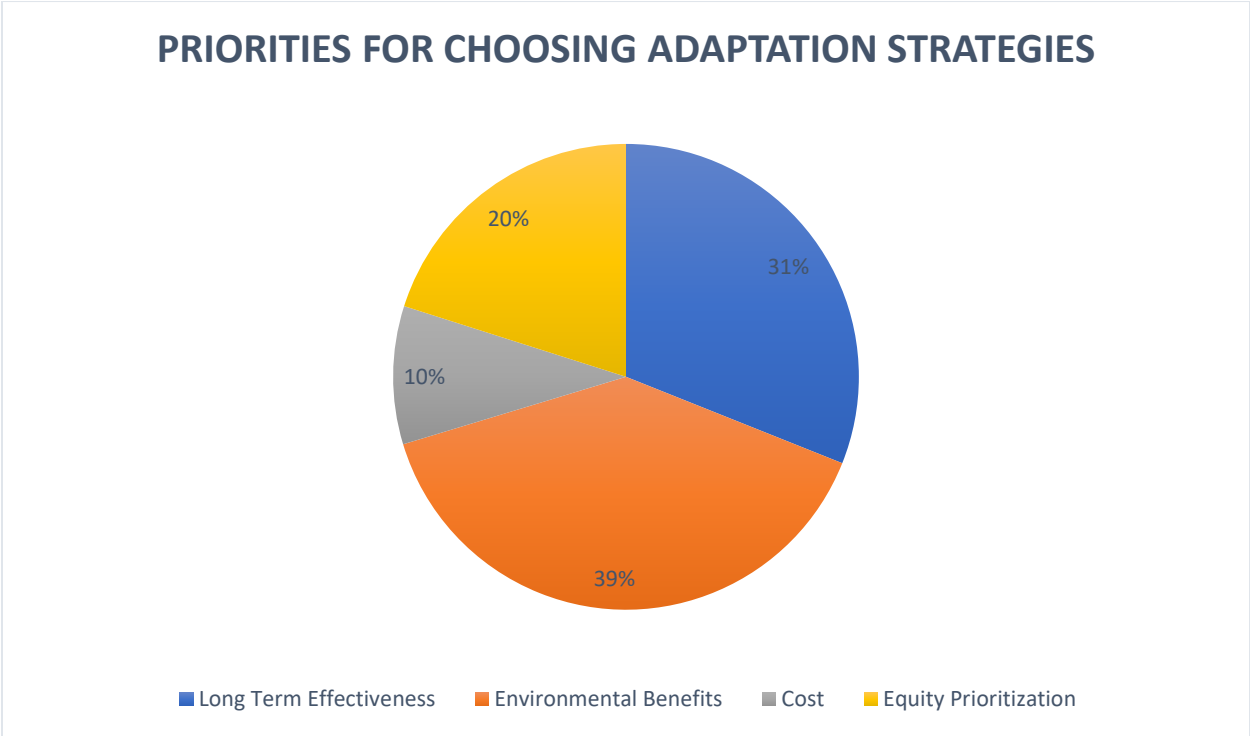


Figure 15: Priorities for Choosing Adaptation Strategies



## Open Ended Responses:

Participants in the Engagement Tool were also presented with the following open-ended question prompt: “Is there anything else you would like to share about your experiences with the effects of climate change in your community?”

In their responses, participants expressed common areas of concern about a wide variety of climate related impacts and potential adaptation strategies. Common concerns centered around:

- The need for more green spaces and native plant restoration.
- The need for effective solutions to deal with extreme heat.
- Concerns that future sea walls could restrict public beach access.
- Concerns about building in high wildfire risk zones.
- Concerns about poor air quality.
- The need for more equitable solutions.
- The need for ecological or nature focused solutions.
- The need for better mass transit and active transportation infrastructure.

Here are a few representative examples of the responses that were received:

- “Lack of street trees and benches made it harder to go out for walks. Bad air quality prevented us from going outside altogether.”
- “Cars and transit were not really addressed in this survey, but they are absolutely critical to deal with. Moving away from cars and their emissions, and designing the city around smart density and mass transit, with intentional green spaces focused on native ecology, is the best way to deal with the long-haul problems of climate change.”
- “This is an opportunity to act with equity in mind, as climate change disproportionately effects vulnerable populations.”
- “As a South Bay resident, I am very concerned about air pollution and the way in which wildfires threatens to cause more damage to public health. I live 3 miles away from Imperial Beach so I am also concerned about sea levels rising.”
- “We can also keep cooler by reducing heat island effect from too much pavement (overbuilt parking lots, etc). Replacing overbuilt parking lots with better uses, whether it's a building or just adding bioswales and green space, would help a lot.”

## Findings and Next Steps:

One key finding from this Engagement Tool is that, across the board, respondents expressed a strong preference for softer (nature-based) strategies. Most participants identified nature based solutions as their top strategy choice to address the effects of sea level rise; selected green infrastructure as their top strategy choice to address flooding; and singled out increased tree canopy coverage and green roofs as their primary strategy choices for combatting the effects of extreme heat. This strong preference for more nature-based adaptation strategies rather than hard infrastructure is important feedback. These survey results will help refine the selection and prioritization of adaptation strategies in the *Climate Resilient SD* plan.

While this survey did receive participation across a range of race/ethnicities, the representation was not fully reflective of the diversity of the City's population. As fifteen percent of the respondents left this question blank or preferred not to answer, the City is unable to determine the exact representation of respondents. However, over two thirds of respondents (71%) identified as White. As a priority of the City is to have broad reaching public engagement, the City has been partnering with several community-based organizations to work towards getting a more diverse and representative participant pool. A detailed summary of the public engagement work that has been conducted by Mid-City CAN, Casa Familiar, and the San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition can also be found in this document. The City will continue efforts to engage broadly across its communities to get participation that is representative of its population.

It should also be noted that not all participants responded to every question in this survey. Up to 5% left blank answers on certain questions. While this is a small percentage of the overall participants, it is still important to take into account.

The feedback received through the open-ended question helped to identify common areas of concern and priorities for potential adaptation strategies, much of which echoes the public feedback previously received in the Vision and Goals Engagement Tool and in the Preparing for Climate Change Community Workshop. For example, one of the common priorities emerging from both the Vision and Goals and Adaptation Strategies Engagement Tools were participants' prioritization and preference for ecological or nature focused solutions, such as planting more trees and native species. The open-ended feedback received in this survey gave space for participants to share their personal experiences and preferences, furthering helping to inform the *Climate Resilient SD* plan.

This survey is one of many outreach and engagement efforts the City is conducting to better understand the needs and values of community members. The results of this survey will be considered along with other feedback received through surveys, community outreach events, workshops, etc. The City also looks forward to continuing and adjusting its outreach efforts to better engage participants that more accurately represent its population.



*Climate Resilient SD:*

Community Based Organization Engagement Reports

# ENGAGEMENT OF COMMUNITIES OF CONCERN AROUND CLIMATE PLANNING

## Summary of Events

### Mid-City CAN



**Mid-City CAN** is comprised of residents of the Mid-City neighborhood who care about making a lasting impact in this community. We gather around the top issues residents care about, forming teams of volunteers. Mid-City CAN helps organize these teams to accomplish their goals. Our mission is to create a safe, productive, and healthy community through collaboration, advocacy, and organizing. Mid-City CAN takes a unique approach to accomplish our mission—we work with residents and partners to drive positive change across many systems and issues. Rather than coming in as an outside force, Mid-City CAN extensively

collaborates with the people of City Heights to see what they need the most in their neighborhood. The most pressing issues raised by the people themselves are then addressed through Momentum Teams, which are councils made up of residents from City Heights.

## Phone Banking in English and Spanish

April – May 2021

### Description

MidCityCan conducted phone banking to reach more than 250 residents and ask three general questions in English and in Spanish:

- How has the change in climate affected you?
- How did change in climate impact your quality of life?
- What has changed? What are the most concerning aspects of this change?

People contacted by phone were more engaged than expected and willing to share their thoughts. They were also patient and willing to learn more about Climate Planning. There was a higher than expected number of “hang-ups,” the fact that people were willing to stay on the phone longer and talk and learn more is a promising indicator. Additionally, approximately 60 people were interested in continuing or attending a workshop.

### Feedback

Based on *preliminary* analysis of qualitative data from over 250 conversations with residents, Community of Concern (CoC) residents are affected by climate change in many ways. Over 86% of residents we spoke to noted that climate change directly impacted them.

One in four residents are affected by increased heat. One in five are affected by extreme, rapid, and uncharacteristic weather patterns (i.e., between seasons). Nine respondents also mentioned being impacted by insufficient rain fall and drought. Three mentioned how natural

disasters increased anxiety about the future and limited where they could live. These changes in weather affected residents' mood. Residents reported anxiety, depression, fear, and mood changes due to climate change's impact on weather and concerns about the future. In addition to the impact on community mental health, 12 percent of residents reported that weather changes also negatively impacted their physical health. Many residents linked climate change to conditions like eczema and asthma. One community member even hypothesized that their community's exposure to air pollution increased community susceptibility to COVID-19.

CoC residents also noted that climate change impacted the local economy. They connected climate change to an increase in the cost of gas, water, electricity, and the cost of living. Some residents also explained that their housing was inadequate to handle more extreme weather. They found their houses too cold in winter and too hot in summer without air conditioning. Extreme weather has become a barrier to work and school for CoC residents who already face significant barriers to work due to racism, xenophobia and insufficient investment. Residents who normally walk or bike to work must increasingly rely on cars and more expensive and inaccessible transportation.

Nine respondents also linked climate change to food insecurity, explaining that extreme weather limited agriculture production (especially for local producers) which ultimately impact residents' access to fresh, healthy, and culturally appropriate foods. This is especially concerning for residents who disproportionately live in food deserts and food swamps.

However, a few respondents (four) noted that acknowledgement of climate change has opened new job opportunities in industries like solar energy. It may be worth exploring how to support equitable job growth in green industries so a larger group of diverse community members can support this growing industry. Notably CoC residents have also responded to climate change by changing behavior and increasing awareness about their impact on the community. CoC residents reported increasing recycling, biking to work, purchasing more sustainable products, and environmental education. This represents an opportunity to learn from community and support the positive changes they are already making.

These findings represent only a preliminary analysis of the rich qualitative data we have collected from residents. Residents also gave feedback on climate change's impact on public discourse and their opinions on government inaction that deserve significant exploration. Additionally, there is even more to learn about how climate change impacts residents' quality of life and which impacts are most important to them. The complete analysis will be included in the final report.

## Reflections and Recommendations

MidCityCan engagement had to be conducted within the confines of health orders and COVID-19 safety protocols and this limited MidCityCan to phone dials. Phone banking limits the diversity of the people who can be contacted. When safe, MidCityCan recommends door-knocking. Door to door will yield higher diversity across race, age, income etc.

Additionally, there is a lot of education that needs to be done. Many people don't know what Climate Planning is or know how San Diego city system works. MidCityCan recommends ongoing community education or engagement in plain English (or other languages).

# San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition (SDUSC)



**SDUSC** was created to address systemic inequity after it became increasingly clear across various channels that Southeast San Diego's community lacked representation in important discussions of sustainability as well as opportunities to enter the green job economy. Today, it exists to bring together communities of concern, stakeholders and like-minded organizations through grassroots organizing to inform processes & policy, to improve the quality of life and to increase opportunities for residents of Southeast San Diego and other resilient communities.

## Community Conversation Workshop & Follow up Survey (with simultaneous Spanish translation)

05/08/2021 – 05/15/2021

### Description

The SDUSC hosted two virtual Community Conversations workshops for residents and one Climate Ambassadors focus group with a total of 56 participants. Spanish simultaneous translation was provided at all events. The workshop design included a presentation, video, chat engagement, instant polling, small group breakouts and report out, as well as a follow-up survey in English and Spanish.

### Feedback

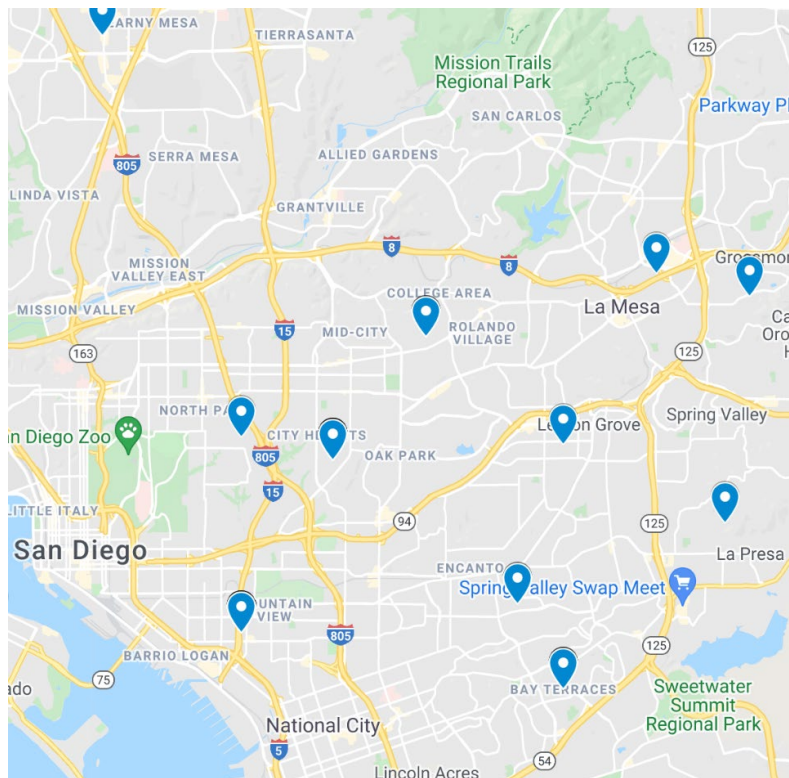
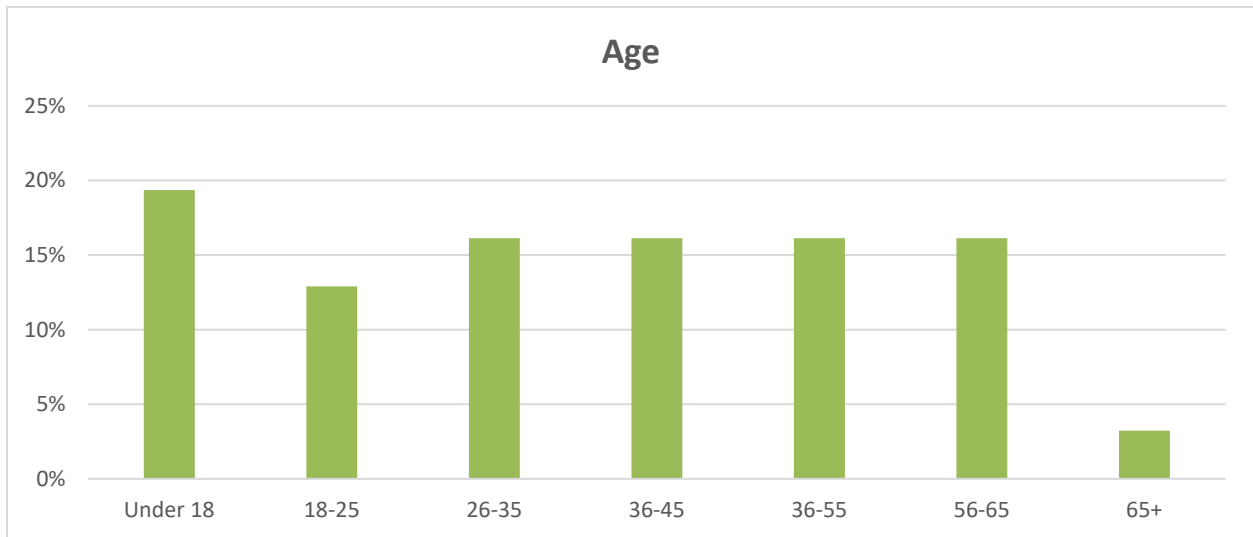
- History of personal responsibility in our communities to generate solutions to combat climate change – individual actions, community support, and collective knowledge
- Increased relatable environmental and climate education, focusing on equity-centered engagement and solutions. Expand this knowledge to youth, too.
- Increased job opportunities and workforce development for low-income BIPOC communities in green jobs economy.
- Increase access to shade trees and parks and rec areas.
- Equity-focus to ensure CoC are at the forefront to Climate Planning.
- We need further conversations around this topic, breaking barriers to accessing this knowledge and towards being present in these public participation spaces.

### Reflections from the Workshops and Recommendations

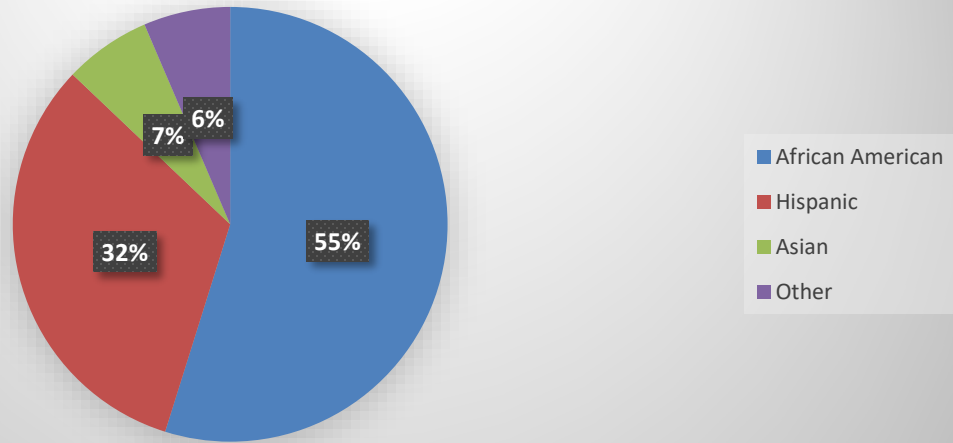
- Lack of accessibility or knowledge in the decision-making processes makes it difficult to engage.
- The CoC have historically been excluded from these participatory spaces and engagement opportunities. One of the major barriers to CoC's participation is financial hardships; therefore, SDUSC's model for community feedback includes the awarding of stipends. The SDUSC encourages the City to incorporate stipend practice in future engagement efforts.
- Decolonize politically charged jargon to make the information easier to follow. If using jargon, be ready to define them effectively.

- Use examples that are identifiable with the community to best explain Climate Planning strategies. Examples that physically manifest in the community are best to illustrate.
- BIPOC communities tend to have grown up on habits of sustainable practices; allow people to share their lived experiences during these discussions.

### 33 Survey Participants



## Race/Ethnicity



## Casa Familiar



**Casa Familiar** was founded in 1973 and is a 501(c)(3), community-based organization dedicated to serving residents in South San Diego County. Originally established in 1968 under the name *Trabajadores de la Raza*, Casa has grown and expanded its efforts from solely serving Spanish-speaking clients in San Ysidro to providing services and programs to all South San Diego County residents. Early on, Casa recognized that its predominantly low-income clients have changing and varied needs. Casa's approach allows the

agency to adapt to community needs through a multi-faceted program and funding strategy. This permits the sustaining of advocacy and community development at its core, while simultaneously examining and addressing community needs. Casa Familiar has been serving people in South San Diego for 48 years. The mission of Casa Familiar allows the dignity, power and worth within individuals and families to flourish by enhancing the quality of life through education, advocacy, service programming, art and culture, housing and community/economic development. Casa Familiar is the leading service and community development organization in the community of San Ysidro, providing over 40 bilingual programs and services at six different sites in the community. Programs range from Civic Engagement to Health & Social Services, Arts & Culture to Education.

## Surveying at Food Distribution Event

April 6th, 2021

## Description

During one of the Casa Familiar food distribution events, staff approached as many cars and pedestrians as was feasible to ask questions related to Climate Action and Climate Resilient SD planning efforts. The goal was to expedite the survey via a one-on-one approach.

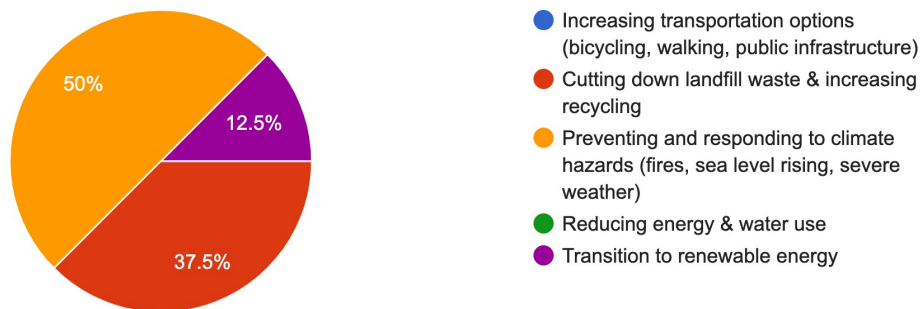
Number of surveys conducted - 8 people surveyed (5 drivers, 3 pedestrians)

## Feedback

All eight people who responded to this survey had never heard of the City of San Diego's Climate Planning. This illustrates the general lack of knowledge on the topic within the community. Below are the results of the survey related to Climate Resilient SD and additional comments and observations from Casa Familiar and the Institute for Local Government.

Out of the following, which is most important to you?

8 responses



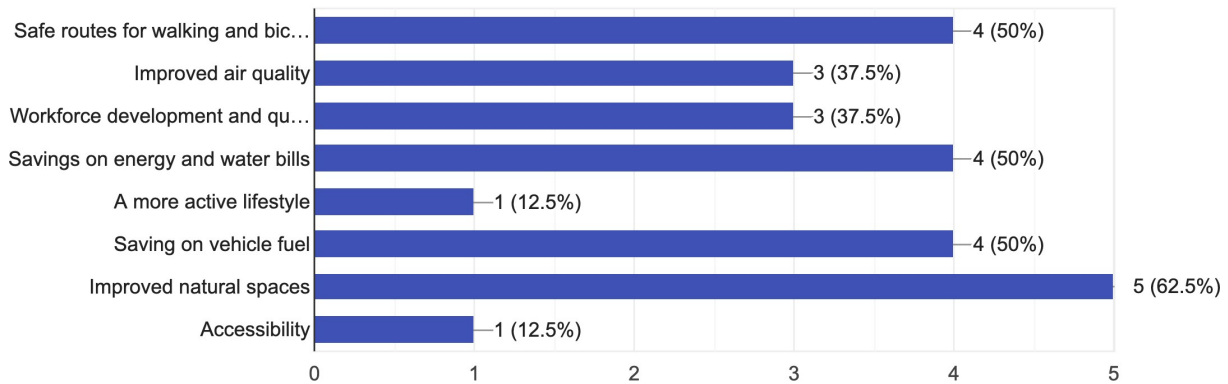
**Comments** - special concerns of fires because they have impacted the area before, causing school closures and health impacts. Preventing and responding to climate hazard is one of the most important concern.

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Climate action has benefits beyond reducing greenhouse gases. Which of the following are most important to you? CHOOSE 3

8 responses



**Comments** – Improving natural spaces was among top three most important benefits to the surveyed participants.

## Demographics

All demographics questions were made optional

- All the people who answered the survey self identified as Hispanic (8).
- Most people we surveyed lived in San Ysidro
  - Zip Codes: 92173 (7), 92115 (1)
- Most people who chose to answer / were employed, live in the South Bay
  - Zip Codes: 92173 (2), 91910 (1), 92020 (1)
- The age groups we surveyed were very varied
  - 18 - 34 (1)
  - 35 - 44 (3)
  - 45 - 54 (2)
  - 55 - 64 (1)
  - 65 + (1)

## Small Community Group Presentation and Survey in Spanish

April 23rd, 2021

### Description

Casa Familiar provided a 30-minute Spanish presentation to the Resident Leadership Academy and engage the group in the discussion of what climate change means to them. There were 9 attendees. Similar to the first event, participants have not heard about San Diego Climate Planning. The survey results related to the Climate Resilient SD are listed below.

