



County of San Diego

Developing the San Diego County Native Landscape Program

Board of Supervisors

December 14, 2022

Item #11



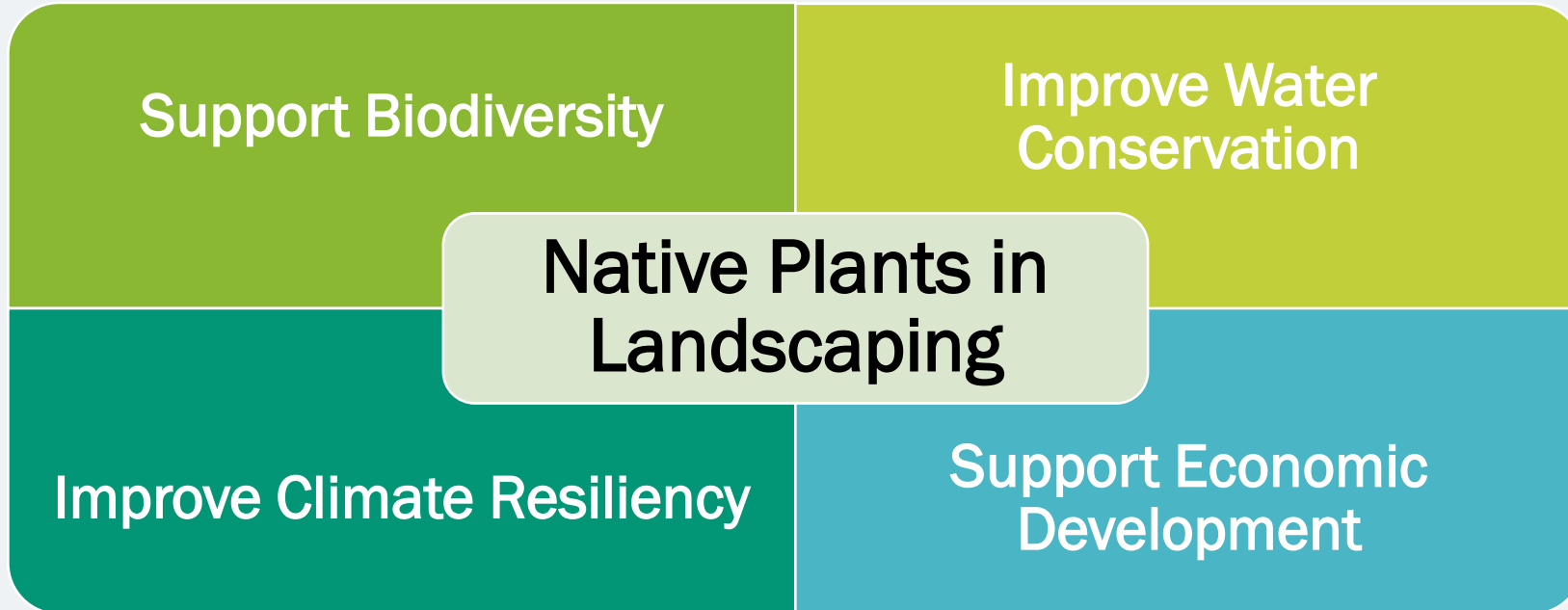
Developing the San Diego County Native Landscape Program

- Today's action
 - Report back on Board of Supervisors direction
 - Request direction to develop Program

Board of Supervisors Direction, May 5, 2021 (7)

- Collaborate with the San Diego Regional Biodiversity Working Group
- Develop a comprehensive Native Plant Landscaping Policy for both public and private property including:
 - Guidelines
 - Reasonable requirements for County facilities and new developments
 - Incentives for retrofits
 - Equity-based resources and training to ensure diverse participation among landscaping professionals and residents
- Engage with a diverse range of interested stakeholders and the public
- Return with options for a new San Diego County Native Plant Landscaping Policy

Why Native Plants are Important



Related Sustainability Initiatives

Countywide Biodiversity
Vision & Goals Resolution

Regional Decarbonization
Framework & Climate
Action Plan

**Native Plants in
Landscaping**

Water Conservation in
Landscaping Ordinance

Multiple Species
Conservation Program



San Diego Regional Biodiversity Working Group

- Regional experts in native plants and landscape ecology and design
 - E.g., San Diego Canyonlands, California Native Plant Society, San Diego Botanic Garden
- Working Group Recommendations
 - Develop a “San Diego County Native Landscape Program”
 - Implement program components using a phased approach

San Diego County Native Landscape Program

*Program Recommendations by the
San Diego County Biodiversity Working Group*



Public Input



Stakeholders Engaged

- Environmental
- Economic
- Community
- Industry
- Internal County departments



Feedback Received

Support:

- Tribal knowledge on respecting native biodiversity
- Education and incentives

Concerns:

