



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 workplan:

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, belliott@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