DATE:     August 31, 2022

TO:        Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE INTEGRATED REGIONAL DECARBONIZATION FRAMEWORK AND DESIGN OF IMPLEMENTATION PLAYBOOK (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW
The global climate is changing, and the effects are felt acutely at the local level through higher frequency and intensity of extreme heat events, droughts, wildfires, storms, and sea level rise. Furthermore, the growing economic, social, and environmental impacts associated with a changing climate are causing immediate and long-term impacts to our ecosystems, food production, health, safety, jobs, businesses, and communities across the San Diego region, particularly in underserved populations that are impacted disproportionately.

In light of these realities, and in support of the County of San Diego’s (County) commitment to sustainability and environmental justice, on January 27, 2021 (3), the County’s Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer to develop the Regional Decarbonization Framework (RDF), a guide to achieve zero carbon emissions for the region. The technical report of the RDF, drafted in partnership with the University of California San Diego (UC San Diego) School of Global Policy and Strategy and the University of San Diego (USD) School of Law’s Energy Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC), includes strategies and initiatives to achieve zero carbon emissions in the region by mid-century to align with State targets of reaching carbon neutrality by 2045 or sooner under Governor Brown’s Executive Order B-55-18.

Subsequent Board direction on July 14, 2021 (3) and November 17, 2021 (6) recognized the need for workforce development and implementation pathways to be included with the technical report, therefore, the integrated RDF has three key components: the technical report, the workforce development study, and the Implementation Playbook. The Implementation Playbook, previously referred to as the Implementation Pathways report will be an accessible resource for stakeholders which includes residents, local/regional governments, tribal governments, businesses, community, labor, and environmental organizations in the region looking to adopt and implement decarbonization policies, programs, and/or projects. The technical report and the workforce development study are now complete and available on our website: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/RDF.
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County staff are now transitioning from the education phase of outreach to the implementation phase of the RDF. The focus of the outreach and engagement going forward will be on the development of the Implementation Playbook, which will translate the technical findings of the RDF so far into implementable actions for our region to decarbonize. This outreach will begin in September 2022 and go through Spring 2023.

The Implementation Playbook will contain feasible policies, programs, and projects that can successfully reduce regional emissions and reach our region’s collective zero carbon emissions goal by mid-century, while ensuring the creation of good green jobs and prioritizing implementation activities that are socially equitable. As an accessible resource to all stakeholders, the Implementation Playbook could next set up regional initiatives such as a regional tree planting assessment. In the long-term, we could also explore a Regional Climate Action Plan. These regional initiatives would be voluntary efforts among local jurisdictions that want to participate in a joint effort, have quantified goals with timelines, and measure our collective progress toward them.

In Spring 2023, the final three components of the Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework will be presented to the Board for consideration and adoption. This will include the approval of the final technical report, the final workforce development study, and the final Implementation Playbook. The playbook will include strategies and activities that are regional, multi-sectoral, and multijurisdictional. The playbook will be prepared with input from special topic working groups that will review criteria such as greenhouse gas emissions impact, public and private sector costs, and social equity considerations. In utilizing the Implementation Playbook, USD EPIC will provide a set of options on actions that support the decarbonization of our unincorporated area.

Today’s actions are for the Board to receive an update on the Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find that the proposed actions are not subject to CEQA per Section 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, because receiving an update on the integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework is administrative in nature and is not a project as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).


EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT
The Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework (RDF) is centered on equity. The voices of communities impacted by environmental injustices were critical in the development of the technical, scientific reports and will continue to play an important role throughout the design and development of implementation actions, as the County continues its robust public outreach and engagement. To support this, the RDF project timeline has been expanded to Spring 2023 to allow for thorough and intentional community engagement in co-developing policies, programs, and projects for implementation in order to ensure they are equitable and improve outcomes for
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underserved and environmental justice communities impacted disproportionately by climate change.

FISCAL IMPACT
There are no fiscal impacts associated with this action. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. There may be fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations for which staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT
The Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework will provide a guiding framework for climate-related jobs and investments with innovative science and technological advancements, climate resiliency efforts, new renewable energy generation and storage projects, clean technology in transportation and building systems, research and development in greenhouse gas (GHG) capture and storage, economic benefits from emissions reductions, and the associated high-quality job creation in the green economy.

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT
N/A

BACKGROUND
The global climate is changing, and the effects are felt acutely at the local level through a higher frequency and intensity of extreme heat events, droughts, wildfires, storms, and sea level rise. Furthermore, the growing economic, social, and environmental impacts associated with a changing climate are causing immediate and long-term impacts to our ecosystems, food production, health, safety, jobs, businesses, and communities across the San Diego region, particularly in underserved populations that are impacted disproportionately.

The County of San Diego (County) Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Report, prepared by Ascent Environmental and adopted by the Board of Supervisors (Board) on July 14, 2021 (1) as part of the General Plan’s Safety Element, predicts severe climate change impacts on the unincorporated areas of the region, including higher frequency and intensity of extreme heat events, droughts, and wildfires. To illustrate, the impacts of climate change on the County’s unincorporated areas will vary based on medium-to-high greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions scenarios from the historical average (1961-1990) to the mid-21st century as follows:

- Maximum temperatures will increase from 75.3°F to between 80.5-81.4°F average annually.
- Extreme heat days will increase from four days to between 34-45 days on average annually.
- Heatwaves (which are four or more consecutive extreme heat days) will increase from a frequency of one every five years to between six to eight heat waves per year.

In light of these realities, and in support of the County’s broad commitment to sustainability and environmental justice, on January 27, 2021 (3), the Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer to develop the Regional Decarbonization Framework (RDF), a guide to achieve zero carbon emissions for the region. The technical report of the RDF, drafted in partnership with the University of California San Diego (UC San Diego) School of Global Policy and Strategy and the
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University of San Diego (USD) School of Law’s Energy Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC), includes strategies and initiatives to achieve zero carbon emissions in the region by mid-century to align with State targets.

On July 14, 2021 (3), the Board received an update on the RDF, which outlined the following three guiding principles that shape the development of the RDF: (1) Data-Driven Approach, (2) Regional Collaboration, and (3) Stakeholder Input. The Board also directed staff to develop a comprehensive green jobs plan that addresses the local opportunities available from climate investments, as well as career pathways for our workforce directly impacted by decarbonization.

On November 17, 2021 (6), the Board received an update on the Draft RDF, which included the draft technical report from UC San Diego that provided baseline assessments of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and science-based pathways to reduce carbon emissions in the areas of transportation, electricity, buildings, and land use throughout the region.

On February 9, 2022 (6) the Board received the RDF’s report on the Draft Local Policy Opportunity analysis in which USD EPIC identified existing climate action plan commitments by local jurisdictions, including the incorporated cities and the unincorporated area, that are designed to reduce GHGs, and areas where the region can do more to reach its decarbonization goals. The Board also directed staff to engage with the farming community to get their input on how to move toward more sustainable land use patterns that support local farmers. In addition, the Board directed staff to consult with the agriculture community and report back to the Board on how to best encourage movement toward local, sustainable, and organic agriculture production in San Diego county to reduce carbon emissions from food transportation, support our local economy, reduce stormwater run-off from fertilizer, and promote low carbon impact to agriculture.

On March 16, 2022 (5) the Board received the report for the Draft RDF, which included the revised technical report led by UC San Diego and the Draft Local Policy Opportunity analysis by USD EPIC, as well as the draft workforce development study led by Inclusive Economics. Also, the Board approved a contract with USD EPIC to provide consulting services for implementation support.

Components of the Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework

The Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework (RDF) has three key components: the technical report, the workforce development study, and the Implementation Playbook (previously referred to as the Implementation Pathways report). Each of the three components are further described in Attachment A – Components and Sectors of the Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework.

Technical Report

The technical report is a scientific report by experts in the field to assess how the region can get to zero carbon emissions. As part of the Technical Report, an analysis of the regions Climate Action Plans (CAP) was completed, which is referred to as the Local Policy Opportunity analysis. This is the most comprehensive overview of CAPs in the region. It is the first study of its kind that quantifies the magnitude of the challenge in achieving meaningful reductions in regional
greenhouse gas emissions. It is not intended to evaluate, score, or rank any particular CAP, but to gather information on the region’s efforts. To see the final technical report, see Attachment B – RDF Technical Report. It is also available on our project website at: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/RDF.

