



**Councilmember David Alvarez
Council President Todd Gloria
Councilmember Marti Emerald
City of San Diego**

News Release

For Immediate Release
July 23, 2014

Contact: Lisa Schmidt 619-210-9499
lschmidt@sandiego.gov

Councilmembers Demand Progress for Climate Action Plan

SAN DIEGO, CA. Committee on the Environment Chair David Alvarez, Council President Todd Gloria and Committee Member Marti Emerald today urged progress on a strong Climate Action Plan with strategies to measurably reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the local impacts of climate change in the San Diego region.

San Diego City Council's Environment Committee today will hear a resolution, introduced by Alvarez, which urges Mayor Faulconer to immediately advance an aggressive Climate Action Plan to comply with state policy and the City's General Plan.

"Last year, my committee heard from Scripps Institution of Oceanography Professor Keeling that we have a small window of opportunity to slow climate change," said Councilmember and Environment Committee Chair David Alvarez. "Acting now to address climate change by implementing a strong Climate Action Plan will ensure we take the most economical and effective steps for our city."

Points from the resolution include:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent by 2020 and 49 percent by 2035
- Achieve 100 percent clean energy by 2035
- Reduce energy demand in existing buildings
- Increase use of public transit, walking and bicycling to 50 percent of commutes
- Prioritize investment in economically disadvantaged communities;
- Maximize support of local, quality middle-class jobs that make our community healthier

- Bolster resilience of local infrastructure, public health, and natural resources against climate change impacts

“I developed the Climate Action Plan to make San Diego a leader in sustainability and safeguarding our environment,” said Council President Todd Gloria. “I appreciate the Mayor dedicating a staff member to work on the Climate Action Plan and believe he will work with the City Council to allow San Diego to be a model for addressing climate change.”

“The Climate Action Plan is our roadmap to a healthier environment and economy and the state has set the bar for reducing greenhouse gases,” stated Councilmember Emerald.

“Through the City Council’s proposed Climate Action Plan, San Diego can and will exceed the state standard and reap rewards. This plan will create new middle-class jobs with its goals for clean energy, especially solar. It will create good jobs and a cleaner environment by continuing to build a strong public transit system, and designing streets and neighborhoods that are friendlier to bicyclists and pedestrians. With the climate plans zero waste vision, we will extend the life of our landfills and create new ways to recycle and reuse our trash. In short, this plan will give all of us options and opportunities to create a healthier, more sustainable future. I look forward to working with my council colleagues and the Mayor to design and work the strongest Climate Action Plan in California and a model for the nation,” concluded Emerald.

In light of climate disruptions, such as an early and devastating wildfire season and present extreme drought conditions, Councilmembers are calling on Mayor Faulconer to prioritize the plan which was pioneered by Council President Gloria at the beginning of the year. With passage out of committee, this resolution will likely move on to the full City Council in August.

###