



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: January 27, 2021

07

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FUTURE: ESTABLISHING A CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE AND STRENGTHEN COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The Earth is in crisis. Global warming—driven predominantly by the combustion of fossil fuels—has dramatically altered and disrupted global climate and jeopardized the survival, health, and well-being of human communities across the globe.

San Diego County is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including extreme heat and historic droughts, wildfires, increasing days of poor air quality, torrential storms and increasingly frequent 100- and 500- year flood events, sea level rise, and coastal erosion. Communities of color and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by environment injustices and health disparities that will continue to worsen as temperatures rise, despite having contributed least to climate change and pollution. The unincorporated areas over which the County has direct jurisdiction are dangerously exposed to many of these threats, above all, wildfires.

Given the breadth and complexity of 1) the underlying drivers and impacts of climate change, 2) state and federal legislation governing GHG emissions reduction, and 3) the measures currently existing and anticipated for the reduction of regional emissions, county climate action planning will require intensive, ongoing collaboration, over multiple years, between the County Board of Supervisors, the CAO and staff across multiple groups and departments, consultants, stakeholders, scientists, and residents. This need for continuous collaboration necessitates a dedicated forum for communication and deliberation.

Toward that end, we recommend the creation of an Advisory Committee, which will have a broad mandate to address climate change and its impacts in San Diego County. The Advisory Committee will consist of two Board members who will be able to convene meetings, bring together

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stakeholders, review internal county operations, engage and delegate responsibilities to County staff and consultancies to develop procurement contracts and requests for proposals, and perform any other tasks necessary to further climate action. Most critically, a key focus will be to oversee the development and implementation of the Climate Action Plan, the Supplemental EIR, a Regional Sustainability Plan, and related policies and programs.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SUPERVISOR TERRA LAWSON-REMER AND VICE CHAIR NORA VARGAS

1. Establish a Climate Advisory Committee to review, assess, recommend, and oversee implementation of policies and programs to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including but not limited to the following policy areas:
 - a. County Climate Action Plan
 - b. Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
 - c. Regional Sustainability Plan
 - d. Air Pollution Control District Community Air Protection Program (AB 617) and Community Emissions Reduction Plans
 - e. Any other policies or programs to address climate change and climate justice
2. The Advisory Committee shall have the ability to hold public hearings, conduct stakeholder engagement, review internal county operations, engage with and delegate responsibilities to County staff and consultancies to develop procurement contracts and requests for proposals, and perform any other tasks necessary to further topics of climate justice, climate resilience, and mitigation and adaptation.
3. Appoint Supervisors Terra Lawson-Remer and Nora Vargas to serve on the Advisory Committee.
4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide staffing to support the committee.
5. The Advisory Committee shall report back to the Board regularly with progress reports and return with a final report and recommendations in two years.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations. There may be future fiscal impacts associated with recommendations proposed by the Advisory Committee. Any such recommendations would need to be approved by the Board.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

The Earth is in crisis. Global warming—driven predominantly by the combustion of fossil fuels—has dramatically altered and disrupted global climate and jeopardized the survival, health, and well-being of human communities across the globe.

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Currently pledged global policies are projected to result in a rise in global temperatures of around 2.6 degrees Celsius, or 4.7°F. This projected rise will have catastrophic consequences for the ability of our environment to support life and will dramatically impact human communities around the world, disproportionately impacting communities of color and low-income communities who have contributed least to climate change.

What is less often recognized is that global temperatures have already risen significantly since the dawn of the industrial revolution when fossil fuel consumption began. According to NASA, mean temperature on Earth has risen more than one degree Celsius (2°F) since the late 19th century, most of that occurring in the last several decades.

This understates, however, the degree to which temperatures—particularly summer temperatures—have already risen in the urbanized regions of Southern California with some regional temperatures increasing by more than 8 degrees Fahrenheit since the early twentieth century.

These increases in urban temperature are disproportionately impacting our county’s disadvantaged and underserved communities, particularly our low-income communities of color. The unincorporated county, over which the Board of Supervisors and County Administration exercise direct jurisdiction, is particularly vulnerable to heat, drought, and, above all, wildfires. Our coastal regions, which are fundamental to our regional economy and society, and where many of our population centers lie, will be exposed to sea level rise, coastal erosion, and periodic flooding.

Our county has a variety of existing tools to confront the global climate crisis and contribute to the rapid reduction of our region’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Foremost among these is our Climate Action Plan, which ensures that our county’s General Plan is compliant with state-mandated emissions reductions. Other climate-related policy instruments include our Electric Vehicle Roadmap, *Live Well San Diego* Food System Initiative, Parks Master Plan, Active Transportation Plan, Strategic Plan to Reduce Waste, Green Building Incentive Program, San Diego Air Pollution Control District Community Emissions Reduction Plan, as well as the General Plan more broadly and, in particular, its Housing Element.

Our county’s climate planning also involves collaboration with local, state, and federal jurisdictions. SANDAG, in particular, is an essential regional partner with which our county should and must coordinate its climate response.

Developing and implementing our climate policy is an experienced, knowledgeable, and skilled staff across multiple groups and departments, led by our CAO. Our board will provide guidance that is climate-informed and responsive to San Diego County residents, who are increasingly demanding groundbreaking climate policy and action with a focus on environmental justice and equity.

Given the breadth and complexity of 1) the underlying drivers and impacts of climate change, 2) state and federal legislation governing GHG emissions reduction, and 3) the measures currently

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existing and anticipated for the reduction of regional emissions, county climate action planning will require intensive, ongoing collaboration, over multiple years, between the County Board of Supervisors, the CAO and staff across multiple groups and departments, consultants, stakeholders, scientists, and residents. This need for continuous collaboration necessitates a dedicated forum for communication and deliberation.

Furthermore, given the history of litigation on previous climate action plans, it is appropriate that we take steps to establish an Advisory Committee to oversee the development and implementation of measures to further climate mitigation and adaptation in the county that are consistent with state and federal law.

This Board letter calls for the creation of a Climate Advisory Committee which will have a broad mandate to address climate change and its impacts in San Diego County. The Climate Advisory Committee will consist of two Board members who will be able to convene meetings, bring together stakeholders, review internal county operations, engage and delegate responsibilities to County staff and consultancies to develop procurement contracts and requests for proposals, and perform any other tasks necessary to further topics of climate justice, climate resilience, mitigation, and adaptation. Most critically, a key focus will be to oversee the development and implementation of the Climate Action Plan, the Supplemental EIR, and a Regional Sustainability Plan, in addition to other climate-related policies and programs.

A two-year duration is proposed for this Advisory Committee. This entity will be able to oversee the implementation of the Climate Action Plan, future Climate Action Plan updates, the Regional Sustainability Plan, and any other policies and programs to address climate change and climate justice. The Advisory Committee will retain its ability to meet over time and will report back regularly to the Board.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today’s proposed action to create and allocate responsibilities to the Advisory Committee supports the Sustainable Environments Strategic Initiative in the County of San Diego’s 2020-2025 Strategic Plan by addressing the risks posed by climate change, particularly for our communities of concern.

Respectfully submitted,



TERRA LAWSON-REMER
Supervisor, Third District



NORA VARGAS
Vice Chair, First District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED

 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Supervisorial District One and Supervisorial District Three

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Cody Petterson
Name
858-289-9206
Phone
Cody.Petterson@sdcounty.ca.gov
E-mail

Rosa Olascoaga
Name
858-289-9198
Phone
Rosa.Olascoaga@sdcounty.ca.gov
E-mail