Workforce Development Study
This study, titled “Putting San Diego County on the High Road: Climate Workforce Recommendations for 2030 and 2050” was developed to ensure we have good green jobs. It explores the ways in which actions to lower GHG emissions in the region’s industries can do so while also supporting the region’s workers. See Attachment C - Putting San Diego County on the High Road: Climate Workforce Recommendations for 2030 and 2050 for the final report. It is also available on our project website at: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/RDF.

Implementation Playbook
The next step is to use the technical, scientific analysis of Climate Action Plans of local governments in the region described in the technical report, to design an Implementation Playbook that will be a resource guide and outline areas for local governments, organizations, and businesses to consider as they move toward zero carbon emissions. As a resource for all local/regional governments, tribal governments, businesses, community, labor, and environmental organizations in the region looking to adopt and implement decarbonization policies, programs, and/or projects, the Implementation Playbook does not mandate what actions to take or implement but provides suggestions for actions that could be implemented to reach the zero carbon emissions goal of the RDF, while ensuring good green jobs and socially equitable activities.

The Implementation Playbook will be organized into five sectors of the Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework: buildings, electricity, land use & natural climate solutions, and transportation, as well as a new sector focused on food systems & circular economy, which will look at agriculture, food systems, and the lifecycle emissions of resources. The addition of the food systems & circular economy sector reflects Board direction on February 9, 2022 (6). A food system considers all aspects of food, including all processes, sustainable agricultural practices, infrastructure, and inputs utilized to produce, use, distribute, and dispose of food. This sector is also focused on circular economy, which reduces use of materials, reuses materials, and recaptures waste as a resource to create new materials and products. For example, similar to our natural world, most systems work in a circular model, such as how an onion grows using energy from the sun, water, and nutrients from the soil. The outer layers of the onion are often discarded, however, in a circular economy, the outer layers can be composted to return those nutrients back to the soil for future growth. Creating a circular economy is included in the County’s Sustainability Vision and Goals, which was adopted by the Board on March 1, 2022 (15). Attachment A - Components and Sectors of the Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework has additional details of each sector.

Within the five sectors, there will be a variety of activities suggested, based on the scientific analysis, that will contribute to achieving zero carbon emissions. Implementation activities will include a range of criteria such as the estimated GHG reductions impact, timeline, and cost. For example, a local city in our region looking to decarbonize buildings within their jurisdiction will
be able to review the Implementation Playbook, go to the buildings section, and see various options that can achieve GHG reductions, the related costs, and timeframe for implementing based on existing factors such as State legislation. This includes existing and other potential funding sources. Or a local business that has vehicles for conducting business could look at developing a plan or a program to retire vehicles with internal combustion engines and transition to electric vehicles and set up electric vehicle infrastructure. Attachment A – Components and Sectors of the Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework lists examples of different activity types.

In order for the resources to be valuable to organizations, the Implementation Playbook will be guided by stakeholder outreach and engagement and collaboration throughout the development process. In Spring 2023, we will return to the Board with the technical report and workforce development study and Implementation Playbook for Board consideration in adopting the RDF.

For the unincorporated area communities and County’s municipal facilities/assets to help us reach our goal of zero carbon emissions, the County will also be proposing policies, programs, and projects for consideration/Board input. Some of the initiatives of the County to support the implementation of the RDF are being presented to the Board on the same day as this item under separate items titled “Advancement Of Sustainability Initiatives for County Facilities and Operations and the Unincorporated Area in Support of the Regional Decarbonization Framework and Climate Action Plan Update” and “Organic Materials Ordinance Update.” Please refer to those items for further information on each effort and alignment with the RDF. For the full project timeline, see Attachment D - Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework Project Timeline.

**Supplemental Research**

In addition to the three key components of the integrated Framework, there will be supplemental research conducted to strengthen our regional understanding of emissions and to integrate food systems and social equity into decarbonization and climate planning efforts. These supplemental research topics will have additional information and data to supplement the RDF and will be completed during the next year.

