

**From:** [Linda Devermann](#)  
**To:** CAP  
**Subject:** Climate Action Plan - Julian Community Planning Group  
**Date:** Thursday, September 21, 2017 9:57:02 AM  
**Attachments:** CAP LETTER TO MAGGIE SOFFEL.pdf

Letter  
C1

Maggie,

Please see attached for your information.

C1-1

*Patrick L. Brown, Chair*  
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### Response to Comment Letter C1

**Julian Community Planning Group**  
**Patrick L. Brown, Chair**  
**September 11, 2017**

**C1-1:** This comment provides introductory comments and lists several topical areas. It is unclear how these comments address the CAP or Draft SEIR. Therefore, no further response can be provided. Some of the comments appear to relate to carbon sequestration and tree planting. For more information about carbon sequestration, please refer to Master Response 11 and for tree planting, please see responses to comment letter O20.



# Julian Community Planning Group

September 11, 2017

Planning and Development Services  
County of San Diego  
5510 Overland Avenue  
San Diego, California 92123

**SUBJECT:** *Climate Action Plan – Agriculture; Open Space; Vegetation Management; Renewable Energy; Waste Reduction; Growth Restrictions*

**DISCUSSION:**

- I. Agriculture – Agriculture is being penalized not promoted by San Diego County politics.
  - A. Agricultural Clearing Permits are obstructive because of the required biology and archaeology reports and resulting open space.
  - B. MSCP Program – Hindrance for agriculture due to restrictions and required open space, especially for agricultural use.
  - C. Ponds and Small Dams – Promote ponds and small dams for agriculture and water for fire suppression.
    - 1. Agricultural irrigation
    - 2. Livestock watering
    - 3. Groundwater recharge
    - 4. Riparian vegetation
- II. Open Space
  - A. Manage growth with the General Plan not open space.
  - B. Major Fire issue
    - 1. Fuel build-up due to open space policy.
    - 2. Required open space needs to be managed.
    - 3. Practice forest management.

C1-1  
cont.

Planning and Development Services  
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III. Vegetation Management

- A. Extensive fires; without vegetation management, you get massive fires. For example: Cuyamaca State Park, Cedar Fire 2003 (see attachment "Forest Management")
- B. Lack of fuel management causes the release of significant greenhouse gases and an extensive reduction in air quality.
- C. Planting trees – Planting trees in parks and open space accomplishes nothing without management.
- D. Healthy forests and grasslands sequesters greenhouse gasses.
- E. Control of evasive species.

C1-1  
cont.

IV. Renewable Energy

- A. Renewable energy
  - 1. Not at the expense of a visual impact, especially wind generators.
  - 2. Solar panels on historical buildings are a problem.

C1-2

V. Reduce Waste

- 1. Continue to allow burn permits and control burning.

C1-3

VI. Growth Restrictions

- 1. Accomplish growth restrictions through the General Plan not the negative effect of open spaces.

JULIAN COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

Patrick L. Brown, Chair  
 Bob Redding, Vice Chair  
 Kiki Skagen Munshi, Secretary  
 Woody Barnes  
 Betty Birdsell  
 Herb Dackermann  
 Keith Krawiec  
 Katherine Moretti  
 Kenny Mushet  
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**C1-2:** The comment appears to state that renewable energy projects should not be promoted at the expense of visual impacts and impacts to the character of historic structures. The Draft SEIR evaluated the visual resources impacts of the CAP including impacts from renewable energy projects in Section 2.1, Aesthetics, of the Draft SEIR. Additionally, impacts to historical resources were evaluated in Section 2.5, Cultural and Historic Resources. As no specific comments were raised on the adequacy of the Draft SEIR, no further response can be provided.

**C1-3:** This comment requests that residents continue to maintain the ability to conduct controlled burns and suggests that the County manage growth through the General Plan, not through open space. This comment does not address the adequacy of the Draft SEIR, and no further response is required. However, the comment will be included in the Final EIR and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the project.



## Julian Community Planning Group

### VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. Mediterranean climate with extreme variation in seasonal and annual rainfall, and strong winds many of which occur when the fuel is dry.
2. Up until approximately the 1930's fuel management in most of the back country of San Diego County was either annual grazing or burning with frequent low intensity fires. The result was less damage to the tree component, and somewhat control of brush.
3. Since that time vegetation management policy has been to exclude fire entirely from most areas, and to progressively reduce grazing.
4. The net result has been a longer interval between fires, leading to fires with higher intensity that are very hard on trees, and favored chaparral species. The book by George E. Gruell "Fire in the Sierra Nevada" (published 2001) has some interesting photos and information that is applicable to some extent to our area.
5. To return to some semblance of the pre-settler-early-settler condition a number of difficult and expensive things need to occur:
  - A. Restore or begin managed grazing to many areas. There are roles for cattle, goats and sheep in this.
  - B. Increase the use of prescribed fire. (See "Prescribed Burning" by Harold Biswell, 1989, U.C. Press).
  - C. In areas where trees are killed by intensive wildfires replant the next wet season with the same species. This must include controlling the competing brush seedlings and sprouts. This can be done manually in theory, but realistically the use of herbicides will be needed.
6. The worst example of the lack of active vegetation management in our area is Cuyamaca State Park. Roughly 50 years of removal of grazing and almost no fuel management contributed to the disastrous results of the 2003 Cedar Fire probably destroying the best conifer stand in the county. This damage was increased by the failure to control brush species and to replant conifers at the next rainy season.
7. San Felipe Valley, portions of Palomar and Cuyamaca are among other local areas needing vegetation/fuel management.
8. Recognize that continuation of our past policies is a recipe for failure.

C1-4

**C1-4:** This comment contains commentary about historic and current vegetation management policies throughout the incorporated area. The County acknowledges this comment. This comment does not address the adequacy of the Draft SEIR, and no further response is required. However, the comment will be included in the Final EIR and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the project.