



SIERRA CLUB

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Serving the Environment in San Diego and Imperial Counties

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Climate action revolution takes center stage with new Escondido City Council.

*Moving from 'bare minimum' to 'the best one ever',
a new era is ushered in on climate commitment.*

In a stunning reversal on how the city of Escondido will address climate change, the new Mayor and Escondido City Council members demonstrated that the city is entering a new era of innovation, community involvement, vision, sensible, and long-term decision-making.

Wednesday's hearing on how the council wished to proceed with the update of Escondido Climate Action Plan (E-CAP) took a dramatic turn from direction under the former leadership in Escondido. Where in past meetings on environmental and climate issues, staff was instructed to do 'the bare minimum' to get by, the new Council called on staff to see that the E-CAP "give us bragging rights that we are the forward thinking city that we are."

New Escondido Mayor Paul 'Mac' McNamara was clear in his support of an innovative climate plan and rejected old thinking about this issue. "Some people think economic growth is somehow in conflict with environmental awareness...and I think we can do both...Let's get out of our comfort zone and be bold." The Mayor offered his support for considering 100% clean energy commitment and addressing land use patterns in the E-CAP stating, "Let's be a leader."

Deputy Mayor Consuelo Martinez agreed stating, "Now is our time to be bold." She went on to support a social equity commitment and said, "Yes to community choice energy, 100% renewable energy and creation of a Climate Action Commission" to applause from the audience.

Council member Mike Morasco noted his experience in the smog situation, "We have seen great changes...with the implementation of laws to help force reduction of emissions...and it's worked. Anything we can do to promote health and well-being by reducing emissions makes sense. That is the direction we should go."

Council member Olga Diaz, a long-standing supporter of strong climate action remarked on the 'refreshing' new direction of the city. She joined in the support for clean energy goals. Community choice energy, and action on food waste. She noted that there is always a worry about the cost but, "There is a great cost to inaction. An opportunity cost to our children. I want us to be an example Climate Action Plan so next time we are ranked, we are the best one ever."

On hand, were members of the Sierra Club and allied organizations Climate Action Campaign, Grow the San Diego Way, Escondido Climate Alliance, Environmental Center of San Diego and residents who spoke unanimously in favor of a strong commitment climate action.

Building on San Diego Mayor Kevin Falconer's strong commitment to climate action at his state of the city address, Mayor McNamara stated, "I agree we need to say yes to climate action revolution."

Community members interested in this issue should provide their contact information to Mr. Mike Strong at the city of Escondido at mstrong@escondido.org to keep apprised about the E-CAP.

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