

Response to Comment Letter I14

**Tena Scruggs
September 14, 2017**

Letter
I14

From: T. Scruggs
To: CAP
Subject: Climate Action Plan - Comment on Strategy A2
Date: Thursday, September 14, 2017 11:30:26 AM

Dear Ms. Soffel,

Thank you for the County's informative presentation in Escondido last night on the County's proposed Climate Action Plan. I would like to comment on Strategy A2: Increase Carbon Sequestration.

I14-1

In support of the end purpose of the CAP to reduce the warming of our County and our planet, we should also incorporate ways to directly cool our atmosphere. I would like to see Strategy A2 expanded to 1) recognize the direct effects that tree canopies have on lowering temperatures affecting our cities and the places we live, and 2) encourage the expansion of tree canopies in our parking lots and along our streets.

I14-2

Asphalt parking lots and roads are our biggest "heat islands" radiating heat into our air and affecting the temperatures of places we live. Since the County has a tremendous number of roads and parking lots within its jurisdiction, increasing tree canopies over these heat islands could have a significant impact immediately felt and appreciated by residents as well as the long-term effects and other benefits. There's a city in Spain--Madrid, I believe--that apparently seems to think so, too, since it has adopted a goal of planting 1,000,000 trees to combat its growing heat problem.

I14-3

A recent episode of *A Growing Passion* (<http://agrowingpassion.com/episode-505-urban-forests-trees-plants-city/>) showed the huge difference in temperatures between unshaded sidewalks/streets and shaded ones. I know I'm not the only one who hates getting into a car that's been parked in the sun on our hottest days. I often look for shade or a tree to park under and am often disappointed. The most beautiful parking lot (usually an oxymoron) I've seen was in Santa Barbara. An oak forest had been created for cars to park under. (Disclaimer: I'm a big advocate for native oaks for all their many benefits and enjoy gathering acorns in the fall, helping them grow, then donating them to various places.)

I14-4

Another option I would like to see the County encourage would be the placement of solar panels over parking lots like the Escondido High School district has done. Also in Escondido, a commercial shopping center is revamping its landscaping . . . with palm trees(!) which give absolutely no shade at all.

I14-5

I would like to see the CAP encourage, and require where possible, shade canopies in parking lots as well as along streets.

Thank you,

Tena Scruggs
Escondido

I14-1 The comment provides an introductory statement and no further response is required.

I14-2 The comment suggests that CAP Strategy A-2 be expanded to include expansion of tree canopies in parking lots and along streets. The County agrees with the commenter that expanded tree canopies can be beneficial in several ways, including increasing carbon sequestration, improving air quality through the capture of air pollutants, improving water quality through reduced erosion, supporting biological resources by providing additional habitat and improved water quality, and improving community and public health through the provision of shade and positive impacts on overall wellbeing. The CAP includes GHG Reduction Measures A-2.1 and A-2.2 which would increase the number of trees planted in the county in future years. The comment will be included in the Final EIR and made available to decision makers prior to a final decision on the project.

I14-3 The comment states tree canopies could reduce the heat island effect in the county. The County acknowledges this comment. Please see response to comment I14-2.

I14-4 The comment suggests the inclusion of a measure which would encourage the installation of solar panels over parking lots as a means of providing shade and reducing GHG emissions. The Draft CAP includes solar panel-related measures for new development and for existing development but does not specify that solar panels be provided over parking lots. However, the County could consider expanding related measures in the future to require solar panels over parking lots. Currently, GHG Reduction Measure E-1.1 would Improve Building Energy Efficiency in New Development. This measure would achieve 10% greater building energy efficiency in all new non-

residential development than is required by the 2016 State Energy Code (Title 24 Part 6) by 2020; require all new residential development to meet the State's Zero Net Energy (ZNE) standards by 2020; and require all new non-residential development to meet the State's ZNE standards by 2030. The Measure was also clarified to state that if the State Energy Code is amended to require building energy efficiency above 10%, then the State requirement would supersede the measure. The State has demonstrated that ZNE can be achieved through a combination of high-performance, energy-efficient design and maximizing on-site renewable energy production (e.g., solar and storage), which could include solar panels within parking lots.

GHG Reduction Measure E-2.3 would Install Solar Photovoltaics in Existing Homes. Based on the County's historical PV permitting data, it is projected that 52,273 existing homes will install PV by 2020 and an additional 77,902 existing homes will install PV by 2030. The County initiatives and programs described here would continue to support the environment for solar energy development in the county. Please also refer to Master Response 9 for more information about the measure selection process.

I14-5 The comment restates previous comments. Please see the response to comments I14-1 through I14-4.