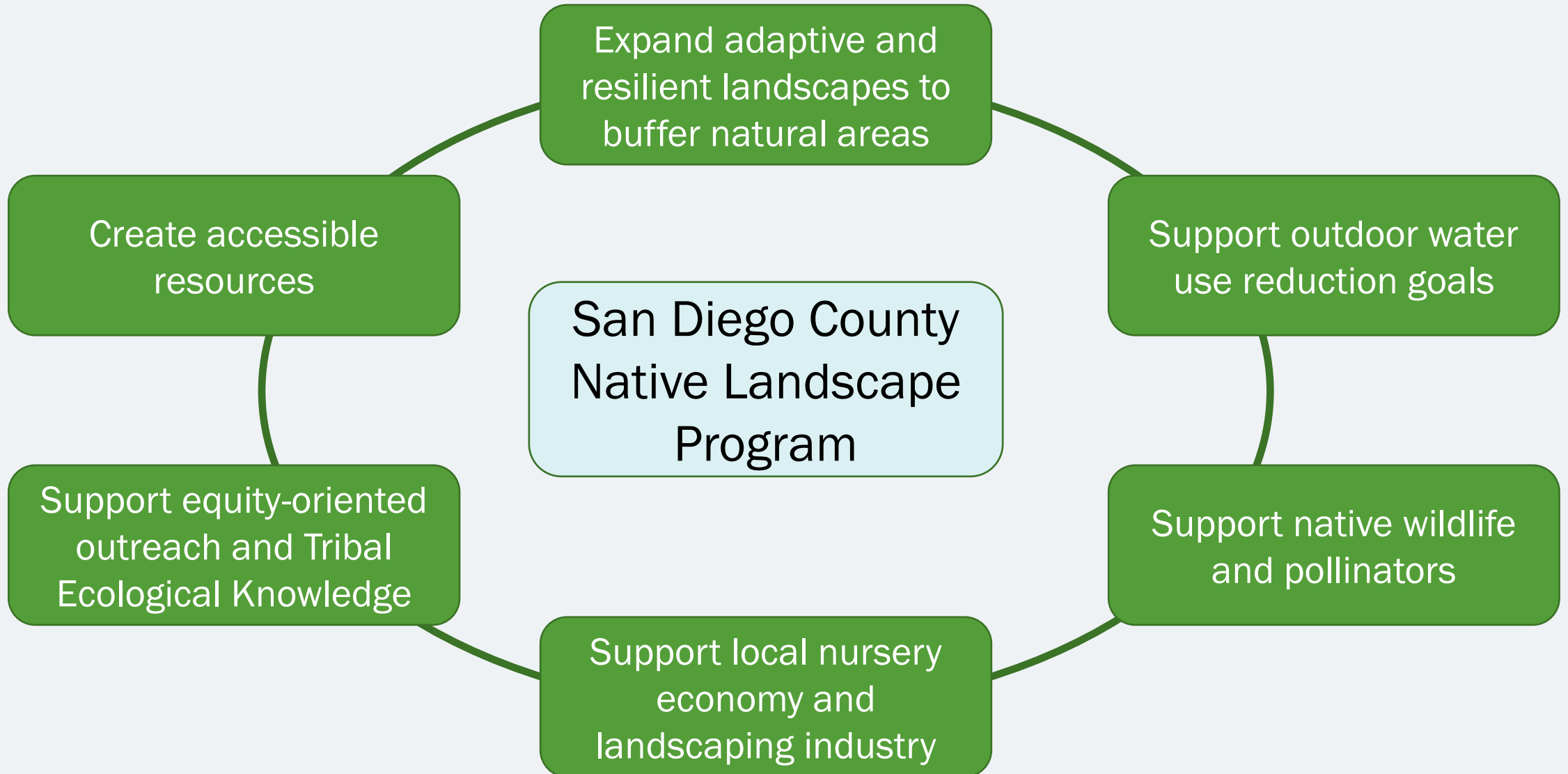
- New regulations
- A prescriptive plant list
- Non-native nursery impacts



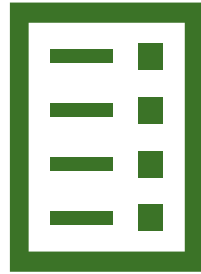
Incorporated into Program

- Tribal Ecological Knowledge
- Voluntary program
- Best practice recommendations

Program Objectives



Program Actions: Policy



1. Develop Native Plant Landscaping Design Manual

Outline native plant landscaping objectives, design and installation best practices, and identify priority areas



2. Amend Board Policy G-15 "Design Standards for County Facilities and Property"

Require native plant landscaping at County facilities

Program Actions: Education



3. Develop a Program website

Serve as a regional educational and training resource



4. Develop educational materials and resources for residents and professionals

Educate on the design, installation, maintenance, and cultivation of native plants



5. Install school demonstration gardens and develop educational materials

Provide nature and ecological education



6. Develop a landscaping professional certification program

Recognize local landscaping professionals



7. Install demonstration gardens at County facilities

Educate on how native plants can be incorporated into landscaping

Program Actions: Incentives



8. Implement landscape retrofit pilot projects

Pilot incentives at private property in the unincorporated area



9. Develop San Diego County Native Plant Incentive Program

Build off existing programs to incentivize native plant landscaping in the unincorporated area



10. Develop landscape design templates

Offer residents easy-to-use, tailorable design plans for installing native plant landscaping