## Feedback

1. Which would you like to see in your community?
  - a. Reducing energy & water use (0)
  - b. Transition to renewable energy (solar, wind) (4)
  - c. More public transport options & better pedestrian & cycling pathways (0)
  - d. Cutting down waste and increasing recycling (2)
  - e. Preventing and responding to climate hazards (fires, sea level rising, severe weather) (3)
  
2. Climate action has benefits in addition to greenhouse gas reductions. Which of the following are the most important to you? You can choose up to 3
  - a. A more active lifestyle (4)
  - b. Improved air quality (5)
  - c. Safe routes for walking and bicycling (4)
  - d. Savings on energy and water bills (4)
  - e. Lowering the cost to power a vehicle (5)
  - f. Workforce development and quality jobs (2)
  - g. Improved natural spaces (5)

**Comments** – Improving natural spaces and preventing and responding to climate hazards were among the top concerns and priorities.

## Surveying at the Food Distribution Event

May 4th, 2021

### Description

Casa Familiar distributed paper copies of the updated survey (by handing out a clipboard with the survey and a pen) at the food distribution event. Each staffer would distribute 4-5 surveys and wait around in between the cars where the surveys were distributed for any questions before collecting 32 completed surveys.

One of the surveying challenges was that people would skip a question rather than asking for clarification. However, the printed out surveys allowed Casa Familiar to reach higher number of participants than a one-on-one surveying approach at the previous food distribution and gave a broader sense of the community response.

### Feedback

More than half of the respondents have not heard of the City of San Diego's Climate Action Plan.

1. Which would you like to see in your community?
  - a. Reducing energy & water use (2)
  - b. Transition to renewable energy (solar, wind) (17)
  - c. More public transport options & better pedestrian & cycling pathways (3)

- d. Cutting down waste and increasing recycling (5)
- e. Preventing and responding to climate hazards (fires, sea level rising, severe weather) (3)

Climate action has benefits in addition to greenhouse gas reductions. Which of the following are the most important to you? You can choose up to 3

- f. A more active lifestyle (13)
- g. Improved air quality (20)
- h. Safe routes for walking and bicycling (13)
- i. Savings on energy and water bills (15)
- j. Lowering the cost to power a vehicle (6)
- k. Workforce development and quality jobs (4)
- l. Improved natural spaces (10)

**Comments** – Improving natural spaces and preventing and responding to climate hazard did not score as high as at the earlier events.

## Casa Familiar Staff Survey in English and Spanish

May 12th, 2021

### Description

During the virtual all-staff meeting at Casa Familiar, 37 staff members filled out the survey as community members.

### Feedback

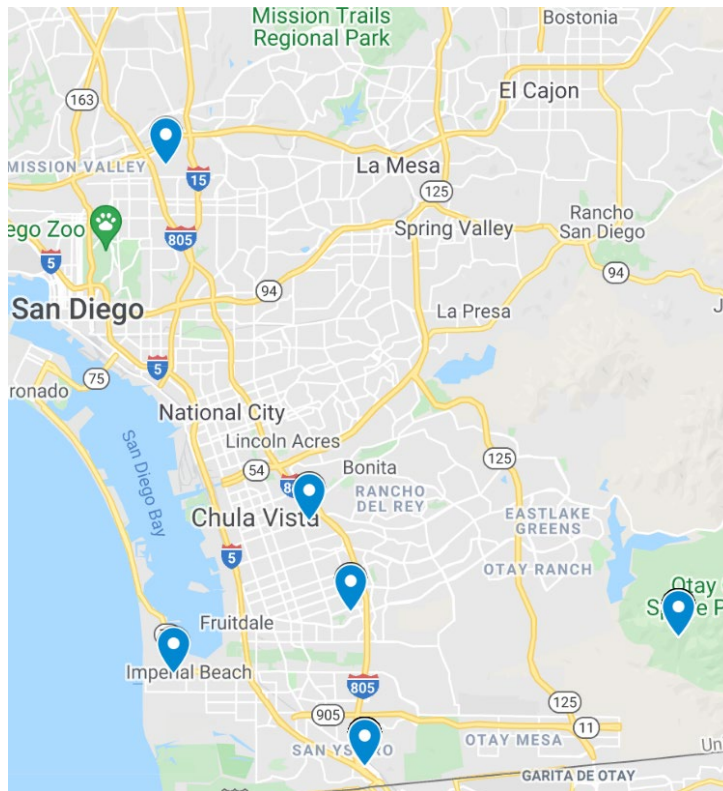
Most of the staff members have not heard about San Diego Climate Planning. Those who did, knew about it because Casa Familiar staff previously mentioned it.

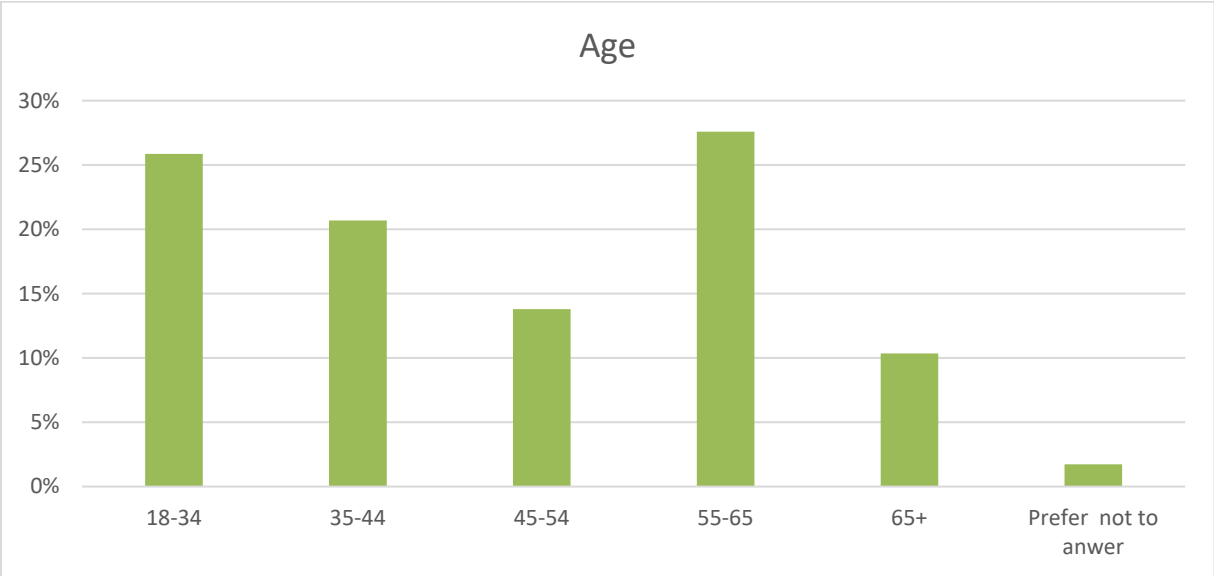
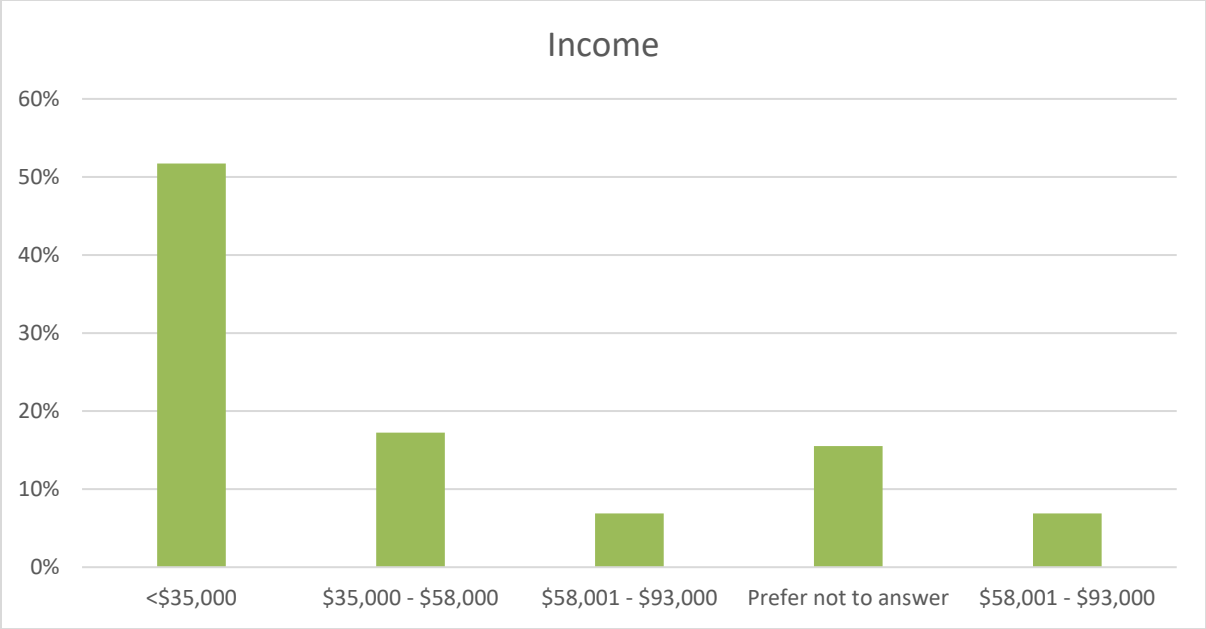
1. Which would you like to see in your community?
  - a. Reducing energy & water use (6)
  - b. Transition to renewable energy (solar, wind) (15)
  - c. More public transport options & better pedestrian & cycling pathways (10)
  - d. Cutting down waste and increasing recycling (2)
  - e. Preventing and responding to climate hazards (fires, sea level rising, severe weather) (4)
  
2. Climate action has benefits in addition to greenhouse gas reductions. Which of the following are the most important to you? You can choose up to 3
  - a. A more active lifestyle (11)
  - b. Improved air quality (30)
  - c. Safe routes for walking and bicycling (21)
  - d. Savings on energy and water bills (12)
  - e. Lowering the cost to power a vehicle (8)

- f. Workforce development and quality jobs (8)
- g. Improved natural spaces (19)

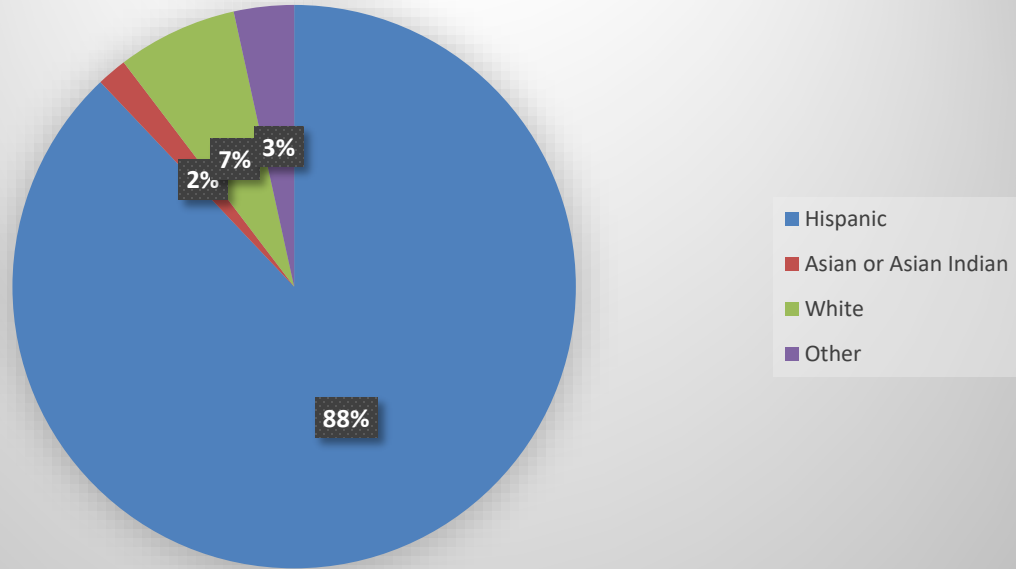
**Comments** – Improving natural spaces was among the top most important benefits to the community. Responding to climate hazards scored relatively low.

### 58 Survey Participants





## Race/Ethnicity





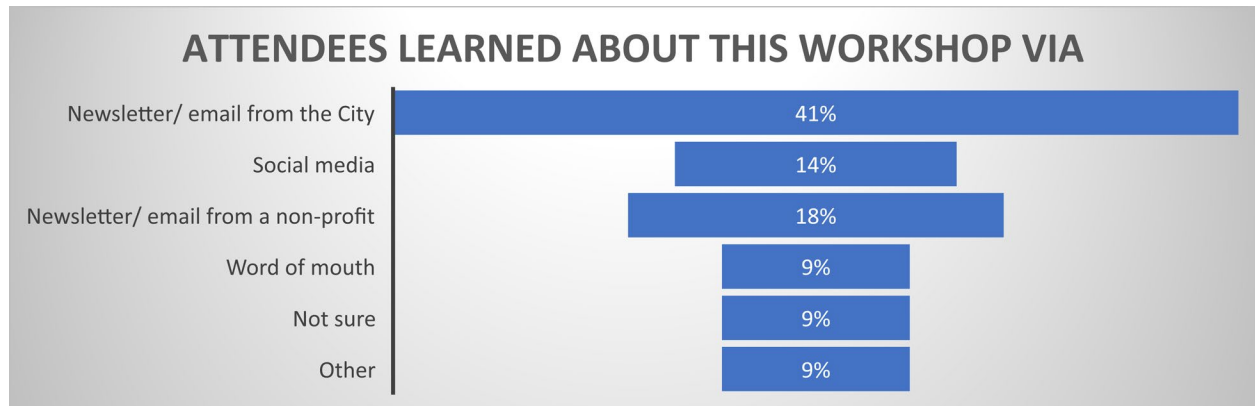
*Climate Resilient SD: Preparing for Climate Change Workshop Summary*

# April 19 Preparing for Climate Change Workshop

## Event Summary & Data

### Workshop outreach

- 52 registered
- ILG reached out to three CBOs (Casa Familiar, MidCityCan and San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition) to promote the event
- 33 attended



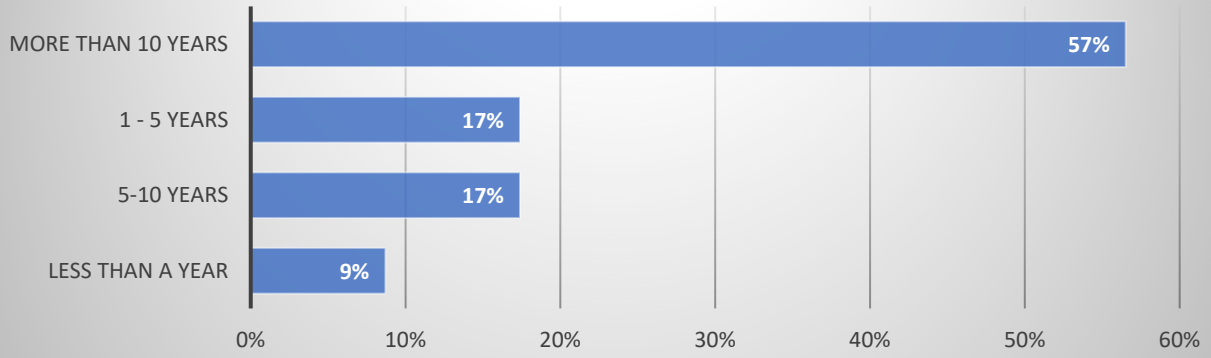
### Workshop Attendees: Demographic and other Data Collected

The demographic data was collected during the registration and by instantly polling attendees at the meeting. While we collected 100% of responses to demographic questions during registration, instant polling participation varied from 9-24 responses to any given question.

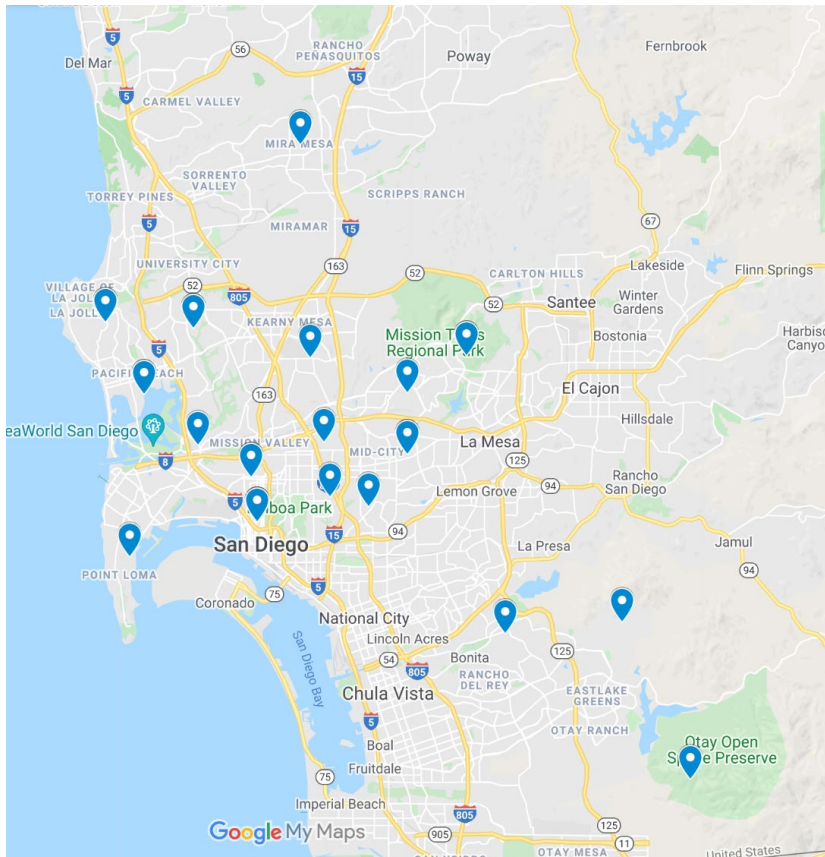
Overall, the data shows a diverse representation of groups with different ages, income levels and ethnicities.

- There was a good balance between long-term and residents who lived in San Diego for less than 10 years.
- Age categories spread out evenly between all participants. More than a third of participants were 34 years and younger.
- One-third of workshop attendees who responded to the income question described themselves as [low income](#). 44% preferred not to state their income.
- African American and Latinx/Hispanic groups represented 9% and 18% of participants, respectively. 24% preferred not to state their race/ethnicity. More than half of the workshop participants represented themselves rather than an organization.

## YEARS LIVED IN SAN DIEGO

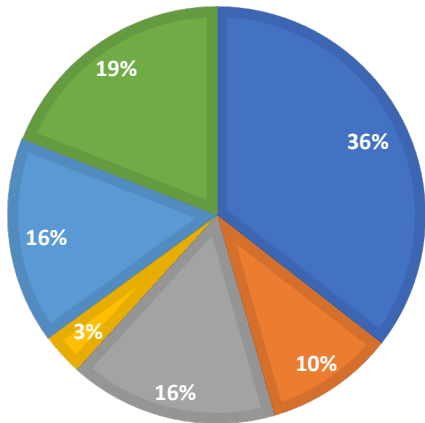


## ZIP CODE



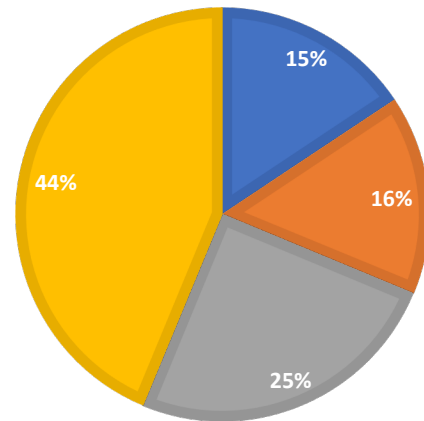
### AGE

■ 18-34 ■ 45-54 ■ 35-44 ■ 55-64 ■ 65+ ■ N/A



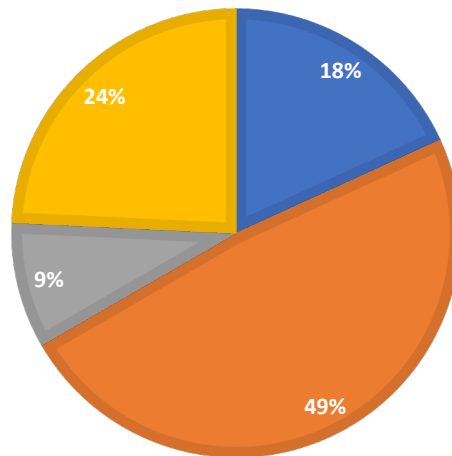
### ANNUAL INCOME

■ \$25,001-\$58,000 ■ \$58,001-\$93,000 ■ \$93,001-\$120,000 ■ N/A

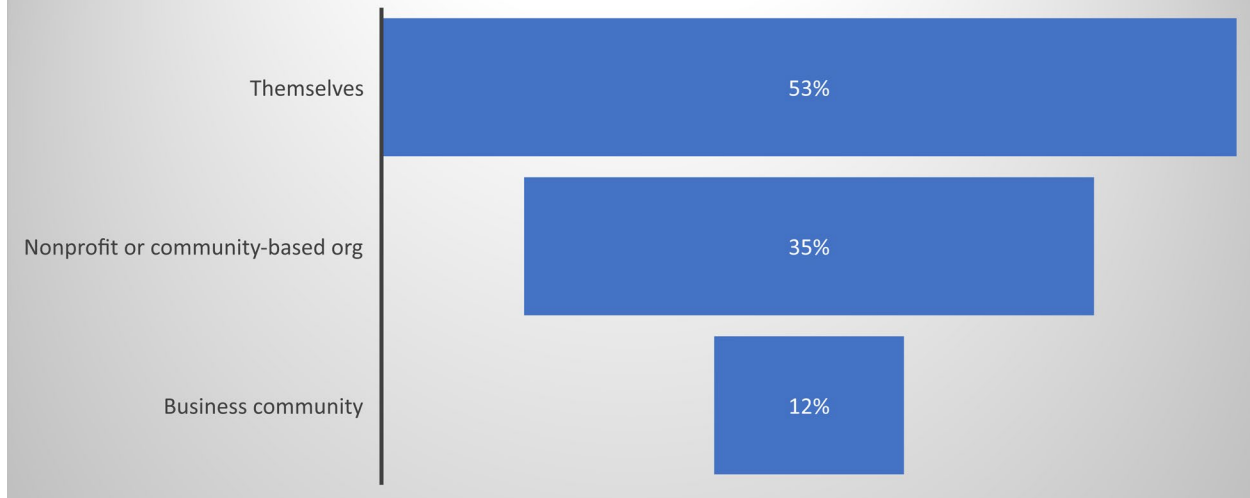


### RACE/ETHNICITY

■ Hispanic ■ White ■ African American ■ N/A



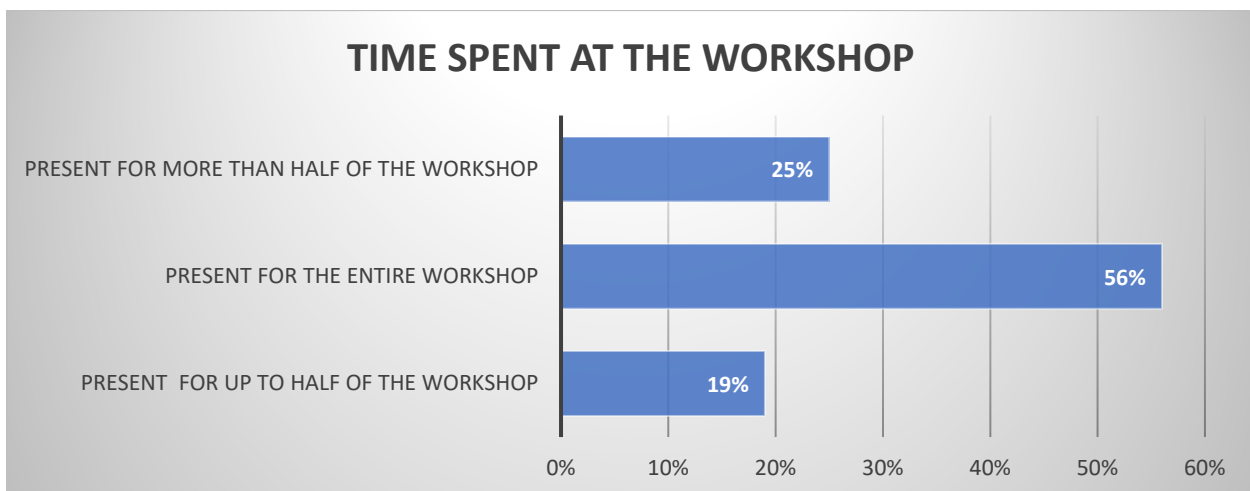
## PARTICIPANTS REPRESENTED



## Workshop Participation and Accommodation

- More than half of the participants stayed for the entire duration of the workshop. A little over 80% of attendees were present for more than half of the workshop.
- Participation and feedback opportunities included Zoom instant polling (multiple choice questions), Poll Everywhere (ranking and open-ended questions), chat and Q&A functions.
- One registrant and one participant indicated Spanish language needs. Simultaneous interpretation was provided. Side-by-side English/Spanish translation of all materials, including the PowerPoint, instant polling questions and surveys, was also provided.

