



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Board of Supervisors  
Department No.: 011  
For Agenda Of: January 20, 2015  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Time:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Board Member(s) Supervisor Salud Carbajal; (805) 568-2186  
Contact Info: Eric Friedman (805) 568-2186

**SUBJECT:** President Obama's State, Local, and Tribal Leader Climate Task Force

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form:

**Recommended Actions:**

Receive and file final report on President Obama's State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resiliency.

**Summary Text:**

Adapting to impacts from climate change is one of the most significant public policy issues of our time. Enhanced proactive planning efforts, as well as post disaster recovery response policies, are needed at the local, state and national level to ensure our critical infrastructure, public health, and economic systems are more resilient to increases in extreme natural disaster and other weather related events. As part of a comprehensive effort to enhance coordination to prepare for climate change and implement immediate action, President Barack Obama established the President's State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resiliency. First District Supervisor Salud Carbajal was one of the 26 members appointed to the Task Force, which completed its final recommendations in November, 2014. The following is an overview of the work and final recommendations of the Task Force, including input that our local region provided in the development of the final recommendations.

**Background:**

On November 1, 2013, President Barack Obama established the State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience to advise the Administration on how the Federal Government can more effectively respond to the needs of communities nationwide that are dealing with the impacts of climate change. Its charge was to provide recommendations to the President on removing barriers to resilient investments, modernizing Federal grant and loan programs to better

support local efforts, and develop the information and tools local communities need to ensure resiliency in the future.

The Task Force was comprised of a bipartisan coalition of 26 members from across the country, including included eight governors. The Task Force members used their first-hand experiences in building climate preparedness and resilience in their communities and states to inform their recommendations to the Administration. The state of California had four members appointed to the Task Force: Governor Jerry Brown, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, and Santa Barbara County Supervisor Salud Carbajal. Supervisor Carbajal was one of three County Supervisors who served on the Task Force. It was supported and overseen by the White House Council on Environmental Quality and White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

The Task Force developed its recommendations based on a diverse and solid foundation of real world events, such as Hurricane Sandy and the current historic drought in the Western United States, and used the most current scientific data available regarding the projected impacts associated with climate change. Two of the most prominent scientific reports used to inform the Task Force were the International Panel on Climate Change 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment (IPCC) and the 2014 U.S. National Climate Assessment (NCA).

The IPCC is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. Thousands of scientists from all over the world contribute to the work of the IPCC on a voluntary basis and they have determined that warming of the climate is “unequivocal.” Concurrently but independent of the IPCC, the National Climate Assessment of 2014 was comprised of a team of more than 300 experts guided by a 60-member Federal Advisory Committee which was extensively reviewed by the public and experts, including federal agencies and a panel of the National Academy of Sciences. In addition, the Department of Defense, in its 2014 Climate Change Adaptation Road Map, also found that climate change is a “threat multiplier because it has the potential to exacerbate many of the challenges we are dealing with today – from infectious disease to terrorism. We are already beginning to see some of these impacts.”

The data from these and other reports concludes that the threats associated with climate change are serious and already taking place, the impacts are broad, and immediate action must be taken to adapt and mitigate the level of future risk. With these scientifically supported findings as a foundation, the Task Force worked to develop its own recommendations for immediate action.

Due to the immense scope and projected impacts expected from climate change, the Task Force initially divided its work into four subgroup areas to focus its efforts: Disaster Recovery and Resilience; Built Systems; Natural Resources and Agriculture; and Community Development and Public Health. Supervisor Carbajal was a member of the Community Development/Public Health and the Built Systems subgroups. Within the Built Systems group he also served as co-lead of the Coastal Infrastructure sub-sector.

As part of his efforts to develop and prioritize recommendations with the perspective of a mid-size coastal county, Supervisor Carbajal performed outreach to a number of local and regional stakeholders to solicit input. Responses were received from sources including: County staff, UCSB, Cal Poly SLO, regional municipalities, Beach Erosion for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON), the Community Environmental Council, Heal the Ocean, the National Association of Counties (NACo), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and others. The collective efforts of stakeholders from the Tri-County Region contributed directly to the formation of many of the final recommendations in the Task Force Report.

The attached final report was released on November 17, 2014 and came after one year of work, four in person meetings, and dozens of conference calls. With initial draft recommendations totaling approximately 450, the final report was condensed and provides 35 major recommendations and corresponding implementing actions that were grouped under seven specific themes: Building Resilient Communities; Improving Resilience in the Nation's Infrastructure; Ensuring Resilience of Natural Resources; Preserving Human Health & Supporting Resilient Populations; Supporting Climate-Smart Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness and Recovery; Understanding and Acting on the Economics of Resilience; and Building Capacity for Resilience.

Much of the local input submitted by Supervisor Carbajal was incorporated in a number of the final recommendations in the report. As an example, three specific recommendations that were rated highly by stakeholders from the Tri-County region were: 2.5 - Support Property Assessed Clean Energy programs; 5.2 - Remove barriers to rebuilding for future climate resilience; and 7.4 - Increase climate literacy and public awareness.

One of the immediate outcomes of the work performed by the Task Force is an enhanced understanding of how the federal government can improve its current policies and increase support structures for local, state and tribal governments to implement resilient and adaptation planning efforts that allow for more local control and innovation.

In November 2014 the final report was delivered to President Obama and it is now available for state, local and tribal decision makers to use in their own local sustainability and adaptation efforts. The recommendations are also part of the administration's efforts to improve the efficiency and efficacy of federal agencies and how they coordinate both internally and with outside agencies to enhance our nation's resiliency in the coming years.

A copy of the report is attached or can be found online at:  
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/task\\_force\\_report\\_0.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/task_force_report_0.pdf)

**Performance Measure:**

N/A

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:** None

**Key Contract Risks:**

N/A

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: President's State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience

**Authored by:**

Eric Friedman

**cc:**