- **Food Systems and Agriculture** – To better understand the role of agriculture and food systems in GHG emissions reduction, the County will work with UC San Diego School of Urban Studies and Planning to conduct an analysis and evaluation of policy tools that can be considered by the Board to support our regional food system and agricultural community. These potential policy tools will be aligned with existing efforts such as, San Diego County Food Vision 2030, which builds off the County’s State of the Food System Report that was released in November 2019, and could support regional implementation actions for decarbonization. San Diego County Food Vision 2030 is a strategic plan and movement for transforming our region’s food system over the next ten years, developed by the San Diego Food System Alliance, in partnership with the County of San Diego and food system stakeholders. A draft will be prepared for public comment by the end of 2022, with a final analysis completed and presented to the Board in Spring 2023.

- **Supplemental Emissions and Sustainability Commitments Analysis** – USD EPIC will expand on their Local Policy Opportunity analysis, which focused on Climate Action Plans for cities in the region along with the County’s CAP for the unincorporated area and County
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Facilities, to include other public agencies (e.g., Port of San Diego, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, etc.) and potentially, sustainability commitments of large private companies. This analysis will also provide more detailed information on regional emissions categories to include solid waste, agriculture, off-road transportation, industrial gases, aviation, etc. to provide a fuller picture of regional emissions. This report may also study short-lived climate pollutants like methane (which is a more potent greenhouse gas, despite its shorter lifetime in the atmosphere), industrial gases (which includes greenhouse gases that result from industrial processes, like nitrous oxide, which is a significantly more potent greenhouse gas than either carbon dioxide or methane), and black carbon (also known as soot, is not a gas, but it still contributes to atmospheric warming through absorbing solar radiation in the atmosphere), which have powerful, short-term impacts to atmospheric warming. Some criteria air pollutants, which are regulated by the US Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Air Act as being harmful to the environment, have both a climate impact as well as a human health impact (such as asthma), particularly in Environmental Justice communities, and the goal is to analyze the common factors in order to provide quantifiable climate equity goals for the region. This analysis will be on a separate timeline from the Implementation Playbook.

- Social Equity Guidelines for CAPs – As presented to the Board on February 9, 2022 (6), there is no consistent method for analyzing and addressing social equity across the region’s CAPs. The Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice, in partnership with USD EPIC and a social equity working group, will chart out the best approach in terms of outlining the process and developing these guidelines. The outline could include the quantification methodology for social equity indicators, methods for tracking the impact of climate interventions on communities of concern, participation methods, surveys and other tools, and equity considerations for each sector. This will result in the development of guidance documents and data to support local equity-based climate action planning and other regional initiatives. This effort will be separate from but complementary to the Implementation Playbook, and the timeline will be informed by the social equity working group.

Community Engagement, Outreach, and Feedback

Public outreach, engagement, and collaboration is central to achieving zero carbon for the region. We continue to conduct public outreach efforts including educating stakeholder groups and agencies about decarbonization and the components of the integrated Framework, and conveings with public officials and stakeholders to discuss policies and programs to implement decarbonization solutions.

From March 2022 to July 2022, County staff has held regional community meetings, conducted sector workshops focused on each of the five sectors of decarbonization analyzed in the technical report, presented to city councils, and held one-on-one meetings with groups and organizations upon request, to further collaboration efforts. Since July 2021, County staff has conducted 81 outreach events with organizations across government agencies, businesses, tribal governments, educational institutions, and environmental, community, and labor organizations. There have been over 1,300 attendees in the workshops and meetings conducted by the County, and in addition,
many more have attended the global conferences and local city council meetings where the RDF was presented. The public also had the opportunity to comment and engage on both the technical report and the workforce development study from early March through May 31, 2022. At the end of the comment period, feedback was received, organized, and distributed to the consultant team, then incorporated and addressed in the final reports.

Regional Community Meetings
Regional community meetings were held virtually via Zoom regularly from March through July 2022 to provide the public updates on the RDF and an opportunity to discuss questions or concerns that were raised through reviewing the technical report or workforce development study. All community meetings were conducted in English with simultaneous translation in Spanish. Additional language assistance was offered upon request. At the meetings, project staff and consultants provided an overview of the key takeaways from the technical report findings, a summary of the local policy analysis, and an overview of the workforce development study. Staff also provided an update on the community input that had been received throughout the engagement process at the May 17, 2022, community meeting to provide participants an opportunity to have open dialogue with the project team and subject matter experts on their feedback. After brief presentations, the meetings were open for input and comment from the public in attendance with additional questions posed by the project team through Zoom polls.