## TIME SPENT AT THE WORKSHOP



## FEEDBACK FROM THE WORKSHOP

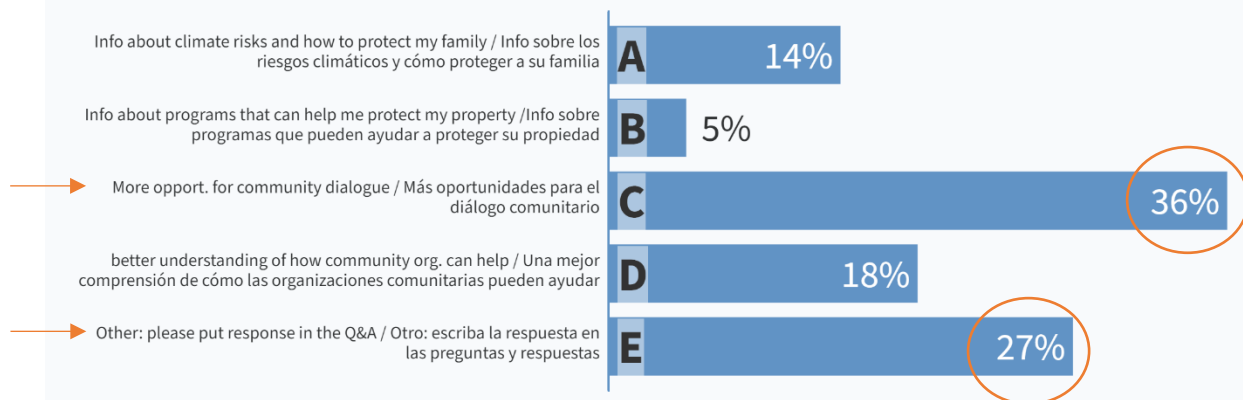
### What concerns you most about climate change

**ILG's Summary of Comments:** In addition to wildfires, extreme heat and sea-level rise, environmental justice and the impact of climate change on ecosystems were among the top concerns associated with climate change.

#### Raw data

- The **macro effects** of everything combined to the planet, and the neglect by climate deniers halting progress.
- Storms affecting **coastal access**, water levels encountering toxic waste, disappearing **ecosystems**.
- I'm concerned about the effects of climate change on the appearance and spread of deathly/**diseases viruses** like COVID.
- The long term effects on our environment. People can adapt, **animals and plants cannot**. In San Diego, in the last twenty years air quality has **declined** along with **rainfall**. Summer **heat** has dramatically increased.
- **Environmental racism**.
- **Heat, drought, sea level rise**
- **Environmental racism**
- **Drought, extreme weather, sea level rise**, and poor **air quality**.
- Unknown feedback loops.
- Increased **natural disasters** and the increased **social inequality** and unrest that will follow.
- **Sea level rise, Drought, Food insecurity, species extinction**.
- Extreme **heat** events and **wildfire** risks.
- **Wildfires, environmental racism, poor air quality**.
- **Extreme weather** conditions.
- **Sea level rise** making our beaches disappear.
- **Heat affecting poor areas**.

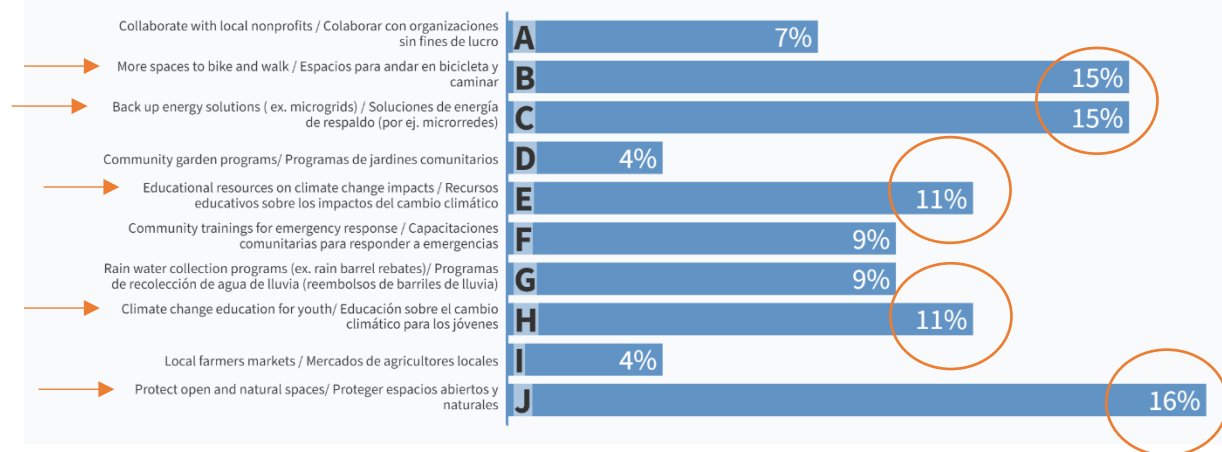
### What do you need to be more prepared for climate threats? ¿Qué necesitas para estar más preparado para las amenazas de los cambios climáticos? (Top two)



Chat: More transparent conversations about the long-term tradeoffs of inaction or slow action  
 Chat: Rapid action at the State and City levels. Encouragement for walking, biking and rapid transit.

**ILG's Reflections:** The community highly values an opportunity for open dialogue, stakeholder collaboration and ongoing communication. Participants did not utilize Chat/Q&A to share their responses about other climate threat preparedness needs.

## What other solutions would benefit you or your community the most? ¿Qué otras soluciones le gustaría que beneficiara más a usted o a su comunidad? (Top five)



Chat: Wildfire strategy: switch from sprawl development patterns and promote infill compact development

Chat: Education is important, but it's not a solution. I'm here for action, not for talk

Chat: Agreed

Chat: Education is important. You don't know what you don't know!

Chat: Community Relevant Education

Chat: Additional trolley lines to reduce commuting by car from North County. Yes, it's a regional issue...

**ILG's Reflections:** The community highly values culturally relevant education. Climate change education and youth education were among the top five solutions in addition to biking/ walking, energy solutions and protecting natural spaces.

## What is missing? What other solutions would benefit you and your community the most?

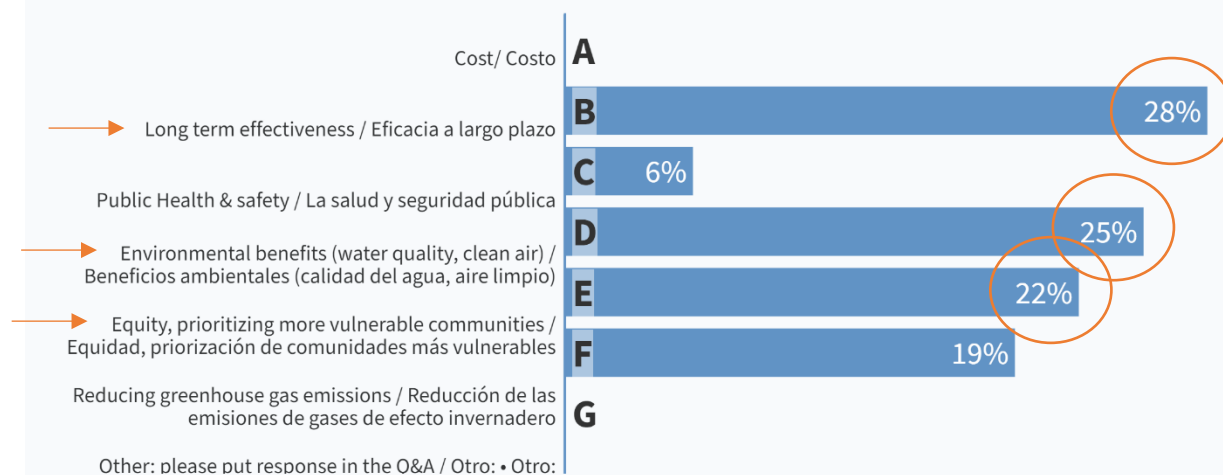
**ILG's Summary of Comments:** Open-ended suggestions for additional solutions co-echoed with what already had been said in the workshop. Open communication, collaboration and education are important. Workshop participants recognize the benefits of dense infill development, biking/walking opportunities, electric vehicles as well as minimizing car trips and developing better transportation solutions with fewer car trips (including mass transit and transportation connections with important hubs). Workshop participants prefer solutions that protect ecosystems as well as other nature-based

solutions. Some suggested developing programs that deliver tangible benefits to vulnerable communities (air conditioning to protect from extreme heat, for example).

### Raw Data

- Suggestion that **programs** are implemented to provide **rain barrels, greywater and landscaping** - trees - drought tolerant plants. Also, **back up energy grids** and continual **communication on status** of all efforts. In home **air quality tools** and information.
- **Reducing Methane emissions** from the dairy & meat industry.
- Different land use decisions in WUI. find ways to **make density sexy**.
- Binational **collaboration** with authorities, scientists, and stakeholders on the other side of the border.
- Reducing Methane emissions.
- **Mass transit and fewer cars. Denser housing**, like duplexes in suburban areas and more livable urban areas (housing with no food deserts) **Infrastructure updates** and programs to get **air conditioning, etc** to **vulnerable communities**, new sources of water, etc.
- Vegan options at all eateries.
- A way to **connect airport to public transportation**.
- We could go 100% renewable tomorrow and it still wouldn't solve our problems. Need to think more about adaptation because change is coming.
- Banning leaf blowers.
- City development that encourages **low-carbon methods of transportation**.
- Have less stop signs and traffic lights.
- Strong and effective **waste management planning**.
- **Results oriented solutions**; investing in **infrastructure that is carbon neutral/negative**.
- Increase affordable housing through **infill compact development**.
- Building **electrification**.
- Kelp farming & **ocean restoration**.

## How should the strategies be prioritized? ¿Cómo se deben priorizar las estrategias? (Top three)



**ILG's Reflections:** The long-term effectiveness was the most important criteria to prioritize adaptation strategies, followed by environmental benefits and equity. Interestingly enough, cost received zero votes.

## Key Findings and Recommendations

Key findings from feedback	<p>The theme of <b>environmental justice and equity</b> resurfaced throughout the workshop. Participants mentioned it when asked about their concerns associated with climate change. Equity ranked in the top three (out of 7) criteria to prioritize in terms of adaptation strategies.</p> <p>Continuous <b>public engagement</b> also emerged as a top theme. Residents are interested in open dialogue, stakeholder collaboration, ongoing communication and community education. Residents selected more opportunities for community dialogue as the second-highest priority for climate threat preparedness needs. Climate education, including youth education, was among the top five solutions that would benefit the community. Residents want to receive <b>culturally appropriate climate education</b>, stay involved, and contribute to designing and implementing strategies that protect their communities against climate threats.</p> <p>Participants also prioritized <b>environmental benefits</b> when designing and implementing the strategies. Preserving ecosystems, protecting open and natural spaces, restoring the ocean, increasing water quality, and providing clean air were mentioned several times by participants.</p> <p>The group recognized the benefits of dense infill development, biking/walking opportunities, electric vehicles, transportation solutions with fewer car trips, and backup energy grids.</p> <p>This group valued long-term effectiveness and results-oriented solutions that directly benefit all communities.</p>
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*Climate Resilient SD: Paper Poll Results*

## About the Paper Poll

*Climate Resilient SD* will be the City of San Diego's (City) comprehensive climate adaptation and resiliency plan which will increase local capacity to adapt, recover, and thrive amidst a changing climate. Community engagement is a critical component to the planning effort to ensure that the plan speaks to the needs and the vision of the City residents. The paper poll was developed to engage with and receive feedback from members of the community that would help guide the development and prioritization of the potential adaptation strategies that are included in the plan.

The paper poll asked a series of questions about what would most help residents to prepare for and adapt to climate change hazards, and questions about the resources and spaces they most enjoy and would like to see more of in their neighborhoods.

The paper poll was available at community engagement events hosted during summer 2021 where the number of attendees, the flow of foot traffic, and the nature of the event permitted participants to spend time completing the poll.

## Back to School SD Event

On August 21, 2021 City Planning Staff teamed up with other City partners to have a table at Mayor Gloria's Back to School SD event. While many people stopped to engage about climate resiliency and took away the outreach half card with the survey QR code to fill out the survey later others stopped to fill out the paper poll survey in either English or Spanish. Of the 14 paper polls collected from the outreach event, five were completed in Spanish and nine were completed in English.

### Response Summary:

- Most of the participants reported that to prepare for a wildfire in their community they would like to receive text message updaters with resources (31%) and would like better information about evacuation routes (39%).
- Participants were evenly split among all options regarding how to prepare for flooding.
- Almost half of the participants cited that staying hydrated (45%) is their ideal way to keep cool on a hot day.
- The majority of participants cited that what they liked most about our beaches and bays is the water and sand (37%).
- Most of the participants reported that they would like to have community gardens (25%) and safe spaces to walk or bike (34%) in their neighborhood.

## Participant Demographics

A total of 14 people participated in completing the paper polls at this event. Of those participants who chose to provide demographic information, half were below 35 years of age (see Figure 1) and many lived in zip code 92113 (43%) (see Figure 2). Of those participants that chose to disclose their race or ethnicity, more than half (53%) were Hispanic, Latinx, or other Spanish Origin (see Figure 3).

Figure 1: Participant Age

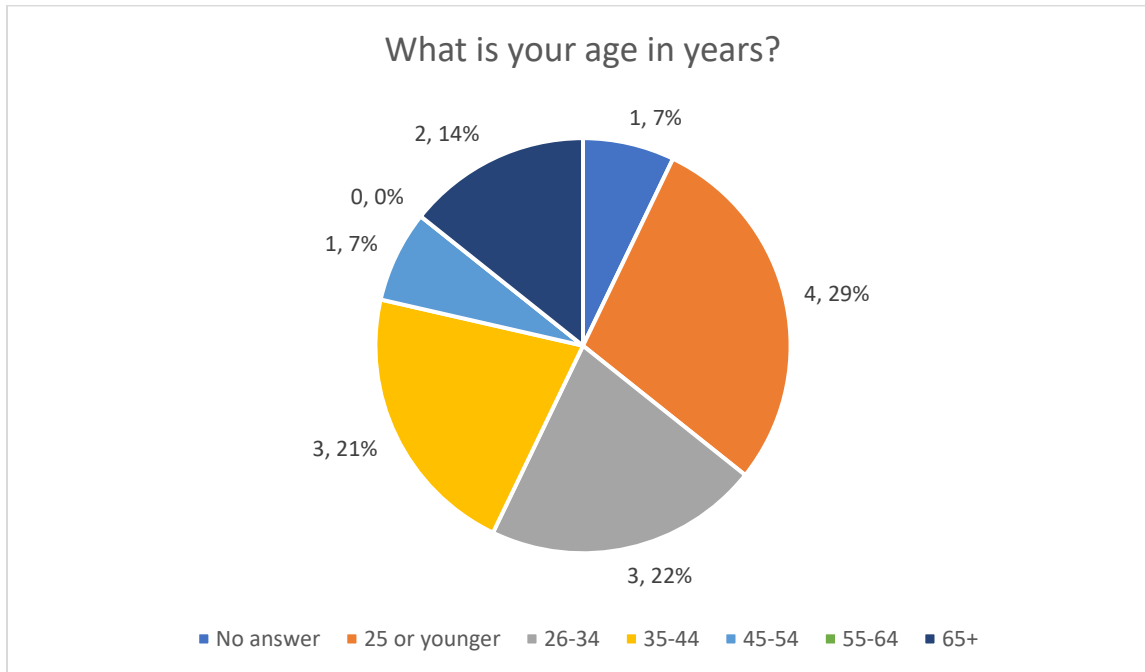


Figure 2: Participant Zip Code

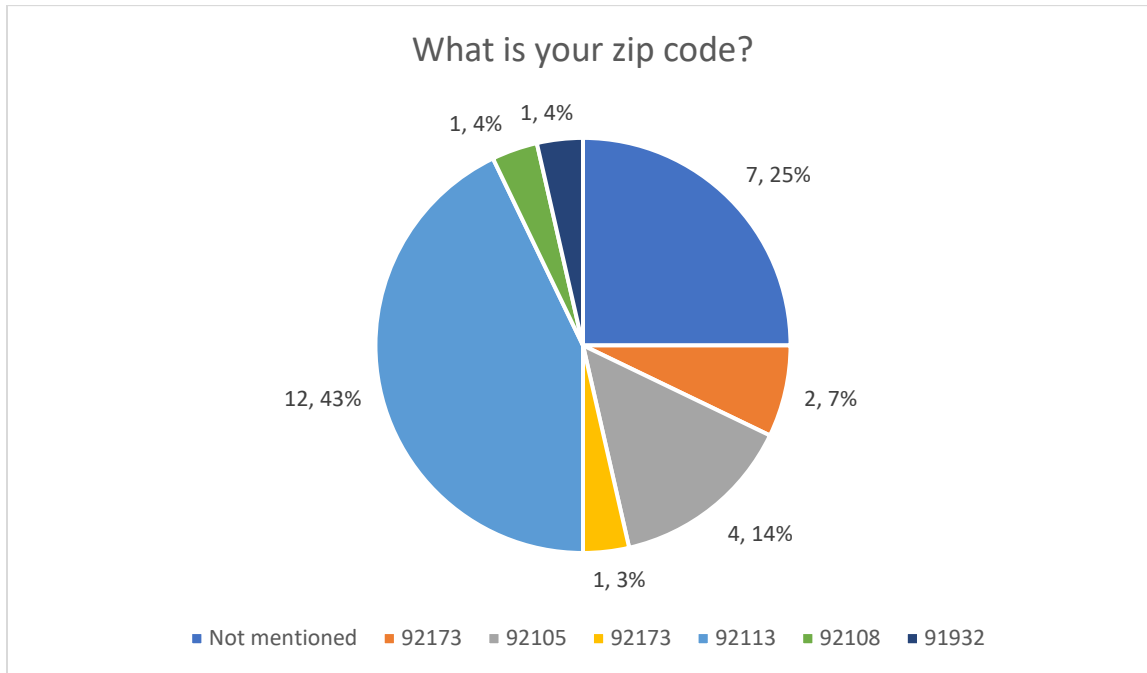
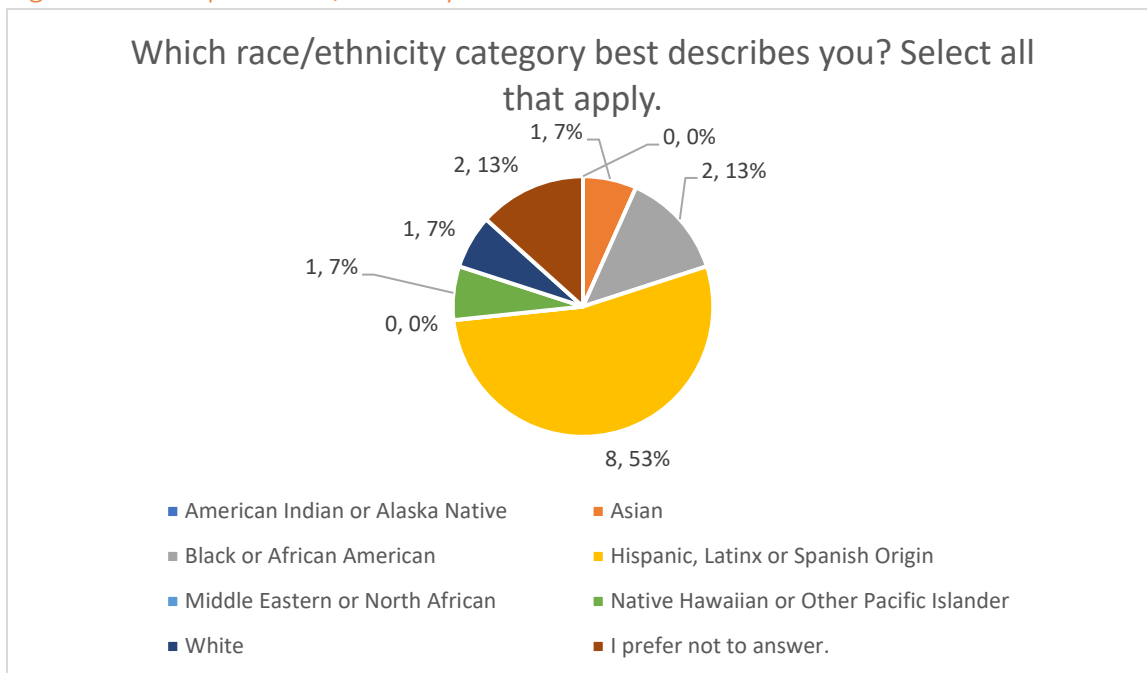


Figure 3: Participant Race/Ethnicity



## Responses

Figure 4: What Could Help You Prepare for a Wildfire in Your Community?

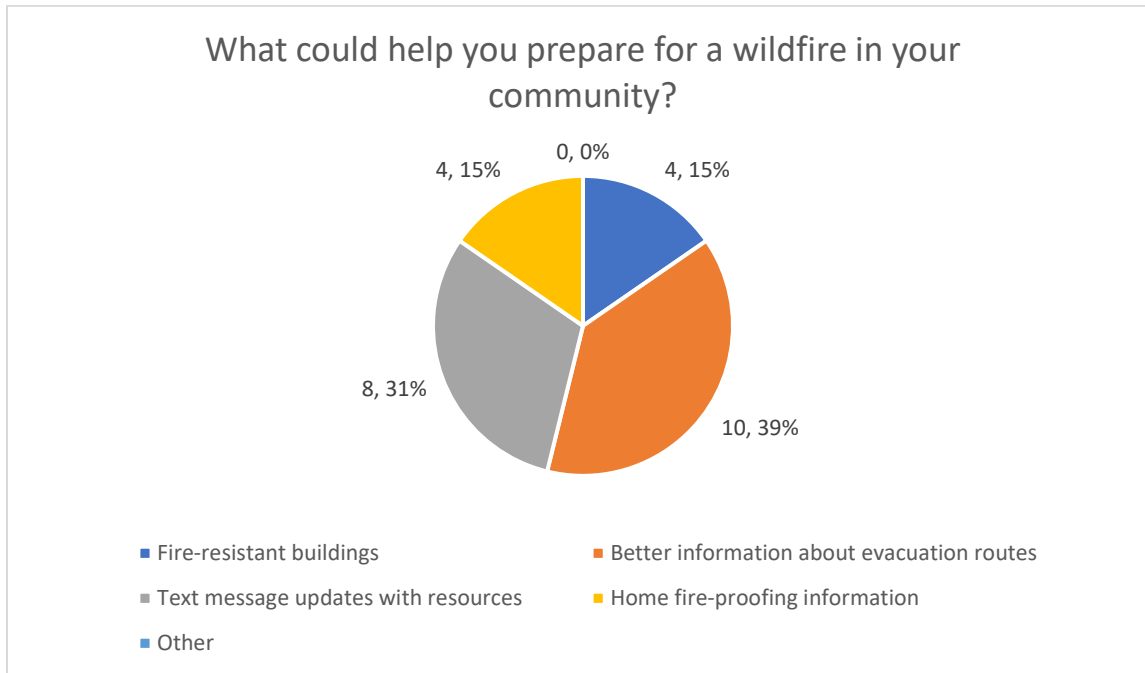


Figure 5: What Could Help You Prepare for Flooding?

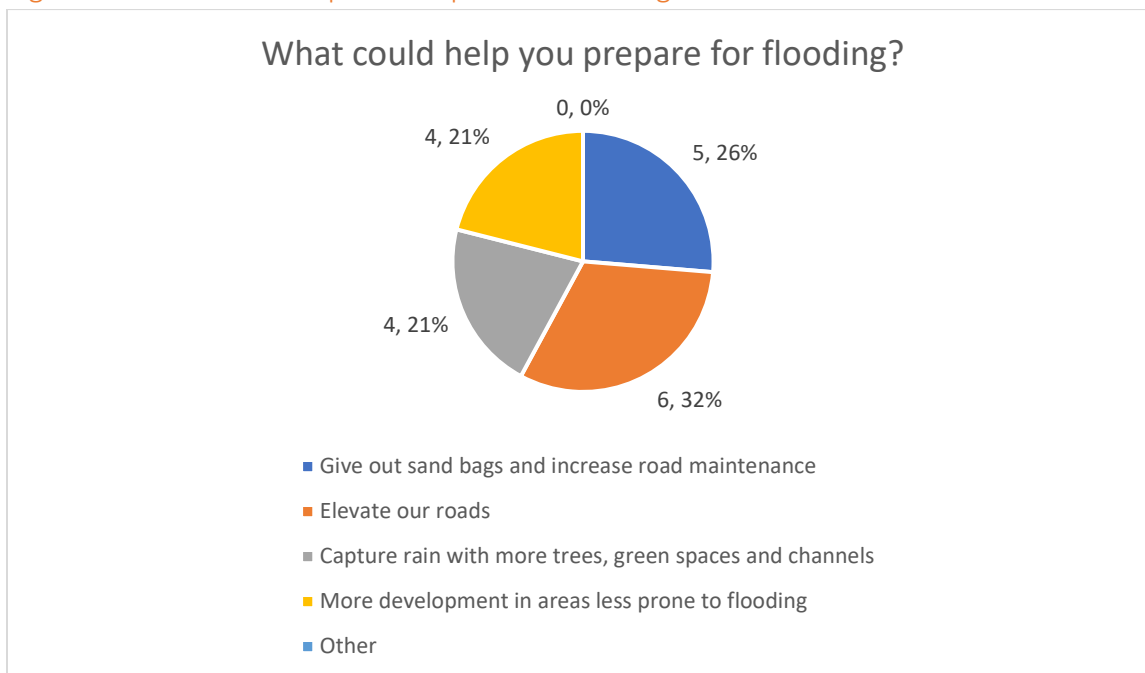


Figure 6: What's Your Ideal Way to Stay Cool on a Hot Day?

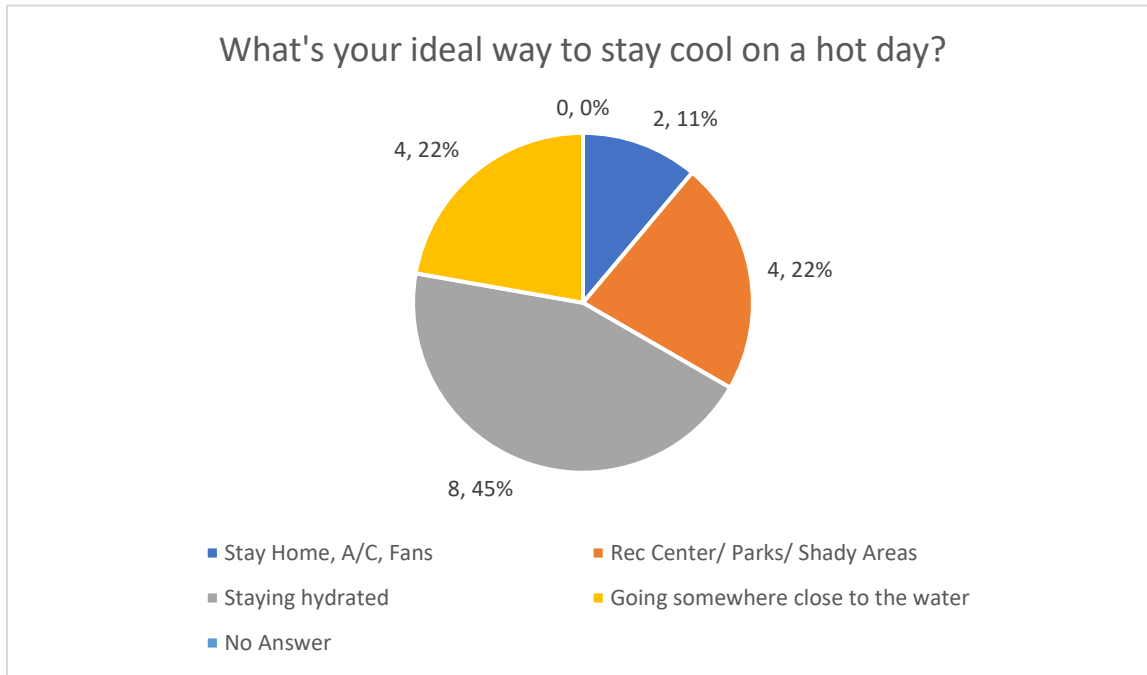


Figure 7: What Do You Like Most About Our Beaches or Bays?

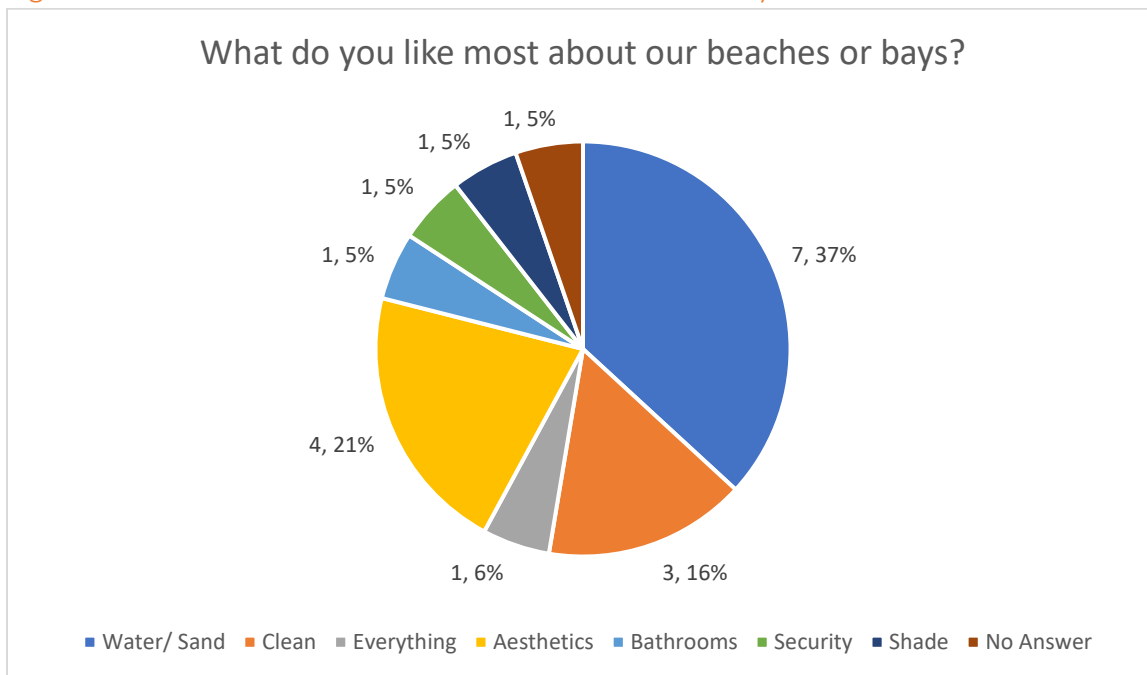
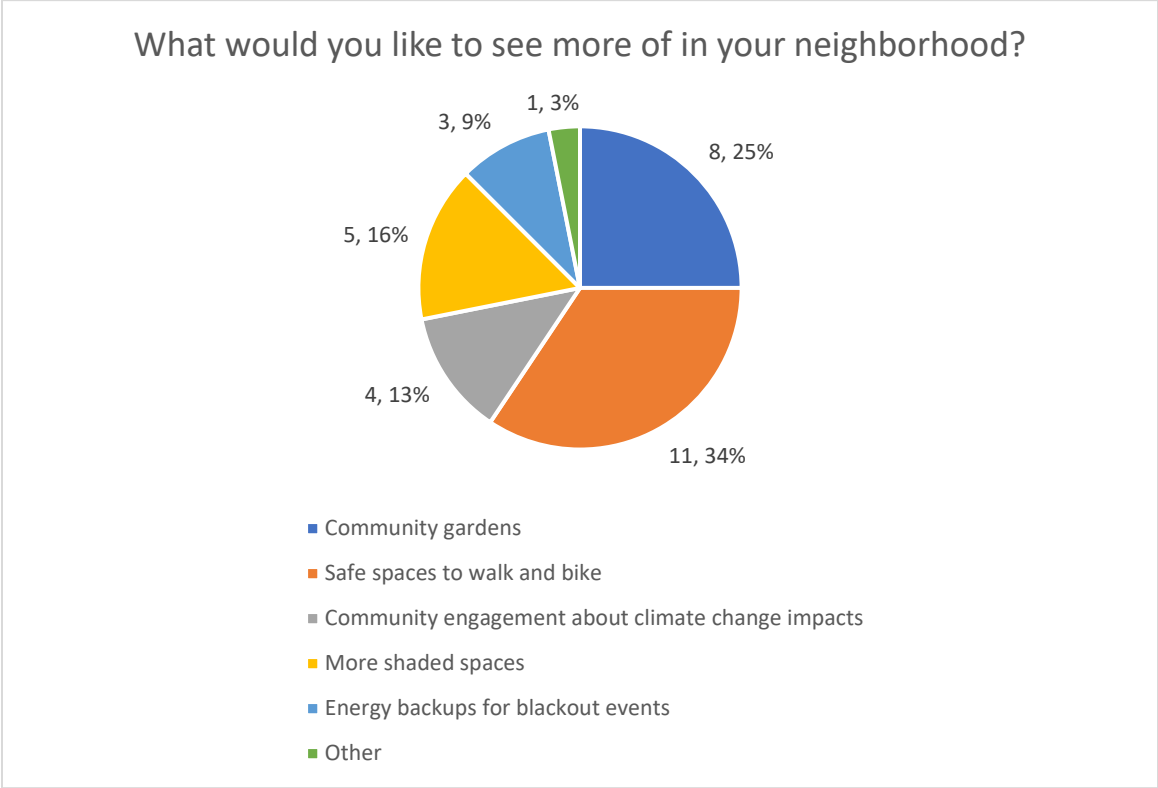


Figure 8: What Would You Like to See More of in Your Neighborhood?



## Tabling at Northgate Market in Barrio Logan

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 City Staff conducted an outreach event at Northgate Market in Barrio Logan. While many people stopped to engage about climate resiliency and took away the outreach half card with the survey QR code to fill out the survey later, others also stopped to fill out the paper poll survey in either English or Spanish. Of the 22 paper polls collected from the outreach event, 10 were completed in Spanish and 12 were completed in English. Participants were instructed to fill out the paper poll and select all options that they wanted.

### Response Summary:

- Most of the participants reported that to prepare for a wildfire in their community they would like to receive text message updates with resources (31%) and would like better information about evacuation routes (23%).
- Most of the participants reported that to prepare for flooding in their community they would like more development in areas less prone to flooding (34%) and would like sandbags and increase road maintenance (28%).
- Almost half of the participants cited that staying hydrated and wearing light clothes (28%) and staying inside with a fan or A/C (27%) is their ideal way to keep cool on a hot day.
- The majority of participants cited that what they liked most about our beaches and bays is that they are clean (36%)
- Most of the participants reported that they would like to have safe spaces to walk or bike (30%) in their neighborhood.

## Participant Demographics

A total of 22 people participated in completing the paper polls at this event. Of those participants who chose to provide demographic information, over half (59%) were below 35 years of age (see Figure 9), and about one third (32%) were over 55 years of age. Over half (55%) lived in zip code 92113 (see Figure 10). Of those participants that chose to disclose their race or ethnicity, most (87%) identified as Hispanic, Latinx, or other Spanish Origin (see Figure 11).

Figure 9: Participant Age

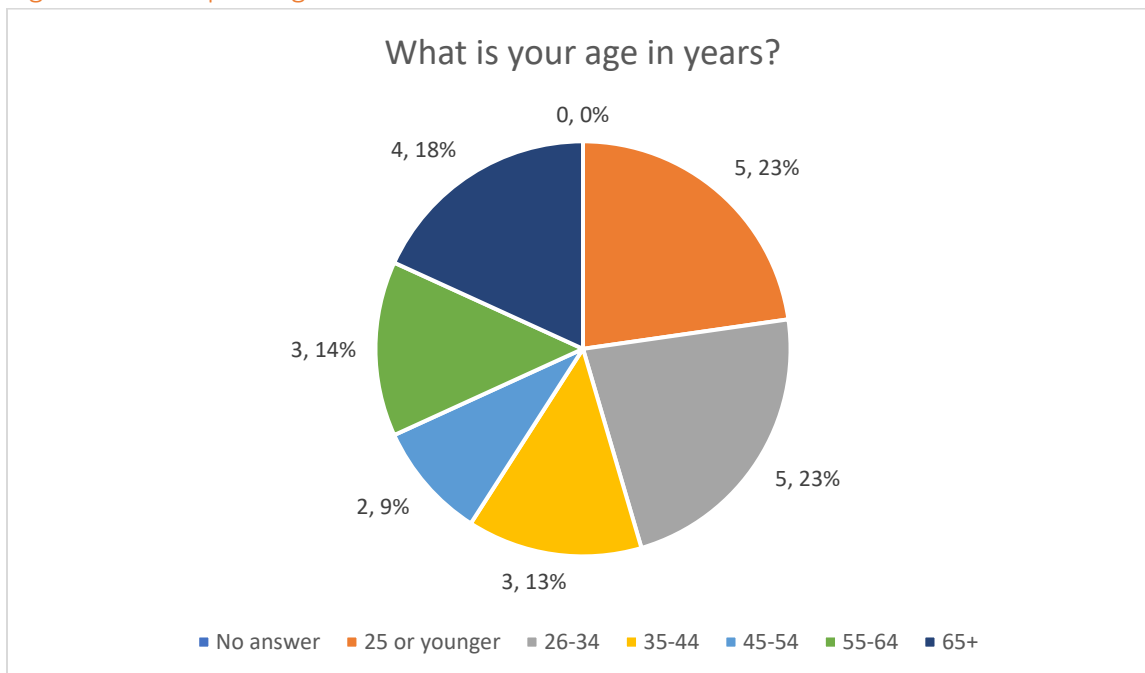


Figure 10: Participant Zip Code

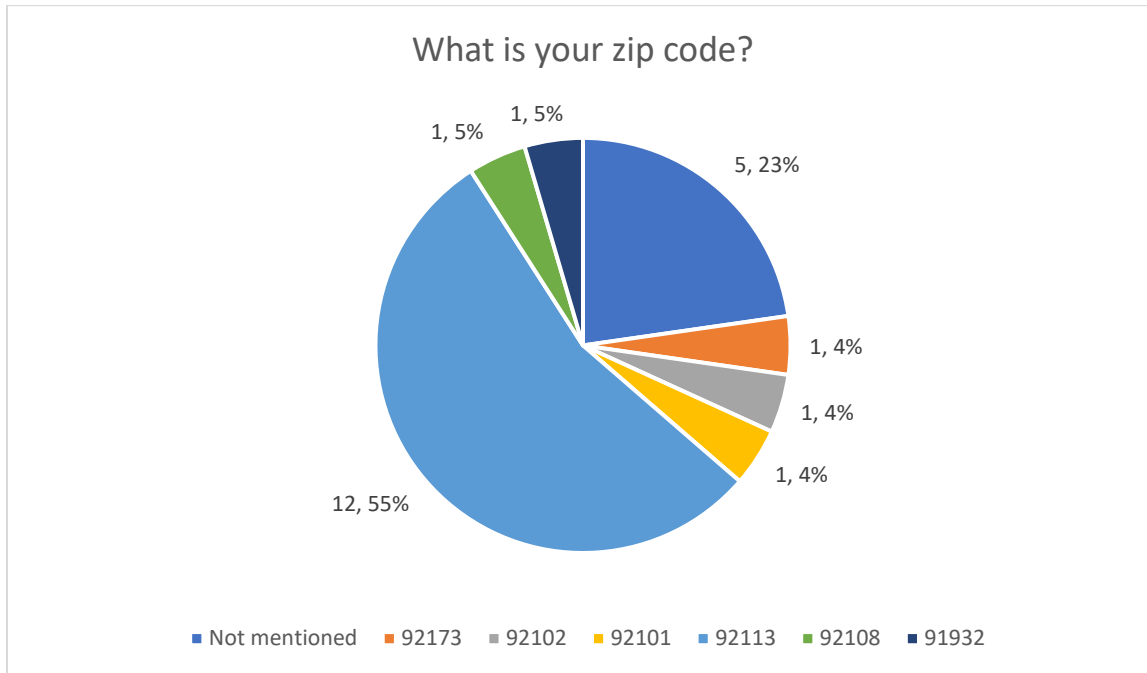
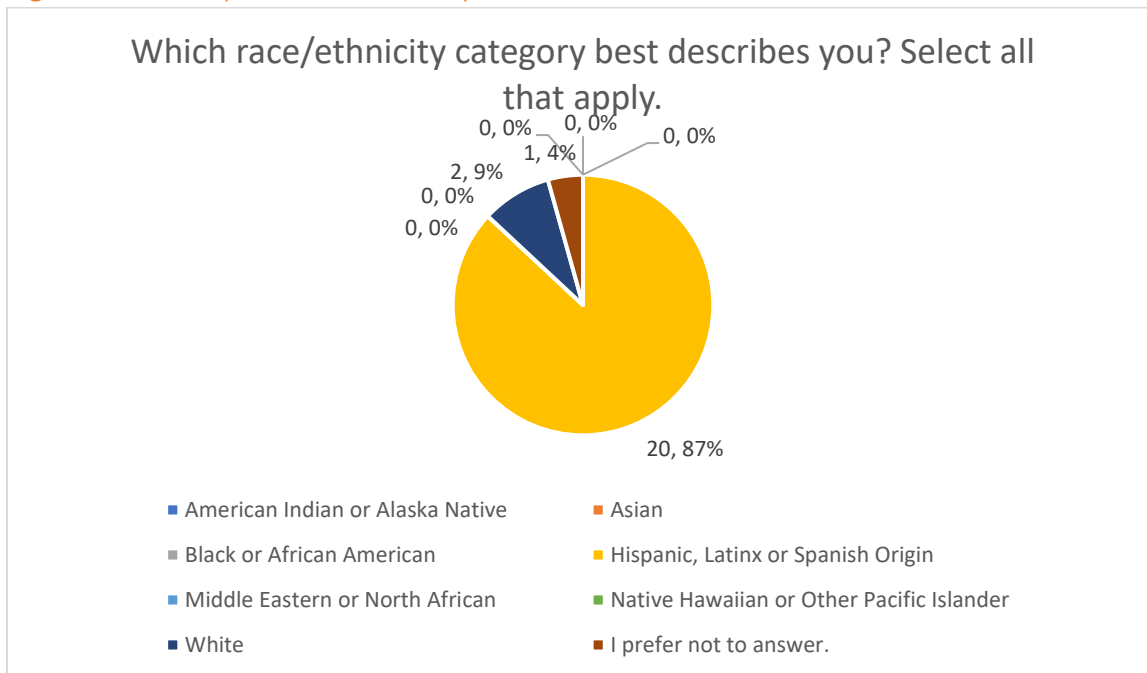


Figure 11: Participant Race/Ethnicity



## Responses

Figure 12: What Could Help You Prepare for a Wildfire in Your Community?

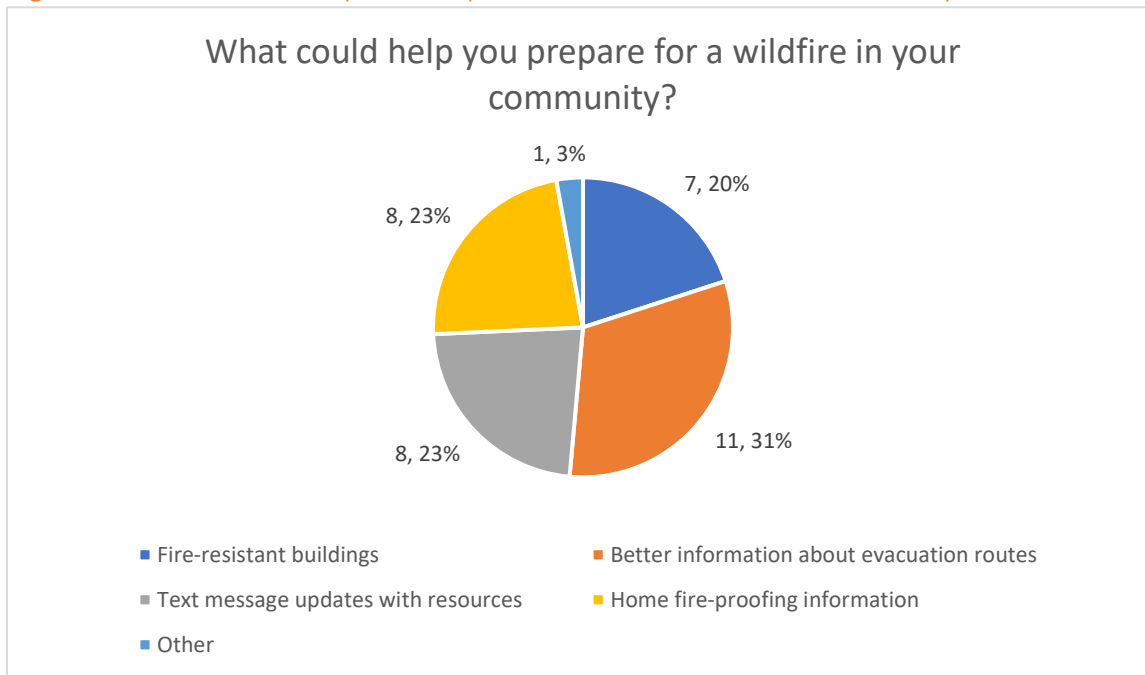


Figure 13: What Could Help You Prepare for Flooding?

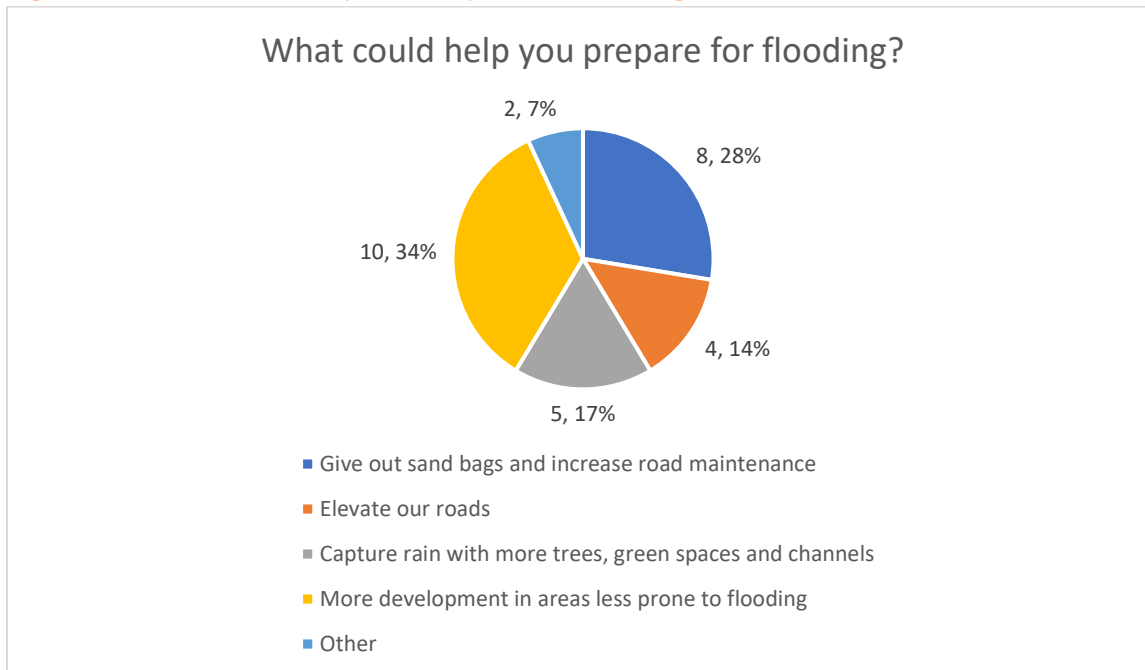


Figure 14: What's Your Ideal Way to Stay Cool on a Hot Day?

