

From: Michael Chiacos <mchiacos@cecmail.org>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 3:46 PM
To: sbcob; Hartmann, Joan; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Nelson, Bob; Lavagnino, Steve
Cc: Sigrid Wright; Alexis Rizo; Cameron Gray
Subject: CEC Support for Agenda Item #4, ECAP Final Report and Climate Action Plan Updates
Attachments: County of Santa Barbara CAP update 4-5-22 - CEC Support.pdf

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Dear Chair Hartmann and Honorable Supervisors,

CEC supports strong climate action by the County and the three early action items identified by staff of an ordinance to restrict natural gas infrastructure, increase energy efficiency and EV charging infrastructure, develop a Zero Emission Vehicle Plan, and update the Zero Carbon Resolution.

CEC further asks the Board to set a goal of Carbon Neutrality by 2035, as the City of Santa Barbara and City of San Luis Obispo has done, and the State of California is considering. We also ask the County to discuss with Central Coast Community Energy the option to offer a 100% renewable electricity default to member agencies that request it, similar to what Clean Power Alliance offers. The majority of CPA's load has opted for 100% renewables and they are currently offering this at a 6% discount to Southern California Edison's base rates.

Please see the attached letter from Community Environmental Council with additional information on these important climate actions.

Sincerely,

Michael Chiacos
Director of Climate Policy
Community Environmental Council
1219 State Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara CA 93101
(805) 963-0583 x204 | (805) 284-4179 (Cell)

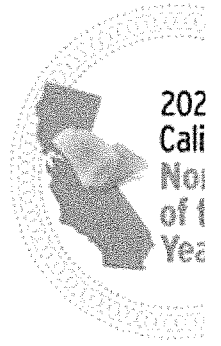
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CEC advances rapid and equitable solutions to the climate crisis. See our [impact report](#) to learn why we are a 2020 California Nonprofit of the Year, a 2020 City of Santa Barbara Climate Hero, and a recipient of the highest possible ratings from Charity Navigator and Guidestar.

CEC (por sus siglas en inglés) avanza soluciones rápidas y equitativas a la crisis climática. Vea nuestro [informe de impacto](#) para saber por qué somos la Organización Sin Fines de Lucro del Año 2020 de California, el 2020 Ciudad de Santa Bárbara Héroe del Clima y tenemos las calificaciones más altas posibles en Charity Navigator y Guidestar.

Community Environmental Council

BOLD CLIMATE ACTION



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April 4th, 2022

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Agenda Item #4, ECAP Final Report and Climate Action Plan Updates

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

Community Environmental Council (CEC) is a nonprofit that has developed environmental solutions across the Central Coast for over 50 years. CEC currently works throughout Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo counties to build on-the-ground momentum to reverse the threat of the climate crisis. **CEC strongly supports ambitious climate action by the County, and asks that the County set a similar Carbon Neutrality by 2035 goal as the City of Santa Barbara and City of San Luis Obispo have done. CEC also supports the early action items of an Electric Vehicle (EV) plan, an ordinance to restrict natural gas infrastructure, increase energy efficiency, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure in new construction and major renovations, and a Zero Carbon Resolution for County facilities.**

CEC also asks the County to request that Central Coast Community Energy allow member agencies to offer a 100% renewable energy default (and enroll in it), similar to the offering from Clean Power Alliance. This would allow the County to more quickly move to 100% renewables and leverage these benefits in the increasing number of electric vehicles and electrified buildings in our region.

An EV Action Plan and hiring staff to implement it is of foremost importance, as 54% of the unincorporated county area's emissions come from transportation. While the County has made some strong actions on EVs, there are no coordinated policies or plans, and no staff member focuses entirely on transportation electrification. Many county properties, including large public facing ones like Cachuma Lake Recreation Area, lack charging stations, and County employees face confusion regarding charging policies at the County facilities that have them. Furthermore, the County is in a unique position to accelerate charging access in the community, particularly at multifamily properties and workplaces, by promoting incentive programs like SCE's ChargeReady 2 or Central Coast Community Energy's Electrify Your Ride. The County needs to bend the curve on transportation emissions and an EV Action Plan is a good first step. The County of San Diego's EV

Roadmap¹, which comprehensively focuses on their County Fleet, Charging, County Employees, Regulation, Education, and Collaboration is a great roadmap to emulate.

The proposed ordinance to restrict natural gas infrastructure and increase energy efficiency and EV charging infrastructure at new construction and major remodels is additionally an important early action item. All-electric construction is less expensive to build, safer to live or work in, and can be powered by 100% renewable electricity. Cities such as Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ojai have passed natural gas bans for new construction, and the County of Ventura is developing their ordinance now. In order to meet California's Carbon Neutrality by 2045 target, we can't keep adding new natural gas buildings to the system. Even if we developed all the renewable natural gas possible, we would only meet about 5% of California's current natural gas supply, as there are only so many dairies and landfills. It is impossible to decarbonize natural gas, and methane leakage is a serious concern that is amply covered in the ECAP update. A natural gas ban is thus of vital importance, along with making buildings more efficient and EV ready. The County leading by example through the Zero Carbon Resolution for County buildings is a fantastic way to show the private sector how this can be done.

CEC also asks that the County push Central Coast Community Energy to offer a 100% renewable default option to member agencies. Clean Power Alliance has had great success with their program and now features the most 100% renewable jurisdictions in the nation. In just the last few months, the County of Los Angeles, City of Camarillo, and three other cities voted to move to 100% renewables, which mean that 20 agencies and the large majority of Clean Power Alliance's load is now served by 100% renewables. They are also currently offering this product at a 6% discount to SCE's base rate. Due to the Time Value of Carbon, a ton of carbon saved now is worth much more to our warming climate than a ton saved in 2030. The 100% renewable electricity could also be leveraged sooner in the increasing number of EVs and electrified buildings in the County, leading to faster progress on the County's climate goals.

Finally, we ask the County to set a Carbon Neutrality Goal by 2035, similar to the goals set by the City of Santa Barbara and City of San Luis Obispo. The State of California is considering the same, with Governor Newsom directing the California Air Resources Board to evaluate pathways to Carbon Neutrality by 2035². The County should help build momentum toward accelerated State of California action with a Carbon Neutrality by 2035 goal.

CEC is working on many programs to help move our region toward Zero Carbon communities. We are also developing programs to sequester carbon in our natural and working lands, and prepare for the climate impacts that are already occurring, particularly in our most under-resourced communities. We stand ready to help the County slow the Climate Crisis while

¹ Available at <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sustainability/ev-roadmap.html>

² Available at <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/07/09/governor-newsom-holds-virtual-discussion-with-leading-climate-scientists-on-states-progress-toward-carbon-neutrality>

providing leadership and inspiration to other jurisdictions as California's climate solutions are replicated in other states and nations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Chiacos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Michael Chiacos
Director of Climate Policy
Community Environmental Council