Outreach and engagement highlighted emerging themes and community feedback. For example, many expressed interest in opportunities to expand renewable energy including infill and rooftop solar, retrofitting existing buildings with electric and efficient systems, and a need for greater Electric Vehicle infrastructure as well as incentives to increase the availability and use. To see all key themes and stakeholder input, please refer to Attachment E – Summary of Outreach and Engagement March – July 2022.

Tribal Governments, Cities, and Agencies in the San Diego Region
Outreach efforts directed to elected officials, city managers, and city and agency staff who work on sustainability matters consisted of three types of events: city council presentations, group meetings with city staff, and one-on-one meetings with city staff and agencies (upon request). At these events, County staff presented the RDF and opened meetings for dialogue on more in-depth discussion on collaborative strategies. Comments made in these outreach efforts included city appreciation for the County’s leadership in this regional sustainability effort, as well as expressing interest in working with the County to be a part of the implementation efforts going forward. To see more details from each type of meeting, see Attachment E – Summary of Outreach and Engagement March – July 2022.

Sector Workshops
The project team hosted a series of workshops that focused on the sectors analyzed in the RDF’s Technical Report (buildings, electricity, land use and natural climate solutions, and transportation), jobs and workforce implications and one sector workshop with the agricultural community. The workshops allowed stakeholders to discuss the data, findings, and technical details found in the reports with the County project team and subject-matter experts. Each workshop was held via Zoom and provided live Spanish translation services with additional language assistance upon
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request. These public workshops were also recorded and posted in both English and Spanish on our project website for those who were not able to join. During each workshop, staff provided a high-level overview of the key findings from each sector alongside consultants who assisted in answering detailed subject matter questions. After a brief presentation, the workshops were open for input and comments from participants. To see all key findings and stakeholder questions, please refer to Attachment E – Summary of Outreach and Engagement March – July 2022.

Agriculture Community Meeting
Agriculture plays a significant role in the region in terms of food production, jobs, economy, and its relation to the environment. In 2020, the total value of agriculture in the region was $1.8 billion. There are nearly 5,100 farms in the San Diego region, and approximately 70% are considered small (about 3,500 farms), as they operate on less than 10 acres. Our region also has the highest concentration of organic growers in the United States, with more than 350 U.S. Department of Agriculture Certified Organic growers generating over $71 million in total annual organic product sales. Understanding the vital role of our agricultural community, County staff hosted a meeting to engage agriculture and farm workers in the process to review the draft technical findings of the RDF, and to solicit input that will inform the development of the Implementation Playbook. To see all key findings and questions, please refer to Attachment E – Summary of Outreach and Engagement March – July 2022.

As described above, a fifth sector of food systems & circular economy will be added in the process of developing the Implementation Playbook based on feedback received from the land use and natural climate solutions workshop and from our agriculture community workshop, where participants emphasized the importance of food systems as it is interconnected with social, economic, and environmental conditions of our region. Participants in these workshops also expressed a need for encouraging sustainable practices to support our local food system, therefore, circular economy is part of this new sector to emphasize responsible consumption and production practices are incorporated in implementation activities. For example, California Senate Bill (SB) 1383, which sets goals to reduce the disposal of organic waste in landfills including edible food, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as methane and expands efforts for food donation to ensure no edible food is wasted and can help feed food insecure individuals. This sector will include stakeholder outreach and engagement similar to the other sectors and will continue through the next steps of developing the Implementation Playbook.

Incorporating Stakeholder Feedback into the RDF
Gathering and incorporating stakeholder feedback in the development of the integrated RDF is a critical component of the project to ensure that this process is guided by community and individual level feedback. Each comment received was reviewed by the project team and based on the feasibility of the additional data or analysis request, chapter authors made revisions and/or added information and context to the final chapter. For example, stakeholders expressed concerns about the electrification costs for buildings, especially for low-income homeowners and renters in the residential building context and for large buildings in the commercial building context. The authors included information on the financing options that are currently available and in use to incentivize electrification. Refer to Attachment E – Summary of Outreach and Engagement March – July 2022.
Stakeholder feedback provided throughout the comment period, community meetings, and sector workshops will be continually used and referenced as the County team and its consultants begin the next steps of stakeholder outreach and engagement on co-designing and co-developing the policies, programs, and projects for the Implementation Playbook.