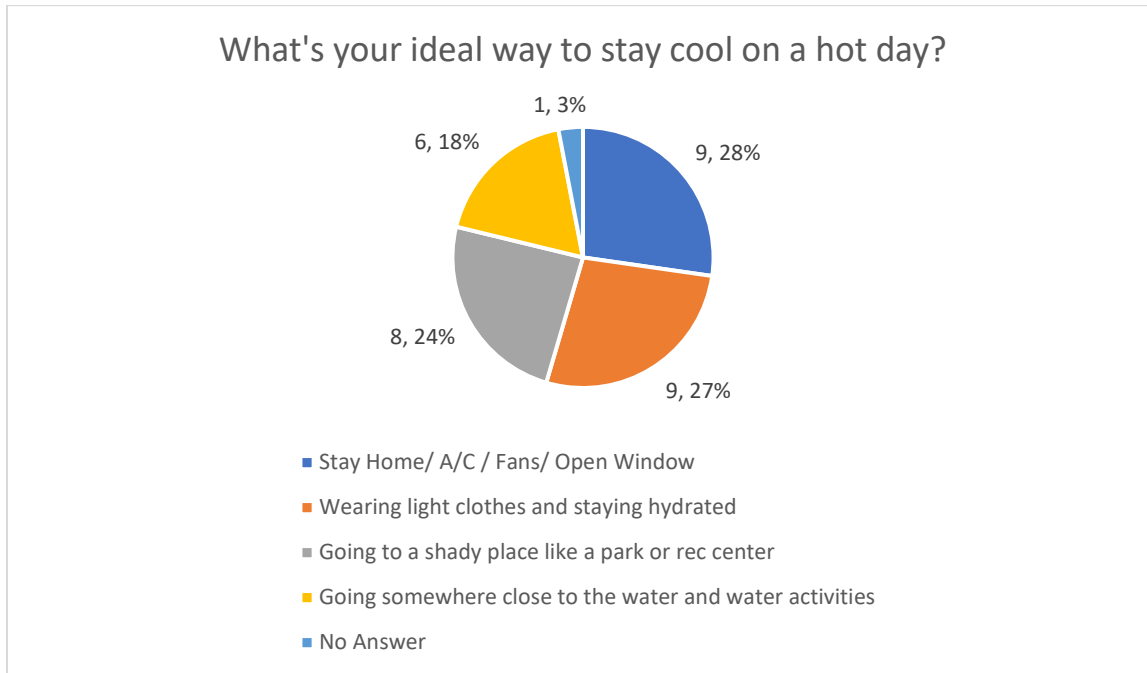


Figure 15: What Do You Like Most About Our Beaches or Bays?

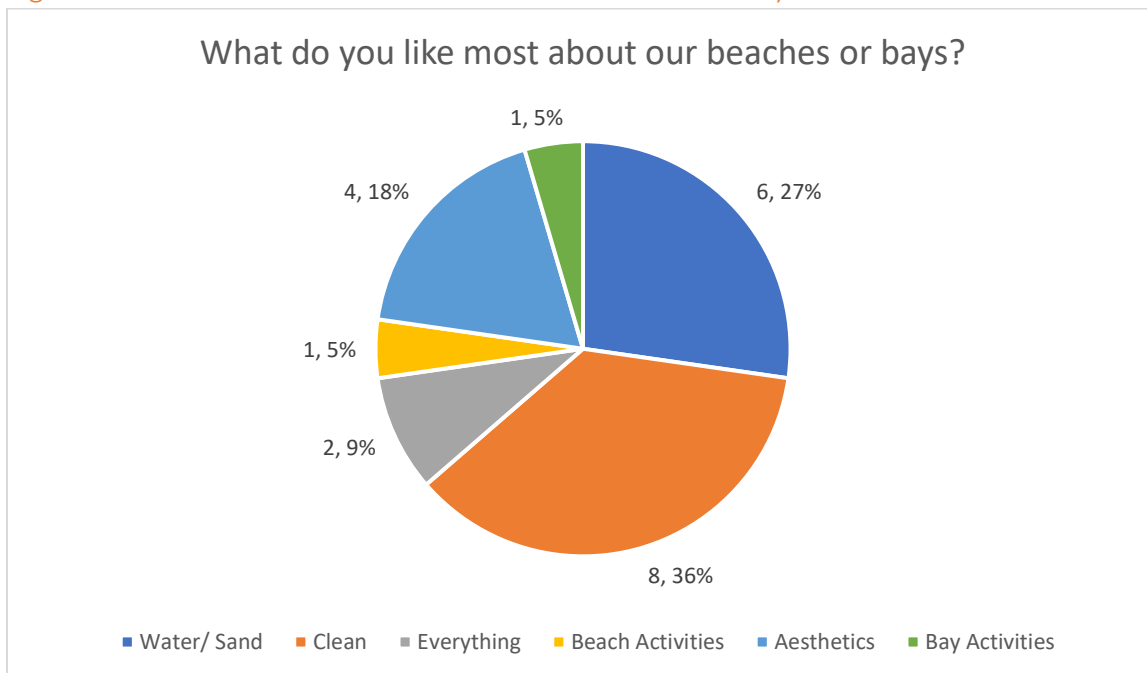
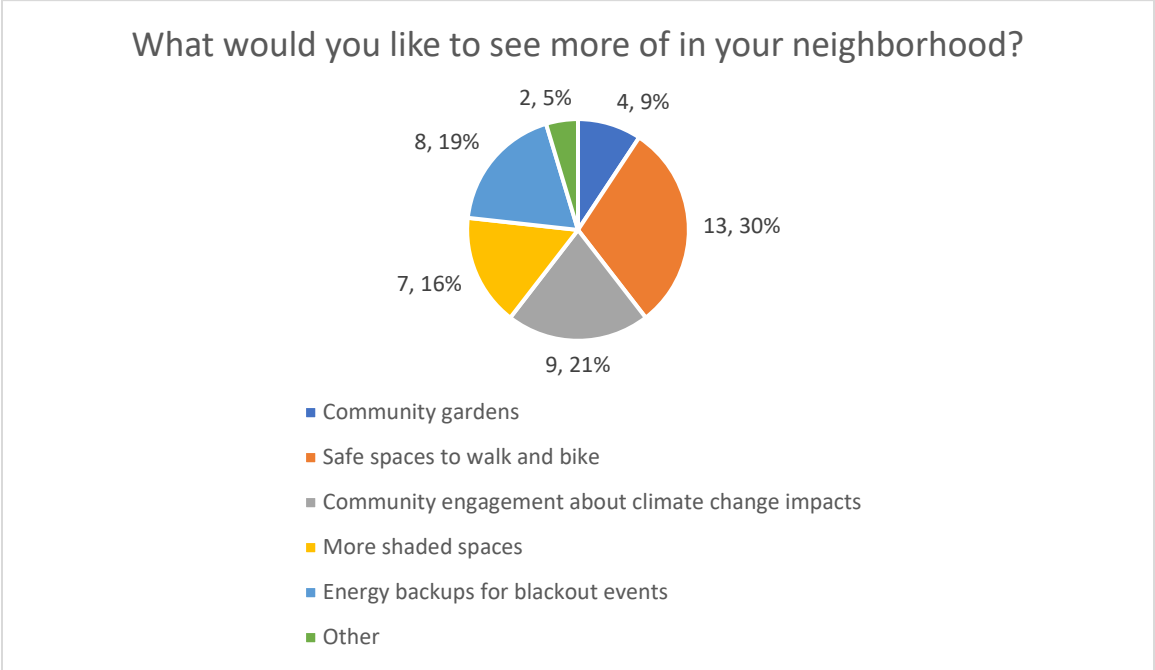


Figure 16: What Would You Like to See More of in Your Neighborhood?



## Findings and Next Steps

One of the key findings from the completed paper polls is that most respondents reported that to help them prepare for a wildfire in their community, they would like to receive text message updates with resources, and would like better information about evacuation routes. Many participants also prioritized having safe spaces to walk or bike in their neighborhood. These results will help refine the selection and prioritization of strategies in the *Climate Resilient SD* plan.

As a result of the City's continued efforts to engage broadly across its communities to get participation that is representative of this participation, the paper polls did receive participation across a greater range of race/ethnicities than some previously completed engagement efforts. But this representation still may not have been fully reflective of the diversity of the City's population. The City will continue efforts to engage broadly across its communities to get participation that is representative of its population.

It should also be noted that not all participants responded to every question on this survey, and that some chose to fill in their own answers for certain questions. While this occurred for just a small percentage of the overall participants, it is still important to take into account.

This paper polls are one of many outreach and engagement efforts the City is conducting to better understand the needs and values of community members. The results of the polls will be considered along with other feedback received through surveys, community outreach events, workshops, etc. The City also looks forward to continuing and adjusting its outreach efforts to better engage participants that more accurately represent its population.



*Climate Resilient SD: Sticker Poll Results*

## About the Sticker Poll

*Climate Resilient SD* will be the City of San Diego's (City) comprehensive climate adaptation and resiliency plan which will increase local capacity to adapt, recover, and thrive amidst a changing climate. Community engagement is a critical component to the planning effort to ensure that the plan speaks to the needs and the vision of the City residents. The Sticker Poll was developed with younger residents in mind, as a way to interact with and receive feedback from younger members of the public who may not be able to complete a written climate resiliency poll.

The sticker poll asked a series of questions that were designed to see how younger participants were affected by extreme heat, what methods of transportation they used, and the types of resources and public spaces they enjoy and would like to see more of in their communities.

The sticker poll was available at several community engagement events hosted during summer 2021 where the number of attendees, the flow of foot traffic, and the nature of the event permitted participants to spend time completing the poll.

## Living Wall Event

On August 12, 2021 the City, in partnership with Copley-Price YMCA and the Thriving Earth Exchange, hosted a Living Wall event. Planning Staff were on hand to help local youth install a living wall outside the Copley-Price YMCA, while also educating them about *Climate Resilient SD*. The event had five major stations: a planting station, a storytelling station, a coloring station, a goody bag station, and a sticker poll station. All written materials were provided in both English and Spanish, and approximately ~40 children were able to participate. A brief summary of their responses to the sticker poll is provided below.

### Response Summary

- More than half of the kids reported that they have a few trees in their neighborhood.
- Most of the kids (~73%) ride in a car to school.
- Shaded paths and parks were the most popular responses for what kids would like to see in their neighborhood.
- Playing in water and drinking cold water were the most popular responses for how kids stay cool on hot days.
- When asked which spaces they enjoyed the most, most kids said that they enjoy the beach and playgrounds.

Responses

Figure 1: How Many Trees Does Your Neighborhood Have?

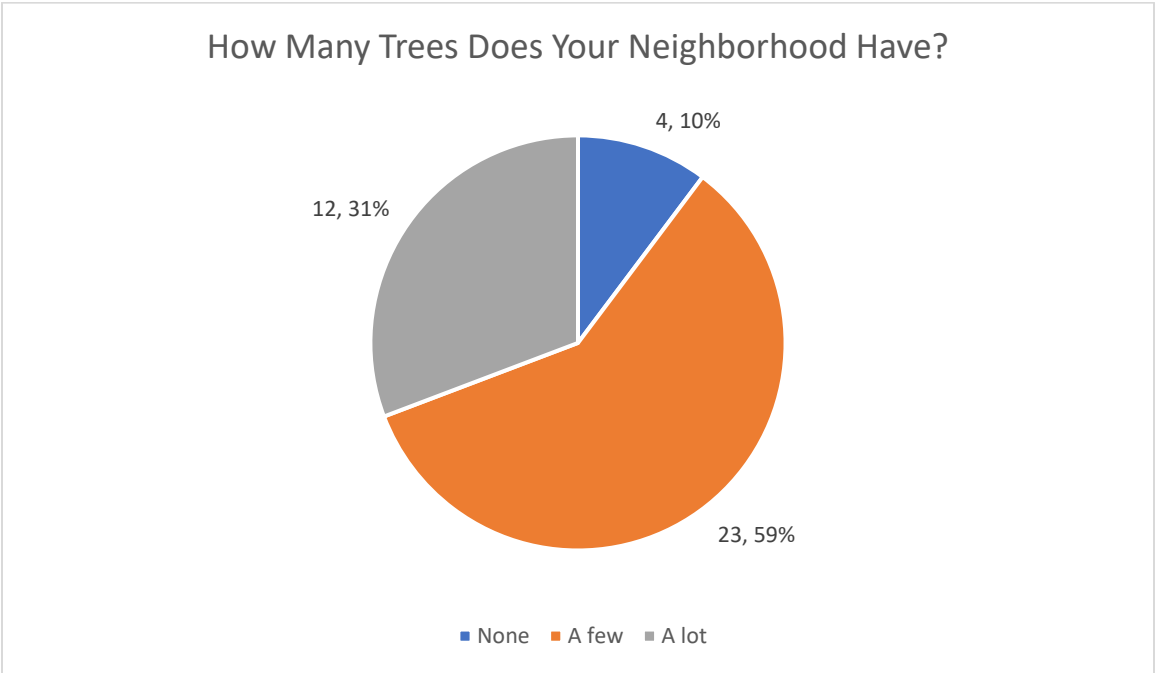


Figure 2: How Do You Get to School?

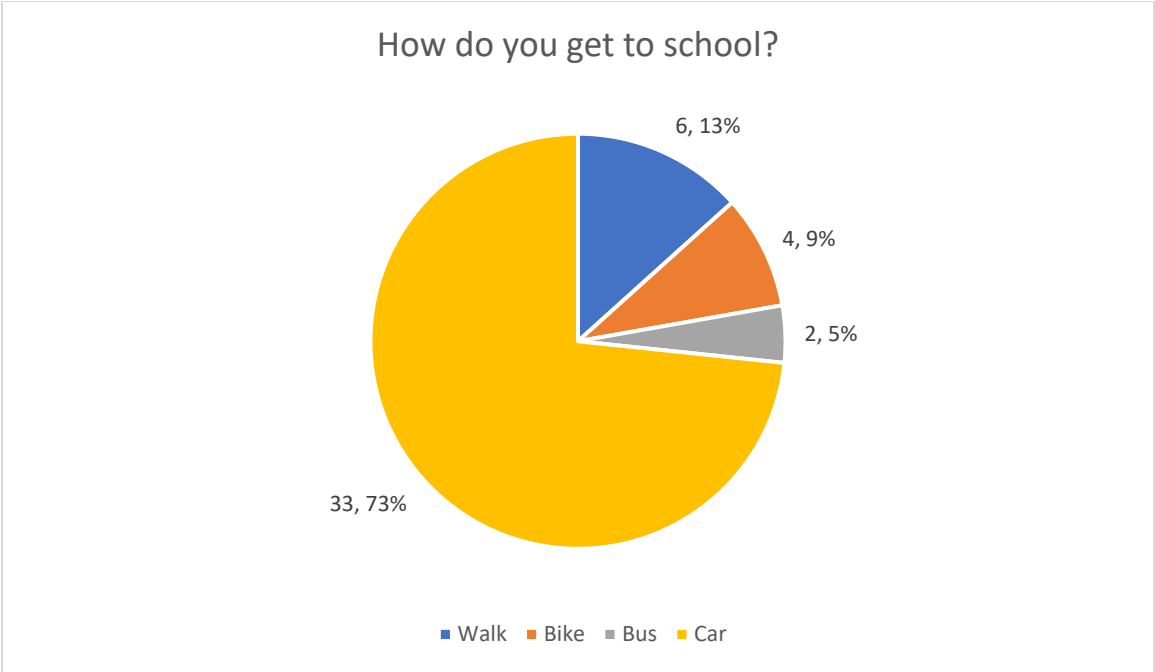


Figure 3: What Do You Want in Your Neighborhood?

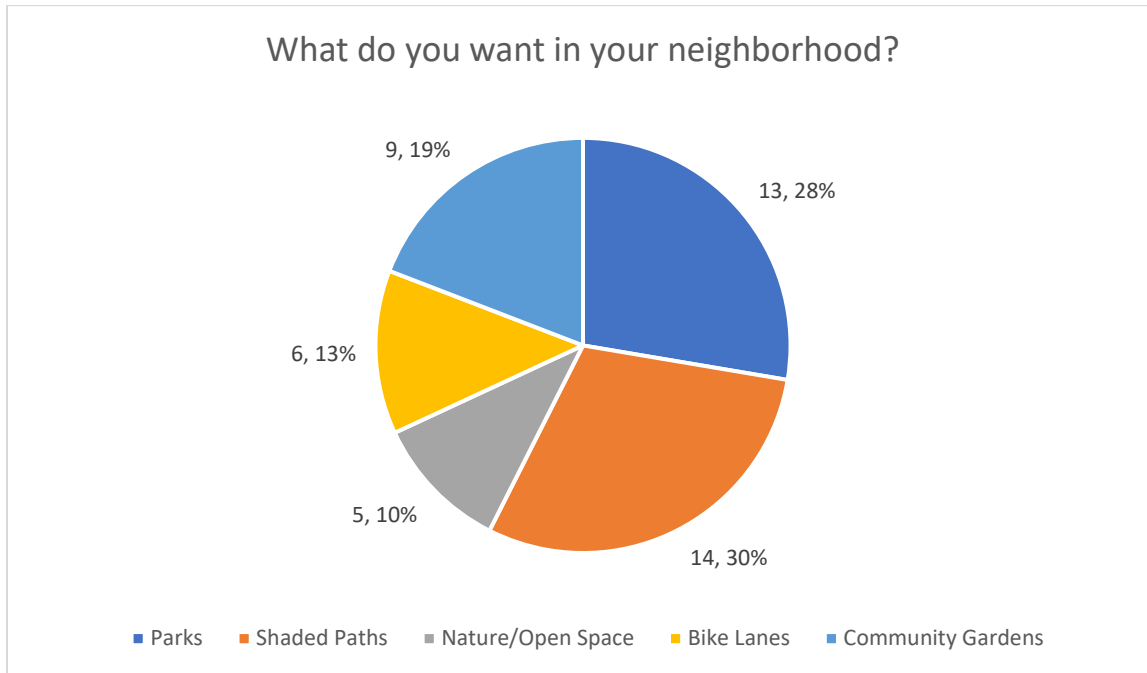


Figure 4: How Do You Stay Cool on Hot Days?

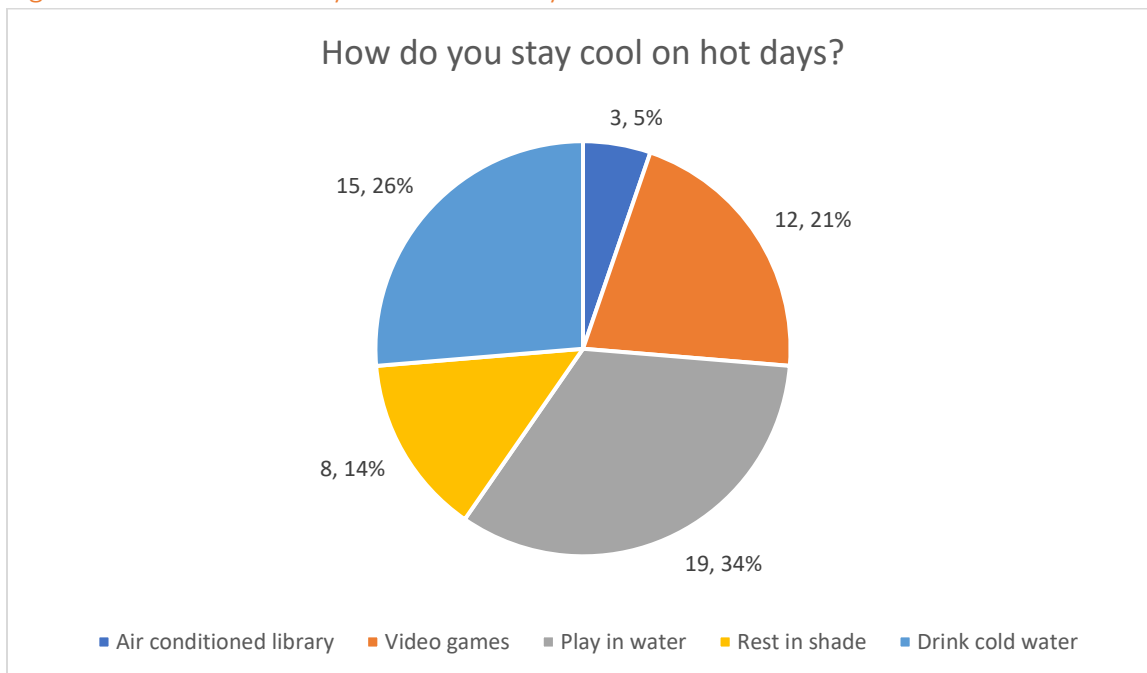
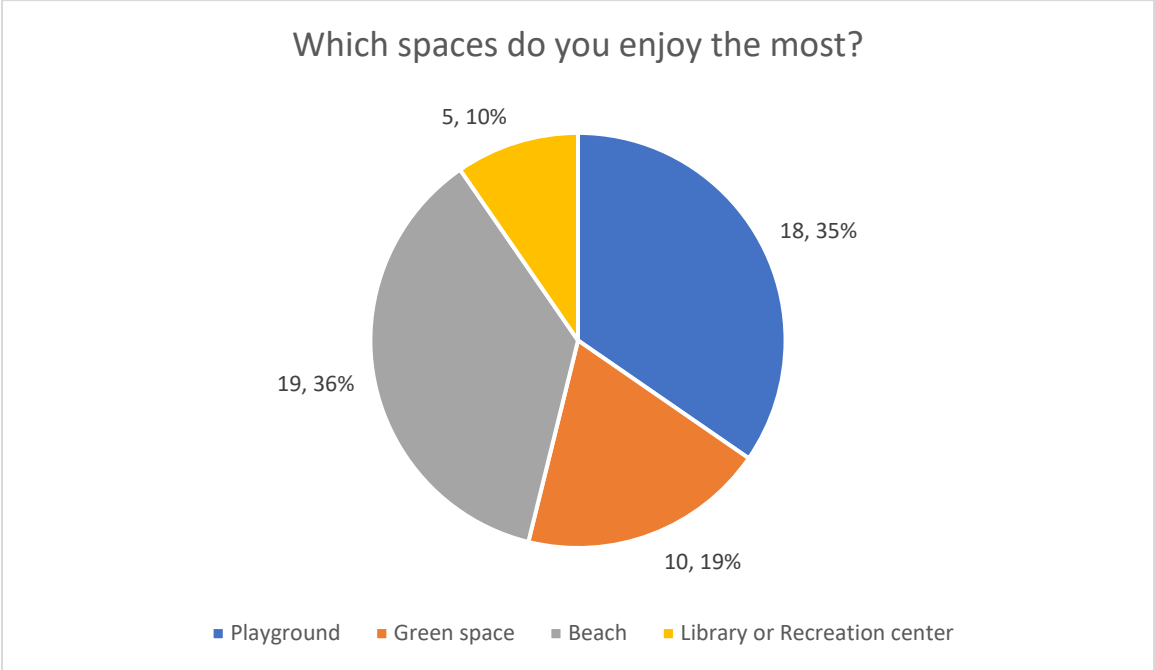


Figure 5: Which Spaces Do You Enjoy the Most?



## Back to School SD Event

On August 21, 2021 City Planning Staff hosted a table at Mayor Gloria's Back to School SD Event. Many people stopped to engage about climate resiliency and took away the outreach half card, which has a survey QR code that would allow them to fill out a survey later. However, others also filled out the paper poll survey in either English or Spanish or completed the sticker poll. Approximately 70 people completed the sticker poll, the responses to which are displayed below.

### Response Summary

- Most (65%) participants reported that their neighborhood has a few trees.
- 40% of participants reported that they take a car to school, while 30% walk to school and 26% take the bus.
- Community gardens and parks were the most popular responses for what participants wanted to see in their neighborhoods.
- Most participants reported that they drink cold water or play in water to stay cool on hot days.
- When asked which space they enjoy the most, almost two thirds of participants (63%) said that they enjoy the beach.

## Responses

Figure 6: How Many Trees Does Your Neighborhood Have?

