

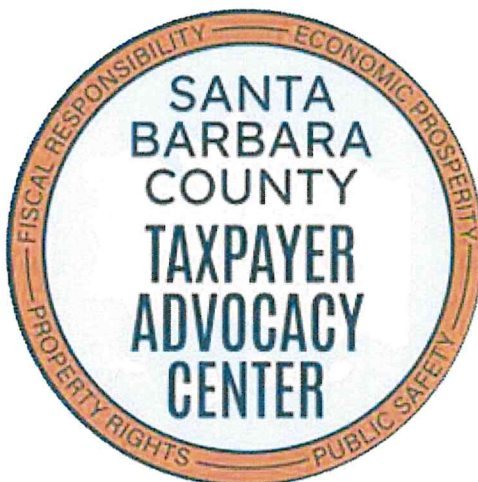
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Katherine Douglas *Public Comment - SBCTAC*

From: Mike Stoker <mikestoker@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 25, 2024 5:26 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Opposition to CAP. Item # 2 on Departmental Agenda

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"The SBCTAC...Fighting for the Taxpayer and Helping our Business Members Succeed!"

My name is Mike Stoker. I am the President & CEO of the recently 501 C4 formed Santa Barbara County Taxpayer Advocacy Center, a grassroots organization dedicated to improving Santa Barbara County residents' quality of life, growing our local economy, and keeping our community safe.

On behalf of the more than 250 business members, I am here today to urge you not to adopt the Climate Action Plan.

First, the Plan is nothing more than a feel good document that has no substance. As you know, the Plan requires 138 million dollars in new funding over the next 6 years. If you are

serious about this Plan then you owe it to the taxpayer to tell us where you intend to cut from the existing budget. From the road maintenance fund, the sheriff's or county fire's budget, from Health & Human services? You know you won't cut these programs leaving the Action Plan without funding. Consequently, if you proceed with the adoption of the plan with no funding you are not being intellectually honest with your constituents and are doing nothing more than being able to tell climate change advocates that you're doing something for them when you're really not.

Second, I am astounded that you have already paid consultants over \$500,000 plus staff time for this plan which in many cases is nothing more than fluff. For instance, in Table 2 of the Cost Analysis document Measure LCE-2-Supporting local business in becoming more sustainable, the cost is only \$69,000. Measure LCE-3-Facilitating mechanisms to value and fund carbon sequestration projects is \$59,000. Measure W-1- Reducing food waste and increasing the use of organic recycled materials is \$20,000 and Measure W-3-Increasing energy and carbon-efficiency of water production treatment conveyance and use is \$15,000. \$15,000? The cost of one valve in a water treatment facility can cost \$15,000. As for carbon capture and sequestration for which I have been a strong advocate for over 15 years, what do you think you can really accomplish for only \$59,000? And reducing food waste? As the Southwest Administrator of the US EPA, I successfully elevated the goal of eliminating food waste as an EPA National Priority. It remains a National Priority to this day, but \$20,000 is a drop in the bucket of what would be needed to really engage in a county-wide program to reduce food waste. At the e of the day these may be the costs to hire an employee or print educational information but it is not the cost of actually implementing the stated goal. So why list it as a goal if the plan fails to tell us what will be implemented to accomplish the goal and how much implementation will cost?

The Taxpayer Advocacy Center urges the board to not adopt any climate action plan until the plan appropriately identifies real costs and this board identifies the source of funding to pay for the plan.

Thank you.
Mike Stoker
President & CEO, SBCTAC