




**COUNCILMEMBER JOE LACAVA
FIRST COUNCIL DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 4, 2021
TO: Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera, Chair, Environment Committee
FROM: Councilmember Joe LaCava 
SUBJECT: 2021 Environment Committee Priorities

The climate crisis is impacting human safety, our natural environment, and has exposed long-existing inequities in our region. Over the past nine months, the health and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated these challenges and further underscored the urgency of these crises. The Environment Committee can combat these simultaneously and strengthen the City of San Diego's position as a leader in climate action, all while respecting science, nature, and each other in the process. Per your December 23, 2020 request, detailed below are my priorities for the committee's work plan:

Mitigate Climate Change

Ensure all items before the committee advance the City's efforts to mitigate climate change by:

- Meeting and exceeding our Climate Action Plan targets;
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to achieve a zero-carbon future;
- Incorporating standards for equity and environmental justice; and
- Supporting good jobs through a green economy.

Adopt Franchise Agreements that Align with our Climate Action Plan (CAP) Goals

- Provide a transparent and public process in the review of the City's electric and gas franchise agreements;
- Explore a public power option and review a proposed business plan; and
- Ensure timely delivery of utility undergrounding services and determine means to accelerate the process.

Implement the Climate Action Plan

- Produce a five-year update to the Climate Action Plan based on appropriate baseline emissions data;
- Review and assess recommendations from an audit of the Climate Action Plan;
- Prepare a CAP Implementation Plan;
- Monitor and comply with State mandates on energy and environmental protections (ex. clean air, clean water);
- Diversify funding strategies, divest from fossil fuels, and analyze cost savings; and
- Require that all staff reports presented to City Council include a section on "Climate Action Plan Advancement"

Pursue initiatives tailored to the strategies of the Climate Action Plan

Energy and Water Efficiency

- Adopt a Municipal Energy Strategy;
- Require electrification of all new public and private construction;
- Monitor and reduce municipal energy across all City departments;
- Review an Industrial Wastewater Fee Study;
- Monitor major Public Utility Department projects;
- Receive updates on phases I and II of the Pure Water program;
- Track the status of sewage and pollution mitigation efforts in the Tijuana River Valley; and
- Explore opportunities to reduce, capture, and reuse storm water runoff through green infrastructure.

Clean and Renewable Energy

- Support the efforts of San Diego Community Power to increase renewable energy and lower energy costs to ratepayers;
- Proactively opt municipal facilities into San Diego Community Power's 100% renewable plan;
- Expand the City's network of electric vehicle charging stations;
- Increase number of all electric vehicles in the City's fleet; and
- Ban gasoline-powered leaf blowers.

Biking, Walking, Transit and Land Use

- Increase and sustain teleworking opportunities for City employees; and
- Incentivize electric vehicle and cycling commutes for City employees.

Zero Waste

- Receive an update on capacity at existing landfills;
- Expand methane capture opportunities;
- Ensure compliance with SB 1383 (recycling organics);
- Monitor the EIR process for the expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam) ban ordinance;
- Review trash collection practices and associated fiscal impacts on the City and residents; and
- Increase residential and commercial access to green waste and composting.

Resiliency

- Complete the Climate Resiliency and Adaptation Plan;
- Incorporate resiliency planning into City-approved projects;
- Increase the urban tree canopy;
- Explore and expand public private partnerships for tree planting; and
- Adopt a San Diego Biodiversity Policy to align biodiversity goals across all City departments.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and I appreciate your outreach to the community to shape the work plan. I look forward to serving with you and please contact me or Brian Elliott of my staff, bellriott@sandiego.gov, should you have any questions or comments.

cc:

Honorable Mayor Todd Gloria
Honorable City Attorney Mara Elliott
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Liz Maland, City Clerk