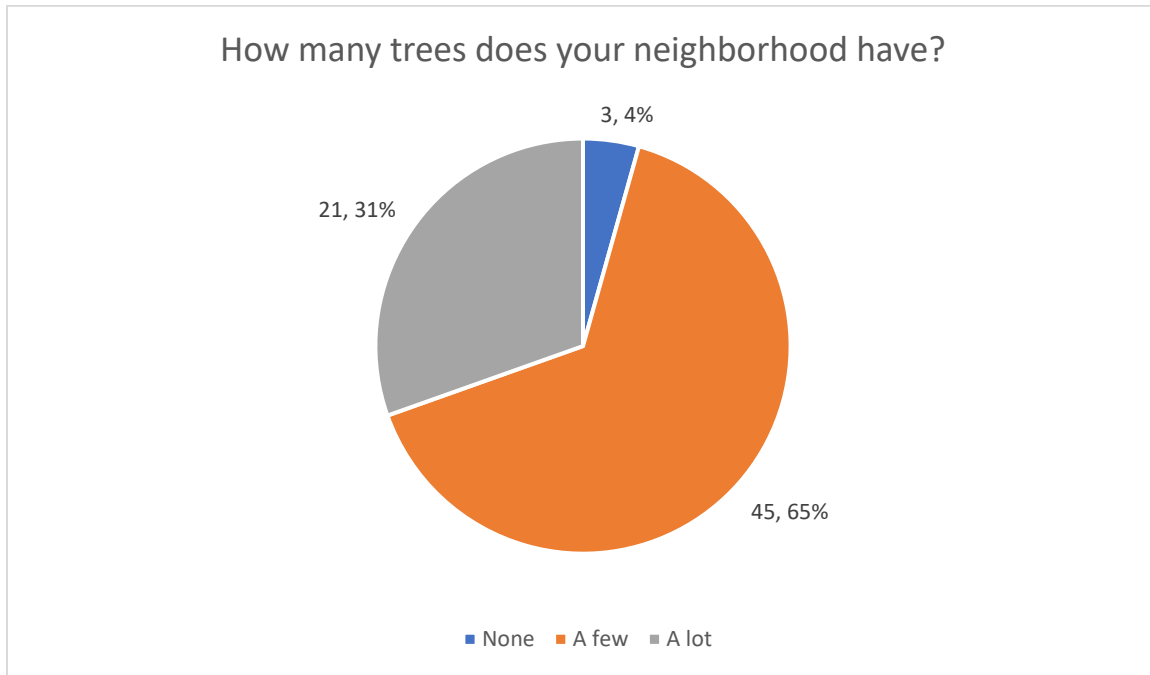


Figure 7: How Do You Get to School?

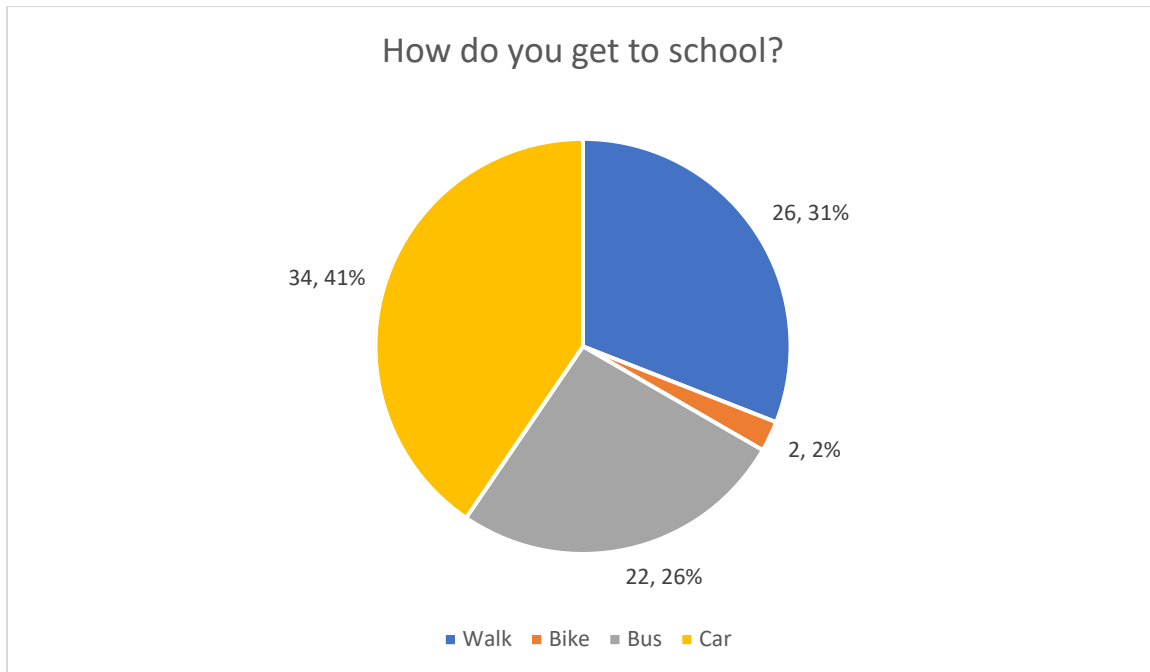


Figure 8: What Do You Want in Your Neighborhood?

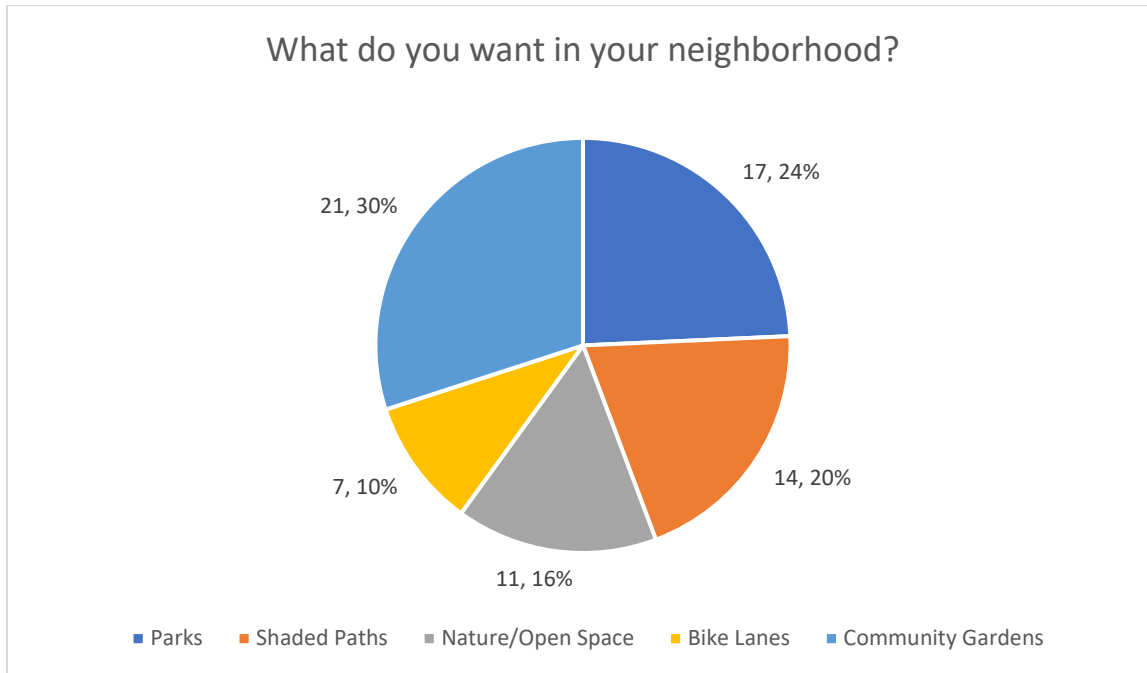


Figure 9: How Do You Stay Cool on Hot Days?

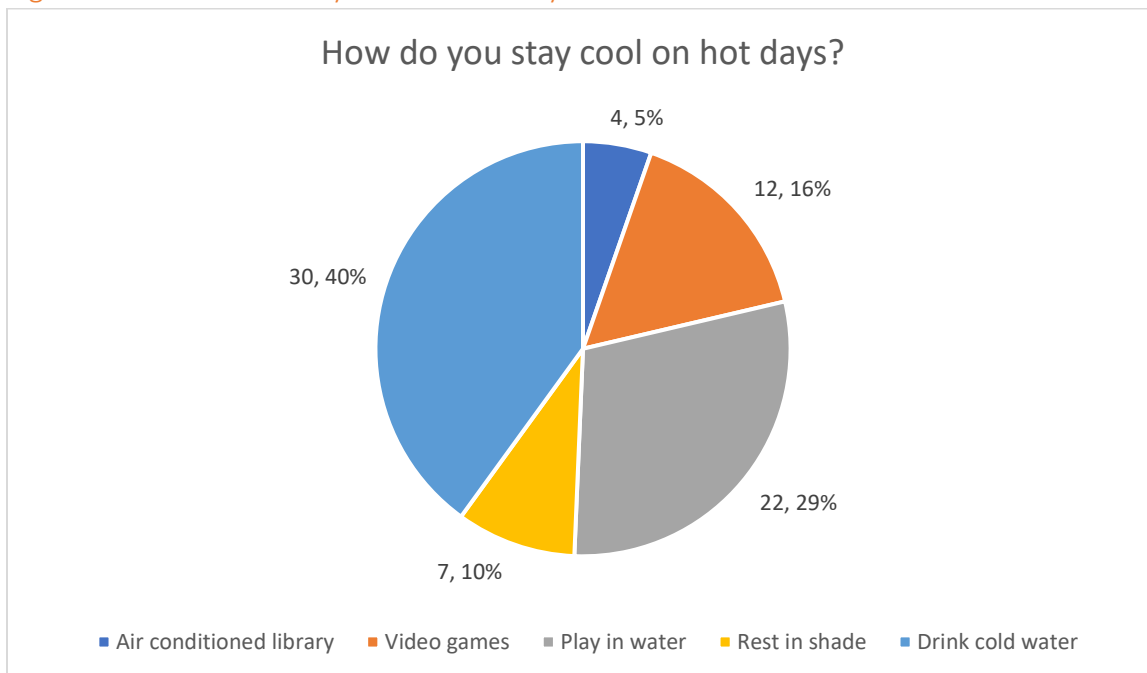
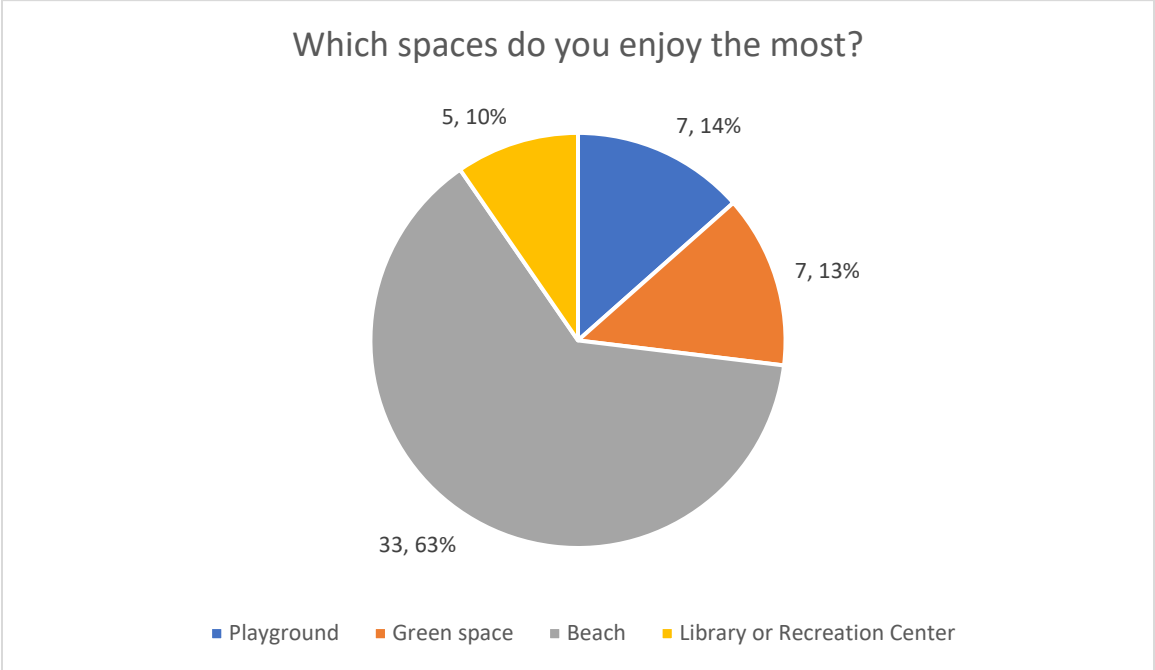


Figure 10: Which Spaces Do You Enjoy the Most?



## Fern Street Circus Event

City Planning staff conducted *Climate Resilient SD* outreach at an August 28, 2021 performance of the Fern Street Circus, at Cesar Chavez Community Center in San Ysidro. Staff members were on hand to talk to community members about *Climate Resilient SD*, walk them through the poll questions, and distribute both fun and educational handout materials. All written materials were provided in both English and Spanish, and several dozen community members were interested in participating. A brief summary of their responses to the sticker poll is provided below.

### Response Summary

- Over half of participants (58%) said they have a few trees in their neighborhood.
- Over half of participants (59%) use a car to get to school.
- Nature / Open Space was the most popular responses for what participants wanted to see in their neighborhoods, though several participants were also interested in parks and shaded paths.
- Once again, most participants reported that they drink cold water or play in water to stay cool on hot days.
- Participants most enjoy playgrounds, and the beach.

## Responses

Figure 11: How Many Trees Does Your Neighborhood Have?

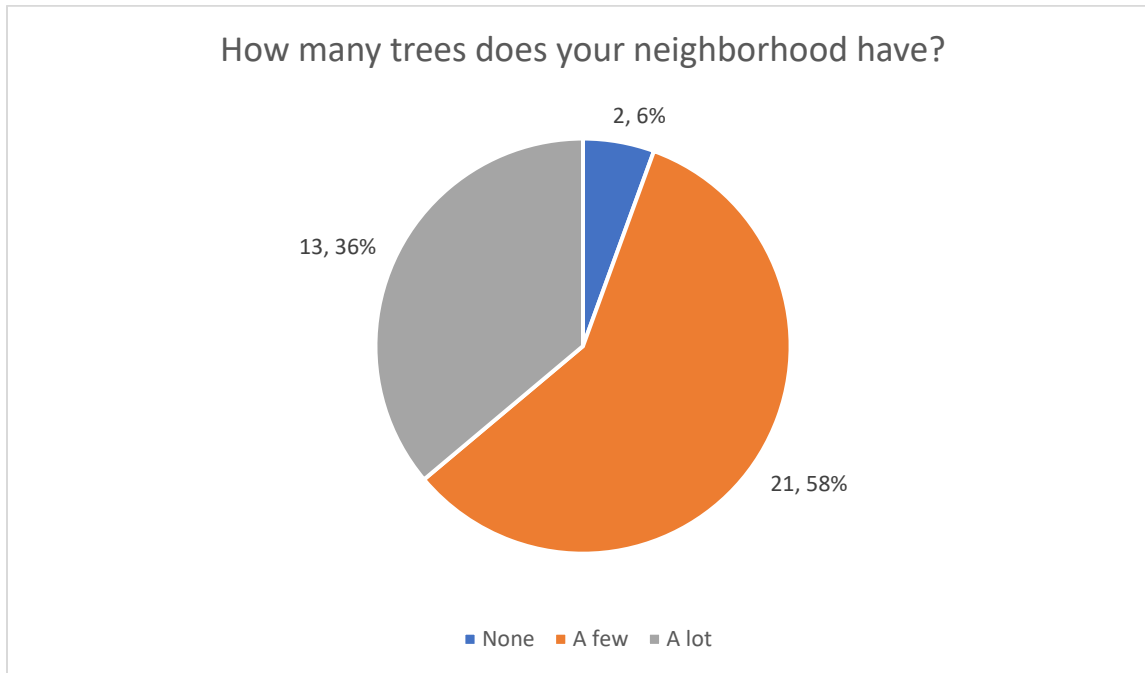


Figure 12: How Do You Get to School?

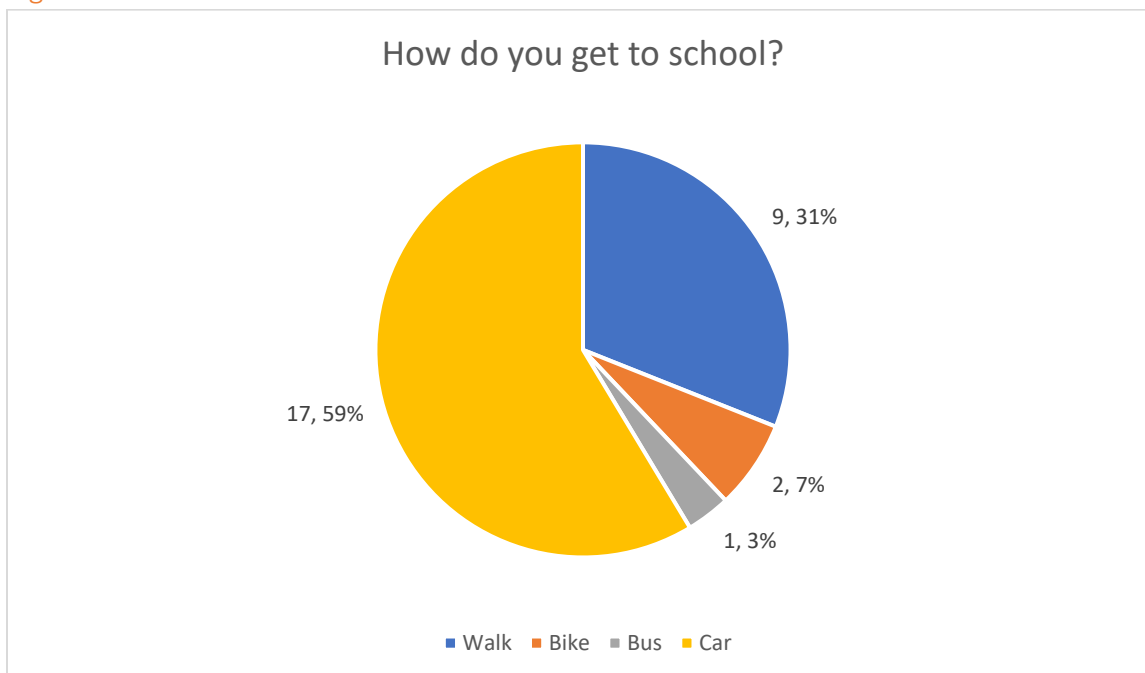


Figure 13: What Do You Want in Your Neighborhood?

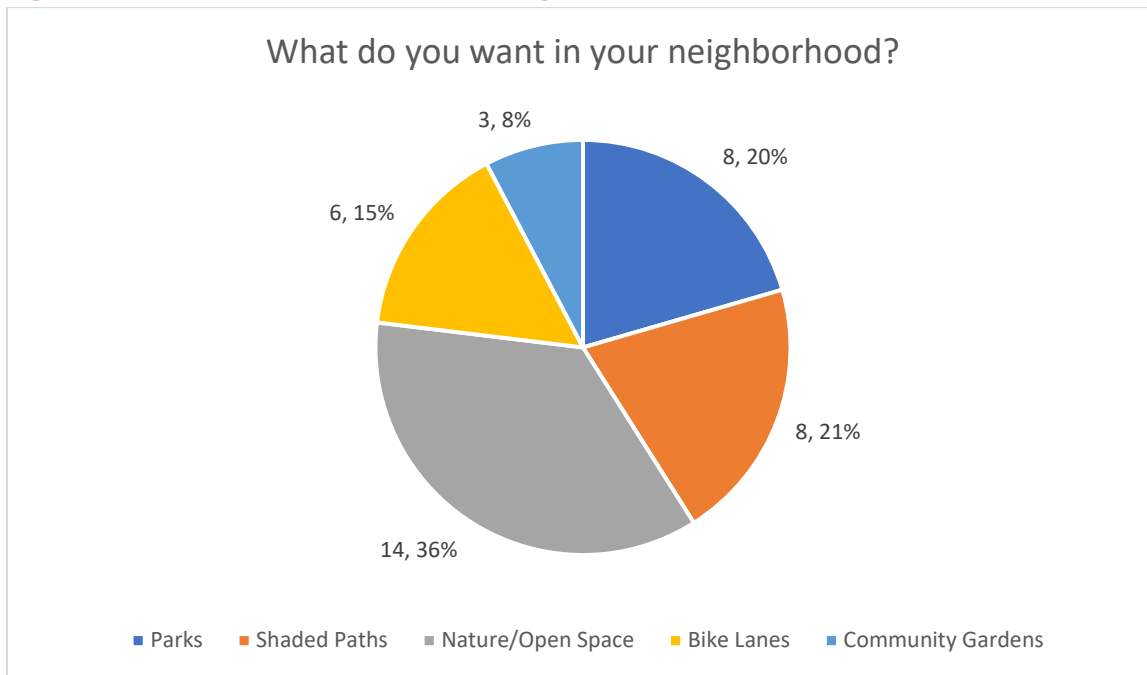


Figure 14: How Do You Stay Cool on Hot Days?

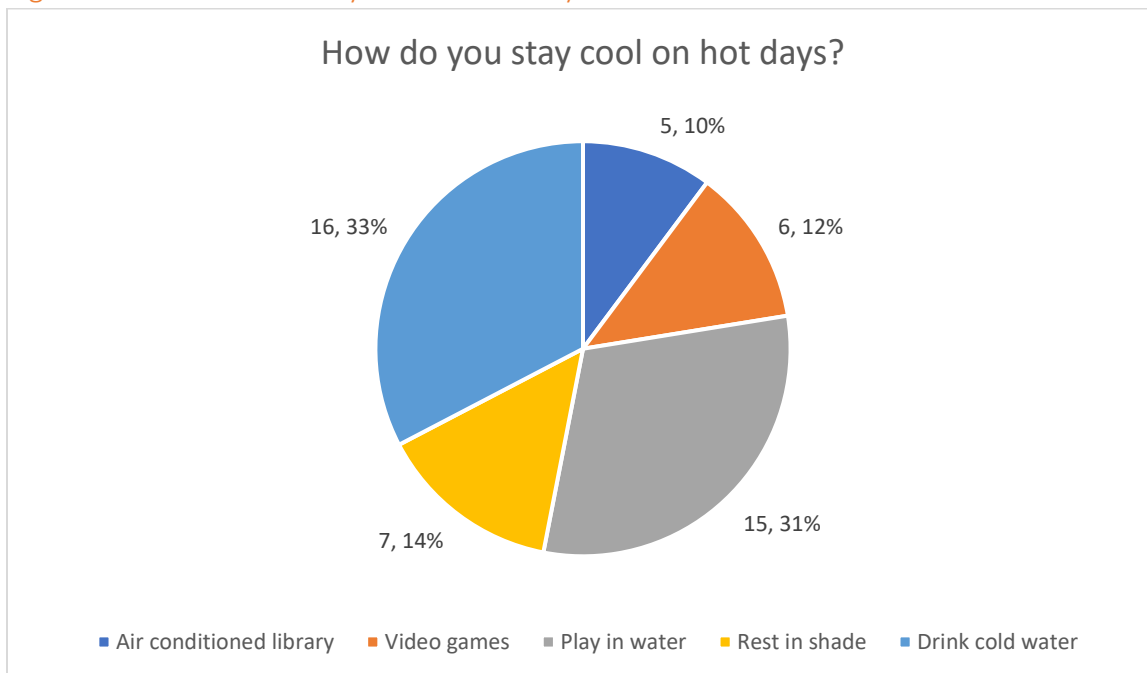
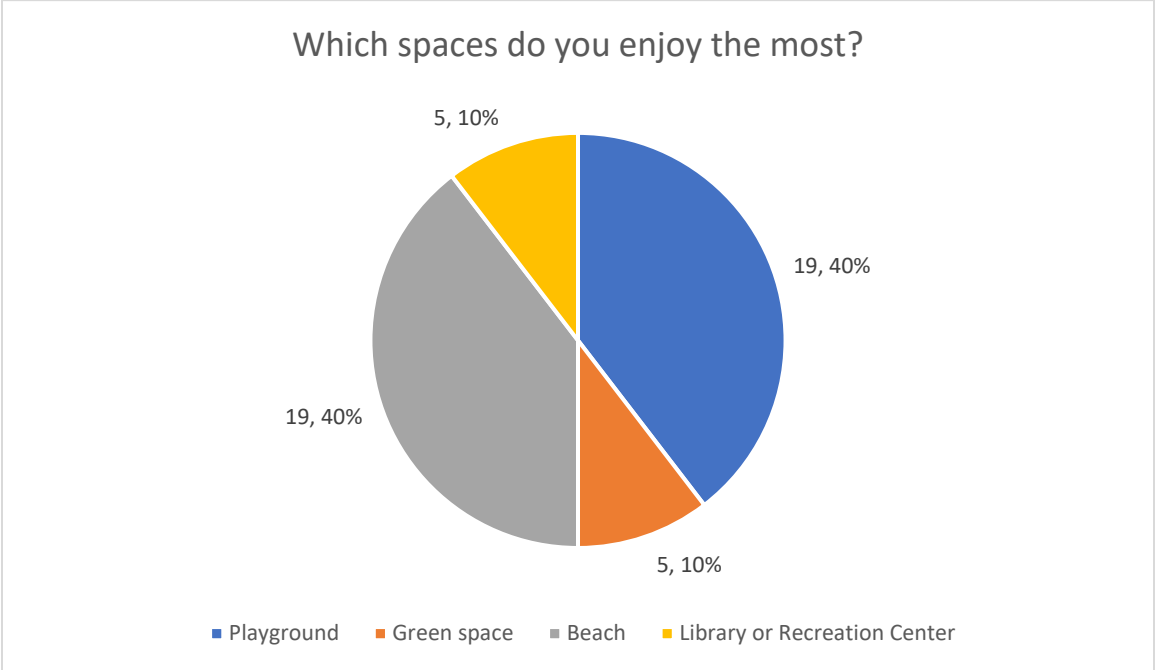


Figure 15: Which Spaces Do You Enjoy the Most?



