

Sweetwater Community Meeting

San Diego County Climate Action Plan Update



Built Environment



Energy



Solid Waste



*Water &
Wastewater*



*Agriculture &
Conservation*

Introduction

As part of the public involvement process for the **Climate Action Plan Update** (CAP Update), the County of San Diego (County) is conducting intentional engagement with Environmental Justice Communities (EJCs)¹ to gather input and recommendations for the Climate Action Plan. On October 26, 2021, the County hosted a meeting in the Sweetwater community, and 10 people participated. The meeting was the first of multiple meetings to reach EJCs in San Diego County. To promote the Sweetwater Community Meeting, County staff attended other meetings and events in the Sweetwater community area to speak about the meeting and its purpose, utilized County platforms and partners to share promotional flyers, and called and emailed stakeholders in the community, including residents, businesses, and community-based organizations. This summary documents the meeting objectives and format, how input was solicited, and what was learned from the participants.

Tuesday, October 26, 2021
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Provence House
4370 Sweetwater Road,
Bonita, CA 91902

Objectives

The meeting was organized and conducted to accomplish the following objectives:

- Create a comfortable, engaging environment where all participants have an opportunity to provide meaningful input.
- Promote dialogue and build connections with stakeholders to explore climate change in their community.
- Obtain input, with a focus on the Sweetwater community, to be used in helping to develop the Climate Action Plan Update and identify any concerns and additional ideas.
- Provide an overview of the Climate Action Plan Update in a clear and easy to understand way, including the purpose, process, outcomes, timeline, and future opportunities to provide input.
- Explore opportunities and challenges related to greenhouse gas reduction measures that may be considered for the Climate Action Plan Update.

¹Environmental Justice Communities are designated and defined in the San Diego County's Environmental Justice Element.

Format

The meeting was a “drop-in” event where community members could arrive at any time and participate in the activities. The activities took place in a series of five booths staffed by County project team members. At the booths, community members spoke with project team members and were invited to share their perspectives. The activities were designed for the County to learn more about the Sweetwater community and to hear community members’ perspectives about climate change and potential actions to reduce greenhouse gases.

Interpreters were in attendance for community members whose primary language is Spanish and Tagalog. The meeting materials were also offered in Spanish and Tagalog.

Major Themes

Major themes common to all the input received from participants are listed below. The ordering does not reflect importance or frequency.

- Several participants shared that education on sustainability related topics such as community power, sustainability, and waste management, are among their top priorities.
- Many participants emphasized the importance of improving transportation: from the widespread adoption of electric vehicles to enhancements in public transportation and safety to aligning greenhouse gas emission goals with toll roads.
- Some participants expressed interest in changing current zoning designations for their community.
- Multiple participants identified climate change impacts affecting their community, including water conservation and illnesses from air pollution.
- Some participants identified potential ideas for the Climate Action Plan Update, including electric vehicles, reducing tolls, increasing bike safety, and moving towards a carbon-free county.
- Strategies related to solid waste, water and wastewater, and agriculture and conservation were all identified as potential solutions to address climate change in Sweetwater. Several participants highlighted regenerative agriculture, desalination, and the use of greywater, composting, and bringing back a County-operated recycling center.