

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - LAND USE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 3

SUBJECT: ESTABLISH A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO IMPLEMENT THE EQUITABLE BUILDING DECARBONIZATION PROGRAM AND DELEGATE AUTHORITY FOR FUTURE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND CEQA EXEMPTION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

On September 11, 2024 (6), the County of San Diego (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the 2024 Climate Action Plan (CAP), which establishes actions the County will take to meet greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets for 2030 and 2045 and achieve a goal of net zero emissions by 2045. The CAP directs the County to expand access to programs and services that will increase energy efficiency, energy resiliency, and electrification in the unincorporated area. These services help residents by reducing utility bills through reduced energy usage, improving public health through indoor air quality improvements, and increasing resiliency to climate impacts through home weatherization upgrades.

In August 2024, the California Energy Commission selected the County of Los Angeles to be the administrator of the State “Equitable Building Decarbonization Program Direct Install” (EBD Program). The purpose of the EBD Program is to decarbonize homes through the voluntary installation of energy-efficient appliances, measures, and related upgrades directly to low-income households in under resourced communities. The EBD Program will direct \$25 to \$30 million to support the decarbonization of eligible homes within selected community focus areas in the San Diego region, which includes the unincorporated area. By partnering with the County of Los Angeles and contributing an additional \$500,000 in funding to the EBD Program, the County of San Diego would expand its program’s reach to additional community focus areas in the unincorporated area to all eligible communities, such as the County’s Environmental Justice communities (e.g., Spring Valley, Sweetwater, North El Cajon, and North Lemon Grove) and be able to take GHG reduction credit for CAP implementation. This force multiplier partnership would also help the County of San Diego avoid administrative costs associated with developing and administering a separate program with similar goals, ensuring that County funding goes toward direct investments in the community.

This is a request for the Board to authorize the Director of Planning & Development Services (PDS), or a designee, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Los Angeles to expand access to its EBD Program in the unincorporated area, and to adopt a Resolution authorizing PDS to enter into future Memorandums of Understanding to support CAP implementation.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) because it is not a project as defined in Section 15378(b)(4) and (b)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines and because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed Memorandum of Understanding would have a significant effect on the environment.

2. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding entitled: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EBD COALITION 2025 CEC EBD PROGRAM AS ADMINISTERED BY THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES IN THE SOUTHERN REGION, to be operative upon approval of both agencies, and authorize the Director, Department of Planning & Development Services, or their designee, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding and any extensions, amendments, and revisions thereof that do not materially impact or alter the program (Attachment A).
3. Adopt the Resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO ESTABLISHING AND EXECUTING MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN EFFORTS (Attachment B).

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

This action supports the County's Equity and Sustainability Strategic Initiatives by advancing efforts that will ensure equal opportunity to energy efficiency programming. Similarly, this action would advance energy equity, or access to affordable reliable energy, and is integral to the achievement of Climate Action Plan (CAP) goals which include reducing greenhouse gas emissions while meeting equity-based outcomes. One of the main goals of the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program Direct Install (EBD Program) is to increase energy equity by providing services to low-income households in California. Eligibility for the program is dependent on both community and household characteristics. All households served by the program must be in an under-resourced community which is defined by geographic parameters such as disadvantaged communities under Senate Bill 535 and occupied by low-income households.

This action is informed by engagement with the County's Environmental Justice Workgroup on CAP-related building decarbonization programming in Summer 2025. This advisory body, facilitated by the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice, ensures representatives of communities systemically impacted by environmental injustices share in decision making around local governments' climate programs, services, and policies. Workgroup members emphasized the importance of prioritizing funding for multifamily homes, and communities that have been historically underinvested or have higher pollution metrics. This feedback informed the selection of additional community focus areas for the EBD Program (e.g., those with higher rates of heat-related deaths, or prevalence of asthma). Their input will continue to help guide the implementation of the EBD Program as well as outreach and marketing efforts locally.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed actions advance the County Sustainability Goal 3: Transition to a green, carbon free economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support green job creation and workforce development, and prepare for impacts of a changing climate by supporting energy efficiency and electrification efforts that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality. Another main goal of the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program Direct Install (EBD Program) is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with household energy use. By improving household energy efficiency, the EBD Program will reduce the amount of energy needed to power households resulting in cost savings. Increasing energy efficiency and electrification of existing buildings is one of the most impactful actions within the County's Climate Action Plan and will result in significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions and support the County's efforts to mitigate climate change.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Operational Plan in Planning & Development Services (PDS) for the implementation of the County’s Climate Action Plan (CAP). If approved, this request will result in costs and revenue of \$500,000 to expand access to the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program Direct Install in the unincorporated area. The funding source is existing General Purpose Revenue in PDS. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

The Equitable Building Decarbonization Program Direct Install (EBD Program) has green economy goals related to supporting the local workforce and providing high-quality jobs, as identified by the State. As a result, the EBD Program requires that projects be performed by workers who pay prevailing wages where possible and prioritize hiring workers from local communities. Local implementation of the EBD Program and today’s action will result in direct economic benefits for contractors working on building decarbonization who pay prevailing wages to the local workforce.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Anderson, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent, and adopted Resolution No. 25-122 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO ESTABLISHING AND EXECUTING MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN EFFORTS.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond
ABSENT: Lawson-Remer

State of California)
County of San Diego)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter