

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
AUGUST 12, 2020**

ITEM 13

SUBJECT

The University of California San Diego's Climate Action Plan (*Jimmy Smith and Jill Harris*)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item and the Board will not take an action.

KEY ISSUE

Climate change can impact the San Diego Region in many ways. The region's infrastructure, ecosystems and public health are vulnerable to changes in sea level, storm intensity and temperature. The related risks to water quality require fundamental alterations in how operations are managed and protected by the regulated community, especially in critical water and wastewater infrastructure. The University of California San Diego (UCSD) continues its leadership role in researching and addressing these changes and is presenting the latest version of its Climate Action Plan (CAP) at today's meeting.

PRACTICAL VISION

Chapter 4 of the San Diego Water Board Practical Vision, *Proactive Public Outreach and Communication* is focused on implementing the core values of leadership, communication and transparency. This item provides an opportunity for the San Diego Water Board and the public to learn about UCSD's plans and accomplishments in reducing its contribution to climate change.

DISCUSSION

Since its founding in 1960, UCSD has become a world-renowned institution of academic research and higher learning. The Scripps Institution of Oceanography (Scripps), a division of UCSD, is a leader in advancing scientific understanding of atmospheric and oceanic conditions. Scripps was one of the first to provide evidence of one of the likely causes of a changing climate through the insightful work of Dr. Charles Keeling and his [Keeling Curve](#) of on-going atmospheric carbon dioxide measurements for over 60 years.

In 2008 UCSD approved the first CAP aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, achieving climate neutrality (i.e. achieving net zero emissions of GHGs through source reduction or elimination) by 2025 and continuing to certify new and existing buildings under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. In 2013, the President of the University of California (UC) called for all campuses to be carbon neutral, defined as achieving a net zero in carbon dioxide emissions, by 2025 and to further neutralize carbon emissions from commuters to campus and from business travel by 2050.

UCSD's 2018 update to the CAP was based upon work initiated by the UC San Diego Student Sustainability Collective and focuses on campus operations and exclusively on

the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. Addressing GHG emissions from water use and waste generation are not currently part of the CAP but are parts of other UC goals. The successful implementation of the CAP required accounting of existing sources and amounts of GHG emissions, and on-going monitoring. The CAP calls for purchasing carbon credits to offset existing powerplant emissions, and future energy to come from a cogeneration plant, and possibly anaerobic digesters and a biomass power plant.

Ms. Michelle Perez, Energy and Sustainability Manager of the Office of Resource Management and Planning will present the CAP, review the development process and discuss the possibility of sharing lessons learned, and technologies developed with other UC Campuses and the San Diego Region in general.

LEGAL CONCERNS

None.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The agenda notice for today's meeting was posted on the San Diego Water Board's website and sent to subscribers to the email list for Board meetings. This satisfies the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements to publish the meeting notice and agenda.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. UC San Diego Climate Action Plan can be found on the UC San Diego website at: <https://sustain.ucsd.edu/files/focus/UCSD-Climate-Action-Plan-2019-final.pdf>