## Findings and Next Steps:

One of the key findings from the completed sticker polls is that shaded paths and parks were very popular with respondents. Another common theme was that many participants reported that they play in water to stay cool on hot days, and that they really enjoy utilizing the beach and playgrounds. These results about the resources that participants most valued will help refine the selection and prioritization of adaptation strategies included in the *Climate Resilient SD* plan.

The City looks forward to continuing its engagement efforts this fall to ensure that everyone's feedback and priorities are considered and used to refine the draft plan. These sticker polls are one of many outreach and engagement efforts the City is conducting to better understand the needs and values of community members. The results of the polls will be considered along with other feedback received through surveys, community outreach events, workshops, etc. The City also looks forward to continuing and adjusting its outreach efforts to better engage participants that more accurately represent its population.



*Climate Resilient SD: Resiliency Engagement Tool Results*

## About the Resiliency Engagement Tool

*Climate Resilient SD* will be the City of San Diego's (City) comprehensive climate adaptation and resiliency plan which will increase local capacity to adapt, recover, and thrive amidst a changing climate. Community engagement is a critical component to the planning effort to ensure that the plan speaks to the needs and the vision of the City residents. The Resiliency Engagement Tool (Engagement Tool) was the third online engagement tool created to engage with and receive feedback from members of the community, and its results will help guide the development and prioritization of the potential adaptation strategies that are included in the plan.

The Engagement Tool asked a series of questions about what would most help residents to prepare for and adapt to climate change hazards, and questions about the resources and spaces they most enjoy and would like to see more of in their neighborhoods. Several of these questions were open ended questions, where participants were able to write in their own responses.

The Engagement Tool went live online in early August 2021 and was open to public participation through October 6, 2021. It was shared widely on the City's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram); by the City's CBO partners and through NextDoor, and was also circulated to subscribers of the Climate Resilient SD and Climate Action Plan newsletters.

## Participant Demographics

A total of 26 people participated in the Engagement Tool. Of those participants, over half (61%) were below 54 years of age (see Figure 1) and lived all across the City (see Figure 2). Of those participants that chose to disclose their race or ethnicity, over half (61%) identified as White (see Figure 3).

Figure 1: Participant Age

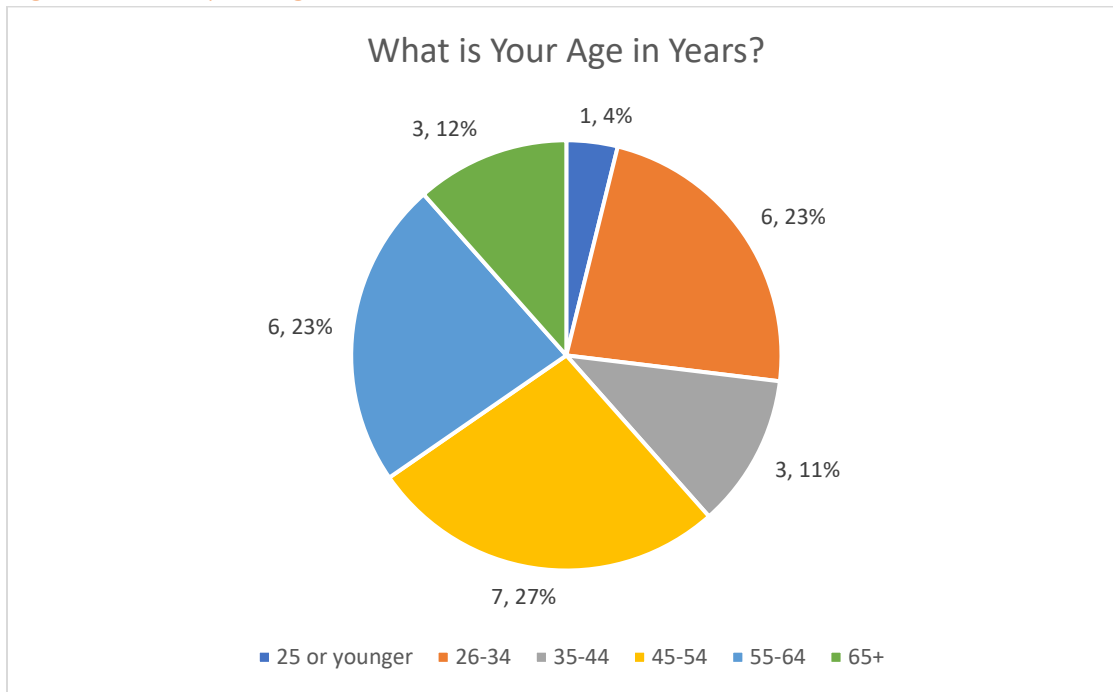


Figure 2: Participant Zip Code

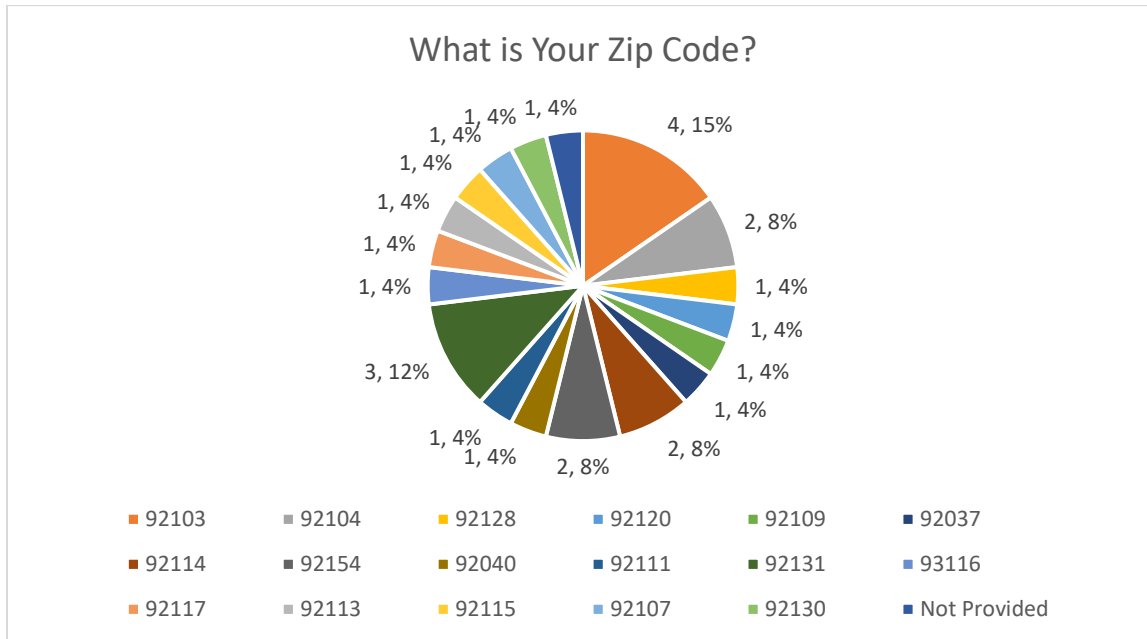
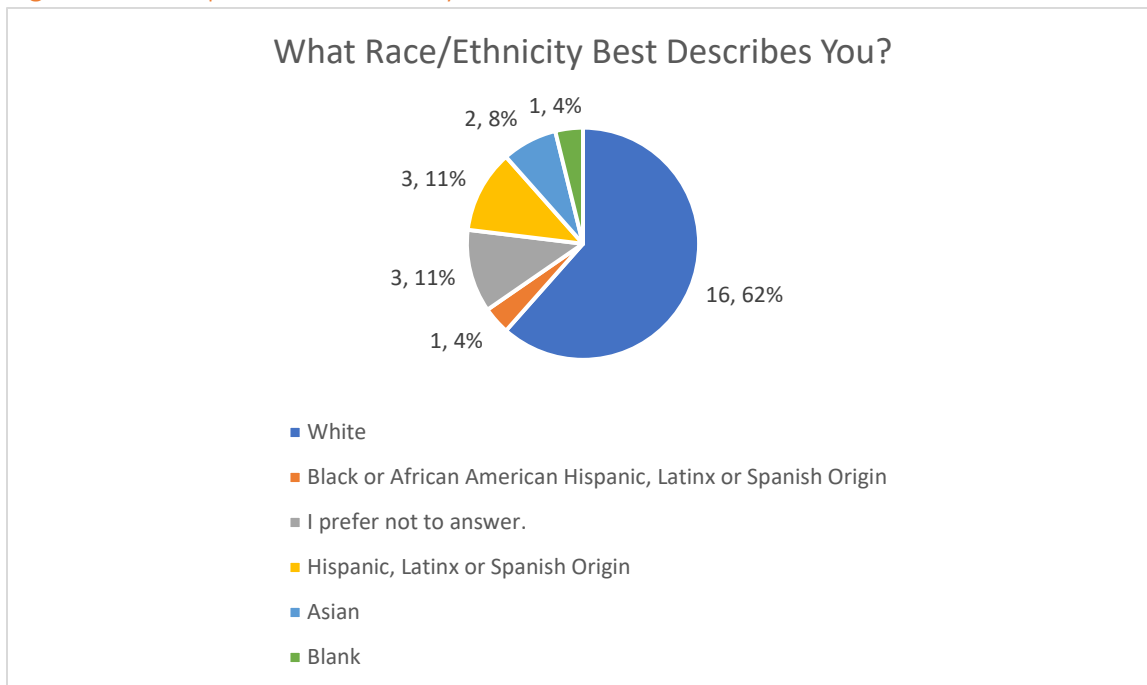


Figure 3: Participant Race/Ethnicity



## Survey Results

The Engagement Tool sought public feedback on what would most help participants to prepare for and adapt to climate change hazards, as well as which resources and spaces they most enjoy and would like to see more of in their neighborhoods. The following questions were included for input:

- What Could Help You Prepare for a Wildfire in Your Community? (select all that apply)
  - Fire-Resistant Buildings
  - Better Information About Evacuation Routes
  - Text Messages Updates With Resources
  - Home Fire-Proofing Information
  - Other
- What Could Help You Prepare for Flooding? (select all that apply)
  - Give Out Sand Bags and Increase Road Maintenance
  - Capture Rain With More Trees, Green Spaces and Channels
  - More Development in Areas Less Prone to Flooding
  - Other
- What Would You Like to See More of in Your Neighborhood? (select all that apply)
  - Community Gardens
  - Safe Spaces to Walk and Bike
  - Community Engagement About Climate Change Impacts
  - More Shaded Spaces
  - Energy Backup for Blackout Events
  - Other
- What Do You Like Most About Our Beaches and Bays? (open ended)
- What's Your Ideal Way to Stay Cool on a Hot Day? (open ended)

Overall, most participants in the Engagement Tool said that they would like to receive text message updates with resources to help them prepare for a wildfire in their community (see Figure 4). Many participants also prioritized having safe spaces to walk or bike in their neighborhood (see Figure 6), and believed that capturing rain with more trees, green spaces, and channels would best help them prepare for flood impacts (see Figure 5).

Figure 4: What Could Help You Prepare for a Wildfire in Your Community?

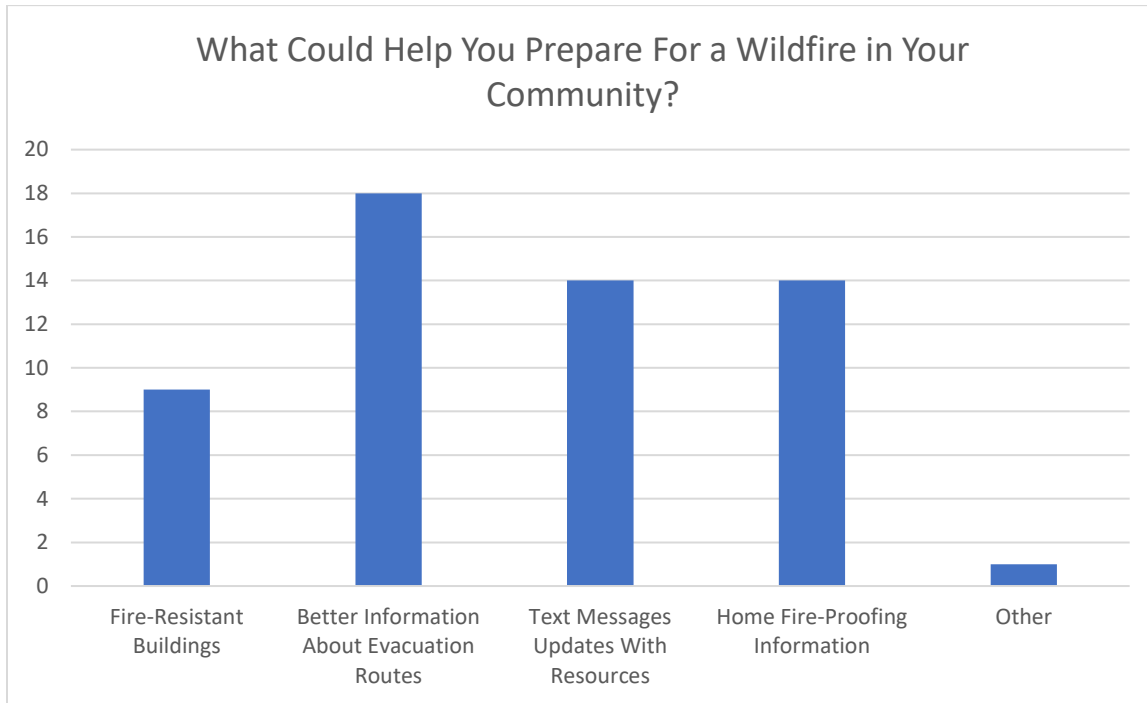


Figure 5: What Could Help You Prepare for Flooding?

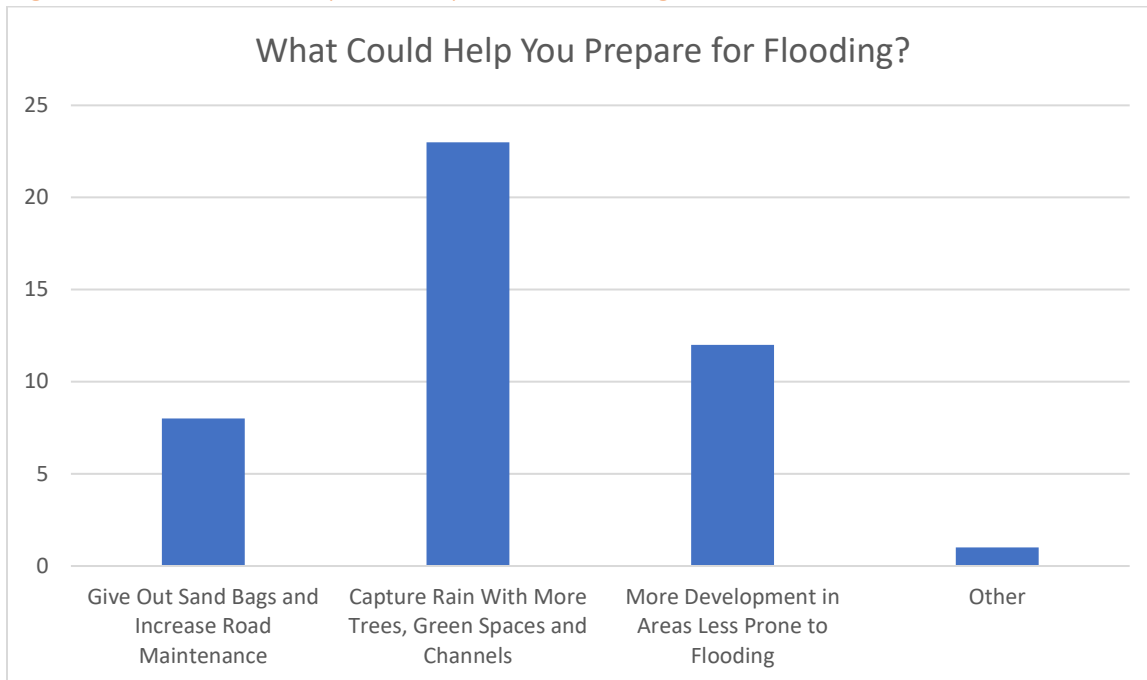
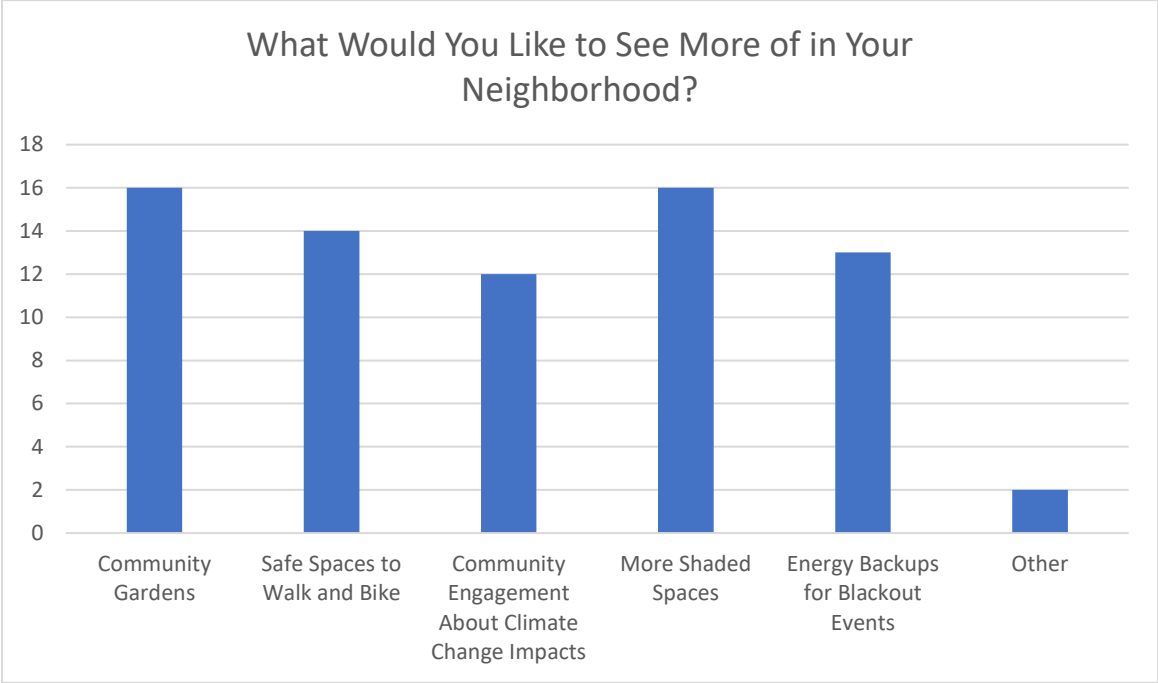


Figure 6: What Would You Like to See More of in Your Neighborhood?



## Open Ended Responses

In addition to the questions and responses shown above, participants in the Engagement Tool were also presented with the following open-ended question prompts:

- What do you like most about our beaches and bays?
- What's your ideal way to stay cool on a hot day?

Several common themes emerged in their responses. When asked what they like most about San Diego's beaches and bays, participants most valued:

- Walking along the water and sand
- The views, natural setting, and wildlife they can experience at beaches
- When beaches are kept clean, and have free parking

When asked how they like to stay cool on a hot day, participants enjoyed:

- Staying inside with air conditioning, or going to a space that's cool or air conditioned
- Staying in a shaded area
- Going to a beach or pool to swim

Here are a few representative examples of the responses that were received about what participants enjoyed about beaches:

- "They are incredibly beautiful and offer a variety of activities."
- "When they are clean/litter free. When they are less busy but still warm in the fall."

Here are a few representative examples of the responses that were received about how participants like to stay cool on a hot day:

- "Stay inside with air conditioning or go to the beach."
- "Lounge in the shade, in a breezy spot."

## Findings and Next Steps

One of the key findings from the Engagement Tool is that most respondents reported that to help them prepare for a wildfire in their community, they would like to receive text message updates with resources. However, many participants also stated that they would like better information about evacuation routes, and home-fire proofing information, which indicates support for an array of different approaches to wildfire adaptation.

Most participants also indicated that capturing rain with more trees, green spaces, and channels would best help them prepare for flood impacts, and many participants prioritized having safe spaces to walk or bike in their neighborhood. This broad level of support for more trees, green spaces, and safe active transportation infrastructure is a theme that is present across engagement responses the City has received for *Climate Resilient SD*, and which will help refine the selection and prioritization of strategies in the plan.

While this survey did receive participation across a range of race/ethnicities, the representation was not fully reflective of the diversity of the City's population. As 11 percent of the respondents declined to answer, the City is unable to determine the exact representation of respondents; but as a priority of the City is to have broad reaching public engagement, the City will continue efforts to engage broadly across its communities to get participation that is representative of its population.

It should also be noted that not all participants responded to every question on this survey, and some chose to leave certain questions blank. While this occurred for just a small percentage of the overall participants, it is still important to take into account.

This Engagement Tool is one of many outreach and engagement efforts the City is conducting to better understand the needs and values of community members. The results of the survey will be considered along with other feedback received through surveys, community outreach events, workshops, etc. The City also looks forward to continuing and adjusting its outreach efforts to better engage participants that more accurately represent its population.