Program Implementation



Phased Approach



Lessons Learned

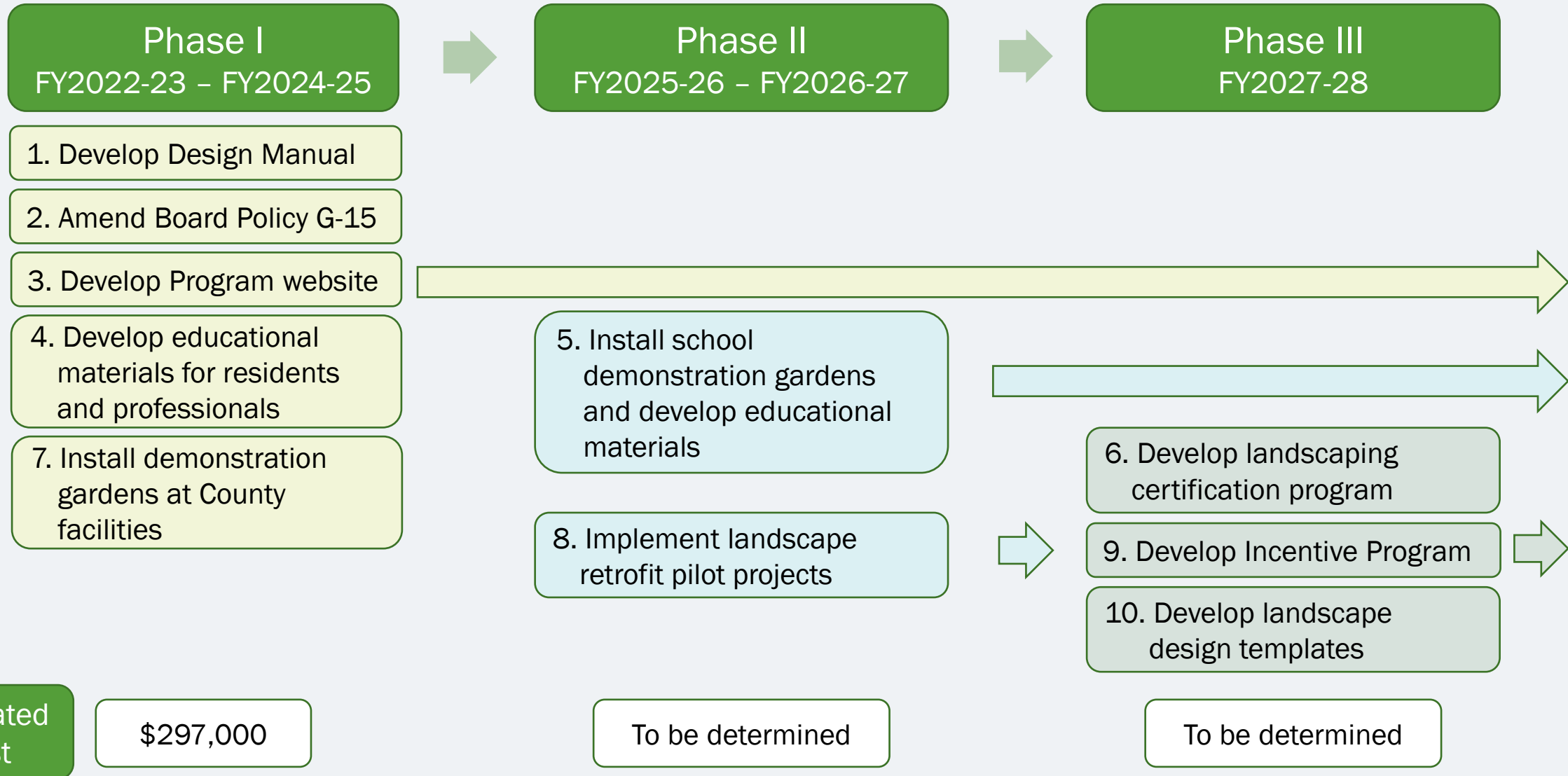


Public Input



Community Advisors

Implementation Timeline



Staff Recommendations

1. Find in accordance with Sections 15061(b)(3), 15301(h), and 15304(b) that the proposed actions to develop the San Diego Native Plant Landscape Program are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.
2. Direct the CAO to develop the San Diego County Native Landscape Program that includes Program objectives, the following ten County-initiated actions, and an implementation framework.
 1. **Develop Native Plant Landscaping Design Manual (Phase I)**
 2. **Amend Board Policy G-15 (Phase I)**
 3. **Develop Program website (Phase I)**
 4. **Develop educational materials and resources for residents and professionals (Phase I)**
 5. **Install school demonstration gardens and develop educational materials (Phase II)**
 6. **Develop a landscaping professional certification program (Phase III)**
 7. **Install demonstration gardens at County facilities (Phase I)**
 8. **Implement landscape retrofit pilot projects (Phase II)**
 9. **Develop Incentive Program (Phase III)**
 10. **Develop landscape design templates (Phase III)**
3. Direct the CAO to implement Phase I actions.
4. Direct the CAO to return to the Board of Supervisors after Phase I (FY 2024-25) with options for implementation of future phases.



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