*Climate Resilient SD: Climate Resilient San Diego Workshop Summary*

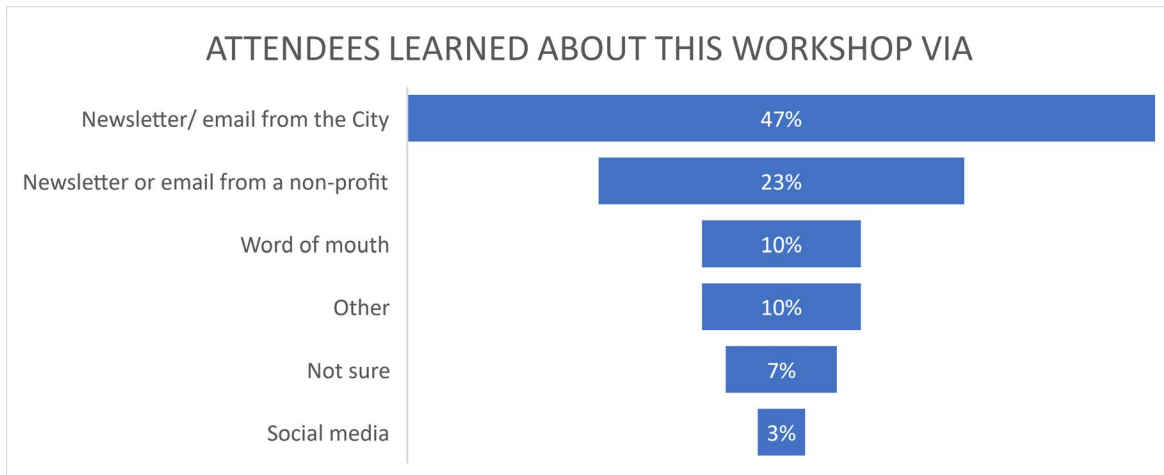
## October 19 Workshop

*Climate Resilient San Diego - Building a Brighter and Healthier Future For You and Your Family!*

### Summary, Data and Participant Feedback

#### Workshop outreach

- 78 registered (unique registrations not including city staff)
- ILG reached out to three CBOs (Casa Familiar, MidCityCan and San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition) and asked them to promote the event
- Climate Action Campaign also promoted the workshop
- 41 attended



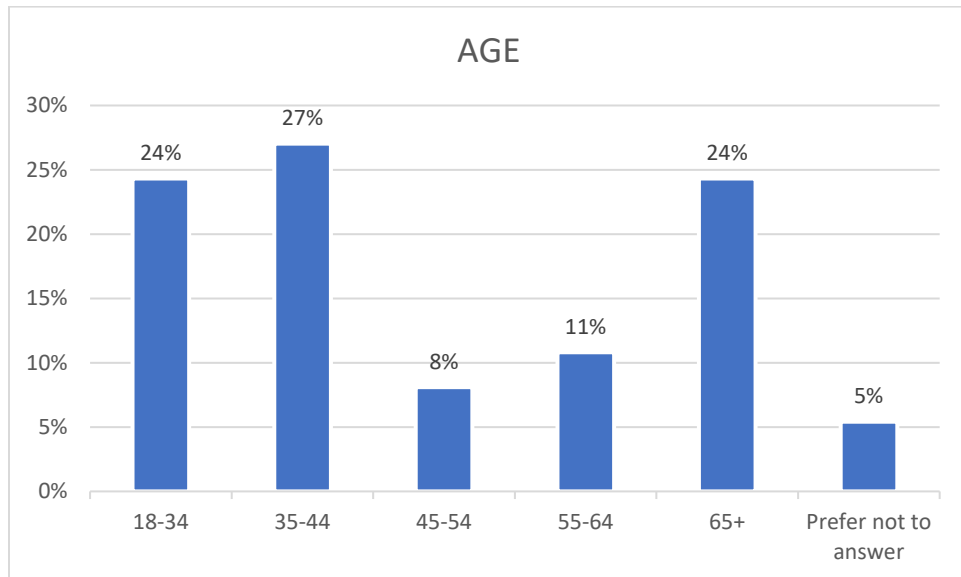
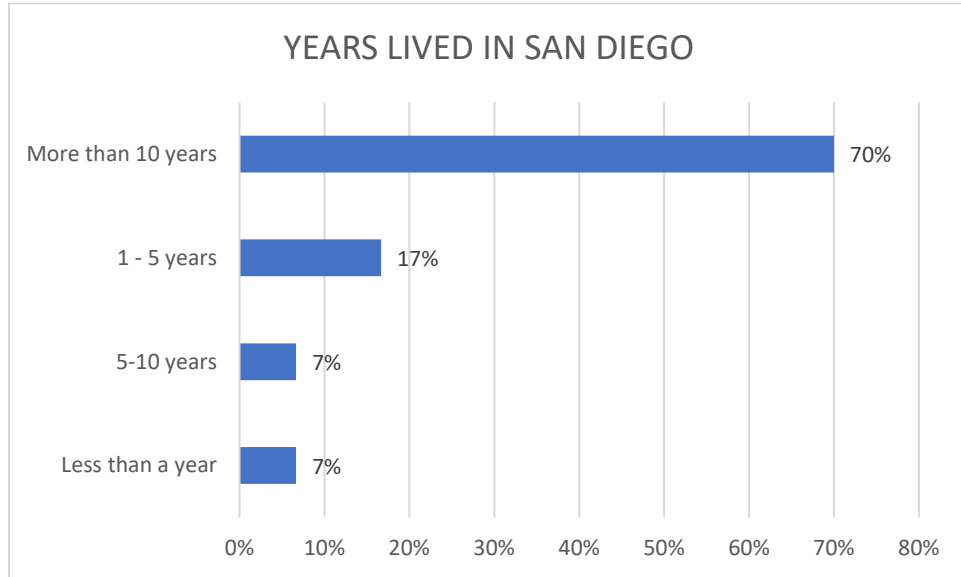
#### Workshop Attendees: Demographics and other Data Collected

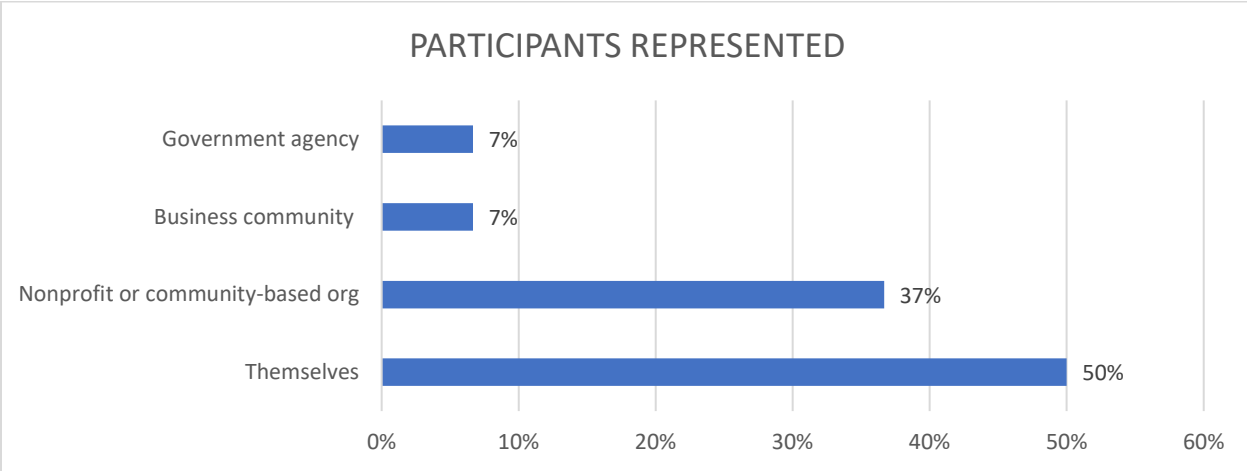
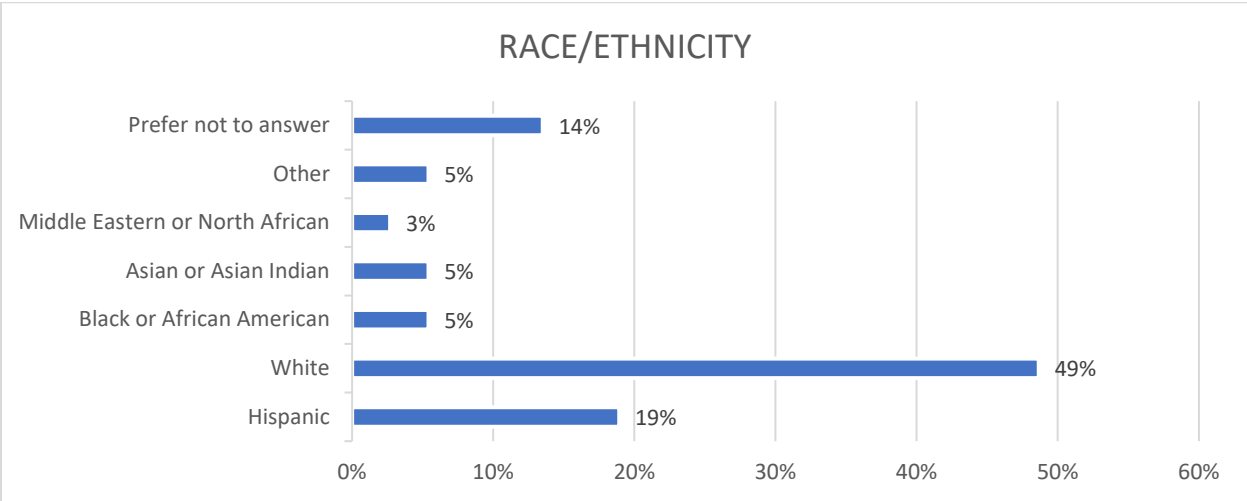
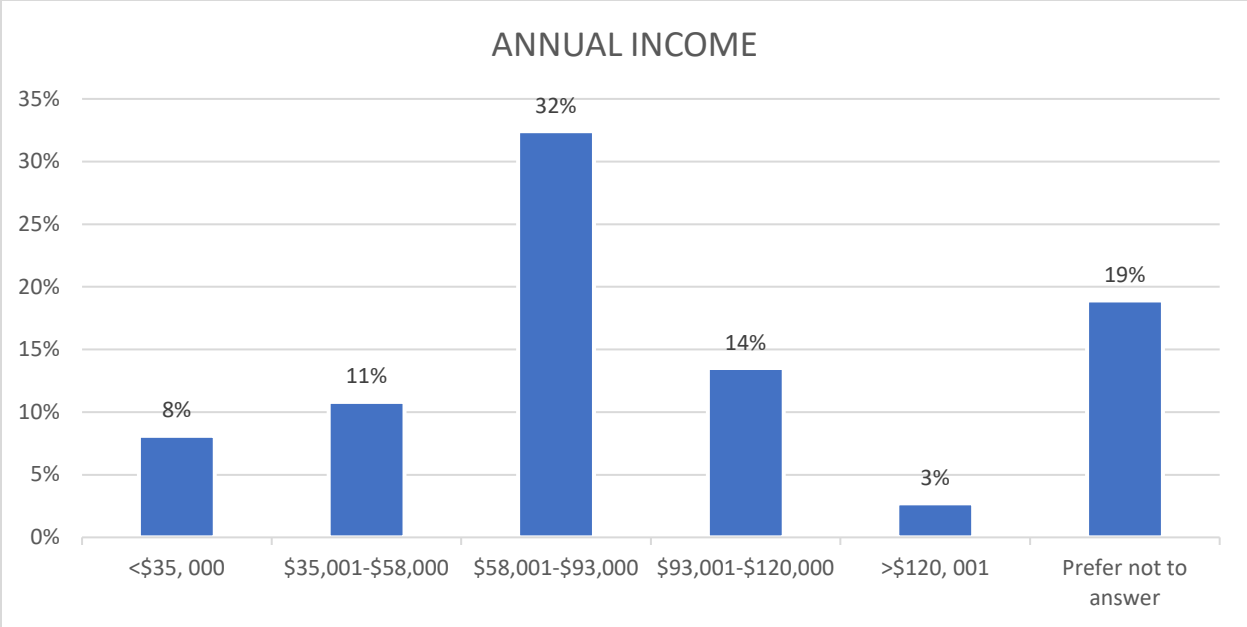
The demographic data was collected during registration and by instantly polling attendees at the meeting. While we collected 100% of responses to demographic questions during registration, instant polling had a 73% response rate.

Overall, the data shows a somewhat diverse representation of groups with different ages, income levels, and race/ethnicities.

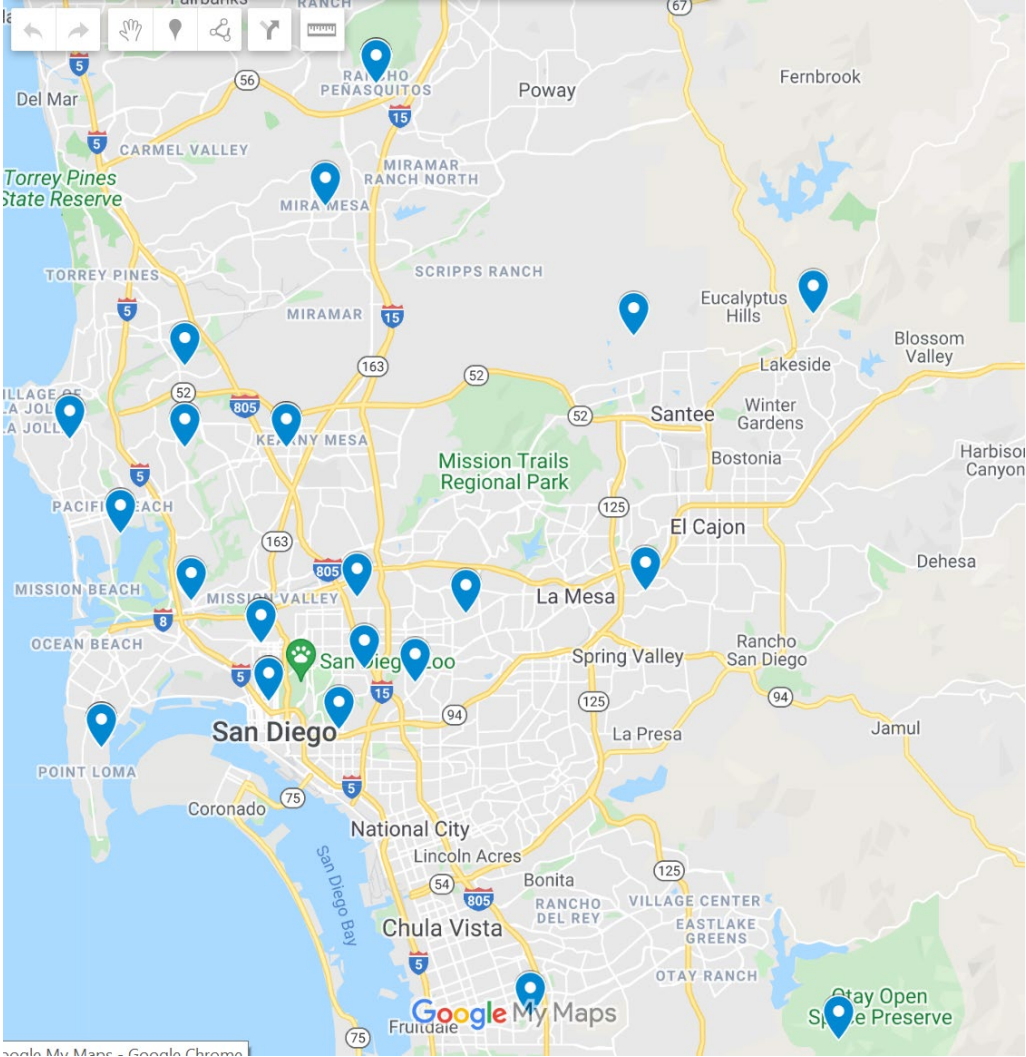
- 70% of the workshop attendees have lived in San Diego for more than 10 years
- Age categories were spread out relatively evenly between all workshop participants, with age categories 45-55 and 55-64 being represented a little less than others. Almost a quarter of all participants were 34 years and younger.
- 19% of participants were [very low or extremely low income](#). 32% of attendees selected the \$58,000 - 93,000 income bracket. 19% preferred not to state their income.

- African American and Latinx/Hispanic groups represented 5% and 19% of participants, respectively. 14% preferred not to state their race/ethnicity. Half of the workshop participants represented themselves rather than an organization.





ATTENDEES' ZIP CODES



## Workshop Participation and Accommodation

- Participation and feedback opportunities included Zoom instant polling, Zoom chat and Q&A functions, as well as verbal feedback in the breakout groups.
- Breakout group facilitators captured verbal feedback by taking notes.
- Two registrants indicated Spanish language needs. Simultaneous interpretation was provided. Side-by-side English/Spanish translation of all materials, including the PowerPoint and instant polling questions, was also provided.
- A little over half of the participants stayed for the entire duration of the workshop. 90% of attendees were present for more than half of the workshop.

## Feedback From The Workshop

### NATURAL RESOURCES AND AIR QUALITY

- There doesn't seem to be **emphasis on restoring native plants** as part of urban greening effort. This would help in drought – plants that can survive versus exotic plants. Will this be included?
- Establishing **community gardens**, big benefit in underserved communities. Will the city convert some of their vacant lots for garden plots? Would be a great leadership opportunity for the city.
- We work on climate action plans. Resilience is a new area for us. I'm interested in improving **air quality**. Especially during wildfires. Of most concern are strategies that will help us be able to breathe during wildfires.
- It seems that government alone doesn't have sufficient resources to **implement**. TO what extent do corporations who are responsible for creating these problems, will be required to use their resources and intelligence to solve climate problems. I'd like to see the **private sector involved in this resilience effort**.
  - Developments over X SF could be required to be powered by renewable energy (big box solar).
- Comment about **native plants** is so important. I don't see the City addressing those kinds of solutions. There are canyons and open spaces, public and private land, right of ways, that would benefit from native trees and plants.
- I don't see the Sustainability **Department coordinating with the Planning Dept. on implementation**.
- High Tech High heat mapping – is that data available to see?
- Trees need a lot of water. We have **native shrubs** that do what trees do, but we don't seem to care about them, e.g. laurels. Most of the trees we bring in wouldn't survive naturally. It's strange we're not emphasizing **chapperal**, etc. Is not sustainable in the long-run.
- Fires are a real risk; when an area burns it doesn't do carbon sequestration for years until plants grow back. I wish someone would do analysis on how much we're spending on firefighting – what should we actually be spending on firefighting.

- Let's make sure to think about how we're impacting wildlife; make sure we [support wildlife habitats](#).
- Ditto that the [urban greening program](#) should promote [low intensity water wise landscape](#) that still provide shade.
- As a resident I think these [strategies pasted above are good starting points](#) for strategies to help preserve natural resources and help promote better air quality by providing incentives for carbon sequestering habitat.
- [Love the environmental education component](#).
- The [community program](#) should be [incentivized and not as strict](#) as the City's current urban community garden guidelines.
- That's a great point to [incorporate climate adaptable habitat in the urban greening program and habitat restoration](#). Consideration for the change in ecosystems and climate will be key in habitat restoration efforts as what once was historically there may not be the best for the future.
- Consideration for a [green alley pilot program could also serve as a cool/community space](#) like post alley in Seattle. Could be good to implement [in areas that have limited open space or park space](#).
- Am curious to know what the pain points/bottlenecks are with getting data.

## SOCIAL EQUITY

- I am wondering how the City is thinking about the [digital divide](#). We need to check in on the voices that are not here.
- I read the heat study and get a lot of [911 calls related to heat](#). The city might want to consider [adding this data into the heat section](#) to really refine the data. Mayor Gloria has a bold vision for this program, so congratulations on that. I really want to see more on [low maintenance trees and paved surfaces](#). Follow up in chat: We need to think about the [farmworkers that are exposed to extreme heat. Many don't speak English or have internet](#), so we need to think through about how we communicate and educate them.
- It is important to identify [how the community will be engaged during the implementation of the ResilientSD Plan](#). It will also be important to [identify some "quick impact" projects](#), where the community can see quick results that catalyze continual and additional actions. Our communities need to know how this plan is going to effect their daily lives.
- I see a lot of what SDUSC heard in the first phase of outreach in this plan. I am pleased to see that it honors [indigenous people](#) and their contributions and stewardship of our land. I would like to see opportunities that [elevate them into positions of leadership](#) so that they can really contribute to the implementation of the plan. I would like to see a [more explicit explanation of the reasons why vulnerable communities are so vulnerable](#). We need to be willing to unpack the harm and injustices done and the structures and systems in place that created them. Plans are plans so implementation is important.

## RECREATION AND GREEN SPACE BREAKOUT GROUP

- Suggestions and strategies for the city to pursue:
  - Recruiting **volunteers**: adding green space takes a lot of effort and power, and people want to get involved. The city should organize and recruit volunteers, especially for projects like creating **community gardens**. The City's current volunteer page is not very good. Pursue programs like **California Climate Corps**.
  - **Differentiate between green space and open space**, and be clear in the plan about what is allowed for both.
  - **Restore Mission Bay into a wetland**.
  - Use **native species** for tree canopy.
  - **Educate** and inform residents, especially about preventing **wildfires**.
  - Use **natural management** like goats for clearing brush and areas susceptible to wildfire.
  - The **scope of the plan is broad**, define what methods will be used to achieve each strategy.
  - **Explain** how the city is **funding** climate resilience strategies for **parks**. The city should focus on maintaining and **upgrading parks in low income areas first**, before creating new parks.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

- **More community education** is needed.
  - About **cooling centers**, etc., but also about strategies to deal with high heat in their homes/**keep their homes cooler** (shade tree programs, AC retrofits (if the houses will support it), other cooling options such as curtains, etc.)
- **Partnerships** are important.
  - The city will need partners in the implementation phase, so they "don't have to do it all."
  - City already working with the county and CBOs.
- **Air quality** is a concern.
  - Consider the **electrification of buses** as the city encourages more people to take public transportation.
  - Consider **more remote work options** (when appropriate) to reduce VMTs and improve air quality.
- **Wildfire** (and increased wildfire events) is a concern.
  - Canyons act as a natural "chimney" for wildfires.
  - Extreme heat exacerbating this risk.
  - Need to consider additional **community education** and notification about wildfire events, evacuation routes, etc. to ensure safety of residents.
- They also expressed support for **cooling centers** and more **share/trees**.

## COMMENTS FROM THE CHAT & KONVIEO GROUP

- Using natural infrastructure fits with the communities' prioritization of long-term economic costs--these kinds of solutions are almost always cheaper than gray infrastructure when a full lifecycle cost/benefit analysis is done.
- In urban areas like City Heights, look at the possibility of Pocket Parks to provide green space in available lots.

## Key Findings From the Breakout Groups

**Natural Resources and Air Quality:** The participants mentioned initial support for the proposed strategies and educational component. They emphasized the need for the water efficient greening programs with “relaxed” community eligibility requirements and incentives to participate, programs that support wildlife and habitat restoration (with a focus on native, drought-tolerant, low maintenance plants), improve air quality (especially during wildfires), and benefit vulnerable population and areas with limited open/park space. Participants emphasized a need for more internal (City departments) and external collaboration (private sector and communities) during the implementation phase. They would like these suggestions to be reflected in the plan.

**Social Equity:** Workshop participants would like to see the plan reference data sources, specifically heat data, and provide a history of San Diego’s vulnerable populations. Workshop participants emphasized continuing community engagement during the implementation phase, especially in the projects that yield immediate tangible benefits. Specific equity considerations include empowering indigenous people as leaders, reaching out to farmers, and accounting for digital divide.

**Recreations and Green Space:** Workshop participants would like to see additional clarifications in the plan on the difference between green and open spaces, what’s feasible for both, and funding opportunities for parks. This group also emphasized continuing community involvement, recruiting community volunteers especially for community garden projects, prioritizing native species and natural management solutions, delivering programs in low-income areas with educational components (wildfires).

**Public Health and Safety:** This group also emphasized community education around wildfires and cooling solutions. The group would like to see partnerships and solutions that address air quality, including bus electrification and reducing VMT through remote work.



*Climate Resilient SD: Movie in the Park Engagement Event*

## About Movie in the Park

*Climate Resilient SD* will be the City of San Diego's (City) comprehensive climate adaptation and resiliency plan which will increase local capacity to adapt, recover, and thrive amidst a changing climate. Community engagement is a critical component to the planning effort to ensure that the plan speaks to the needs and the vision of the City residents. The Movie in the Park Engagement Event was an in person community outreach event at Mountain View Community Center, in the Southeastern community. This event was focused on engaging with and sharing information about the draft *Climate Resilient SD* plan with members of the public.

The structure of this event was such that the large number of attendees and heavy flow of foot traffic prevented participants from having enough time and space to complete the sticker or paper poll in a socially distanced setting.

However, all participants received a goody bag that contained a halfcard with detailed information about *Climate Resilient SD*, including links to the plan's website where they could learn more about the plan and provide their feedback. Over 150 halfcards were distributed. Participants also had the opportunity to spin a raffle wheel and earn additional prizes, before sitting down to watch an episode of Netflix's *Our Planet* documentary series. Water and healthy snacks were provided.

The Movie in the Park event took place on October 22, 2021, and information about the event was shared on the City's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram), by the City's CBO partners, and through NextDoor.