Next Steps for Outreach and Engagement
The RDF is a collaborative effort, and, as such, it is essential to have engagement from a variety of stakeholders, including tribal governments, cities, regional agencies, educational institutions, workforce development providers, businesses/industries, innovators, investors, labor unions, and community and environmental organizations.

Given the demographic and geographical diversity of the San Diego region, and the past challenges associated with reaching out to under-represented voices, the RDF team will work through the new Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice in partnering with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and community members with an intentional focus on participating in the decisions made at every step of the analysis and implementation of the RDF.

In transitioning from the education phase of outreach to the implementation phase of the RDF, the initial focus of the outreach and engagement will be on the design and development of the Implementation Playbook. This effort is summarized below, to see more details please refer to Attachment E – Future Outreach and Engagement Fall 2022 – Spring 2023.

1) RDF Technical Working Group: This will be a continuation of the existing Technical Working Group for the RDF technical report that will now transition from the study phase to the implementation phase. It will be expanded over time based on technical expertise to include representatives of tribal governments, binational representatives, the U.S. Navy, food systems & circular economy, and other technical experts as needed.

2) Social Equity Working Group: This is a long-term working group intended to provide feedback to staff into the social equity climate impact analysis across all sectors and throughout the region, as well as providing input into the social equity benefits/impacts of implementation activities. This group will consist of community-based organizations and community leaders that represent disproportionally impacted communities to ensure equitable investment opportunities are present in the activities identified in the Implementation Playbook. Meetings and composition of this group will be determined in consultation with community stakeholders.

3) Special Topic Working Groups: The process for developing the Implementation Playbook will begin with the formation of working groups in the five sectors: Buildings, Electricity, Land Use & Natural Climate Solutions, Transportation, and Food Systems & Circular Economy. Working group sessions/meetings will be led by County staff and supported by the USD EPIC consulting team to brainstorm, craft, and strategize implementation activities across each sector as well as review criteria such as GHG impact, public and private sector costs, and social equity considerations. These would occur in the initial stages of the design during Fall 2022 through Winter 2023. USD EPIC will work with County staff to incorporate the feedback received from the sectoral working groups to provide a draft Implementation Playbook before the end of 2022. Participation in the
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groups is open to the public. Interested individuals can fill out an interest form through September 9, 2022 on the RDF website. These temporary sectoral groups are advisory to the staff and consultants and will be disbanded after the drafting of the Implementation Playbook.

4) Regional Convenings: These will be events organized within each of the five supervisorial districts with community outreach and engagement led by community-based organizations. They will be hosted with professional facilitators that will seek input on the Draft Implementation Playbook (which would be drafted with input from the special topic working groups, described above). The format of these convenings will include brainstorming and mapping out ideas for implementation activities of each of the strategies. The initial series of convenings would begin in January 2023 in all five supervisorial districts.

5) Public Workshops: Virtual public workshops are intended to educate and engage the general public about the RDF, as well as to inform interested stakeholders about the progress of the Implementation Playbook drafts. There are anticipated to be three public workshops that will occur during key review periods of documents related to the RDF, starting with one in October 2022 to kick off implementation discussions, the second in early December 2022 to facilitate feedback on the draft Implementation Playbook, and the third in February 2023 for further discussions and feedback on the draft. Additional public workshops may be added, as needed.

Next Steps with the Implementation Playbook
The Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework is a visionary document to help guide our region to zero carbon emissions by mid-century. The project is now at the point of moving from scientific analysis to action. As mentioned above, the Implementation Playbook will be the guide to do this. It will contain feasible policies, programs, and projects that can successfully reduce regional emissions and reach our region’s collective zero carbon emissions goal by mid-century, while ensuring the creation of good green jobs and prioritizing implementation activities that are socially equitable.

For successful implementation, the objective is to have a broad group of stakeholders, local and tribal governments, and regional agencies, as well as labor, environmental, business, and community groups come together to set a clear path for translating the findings of the technical reports and other supplemental data-driven analyses into strategies and activities to implement in the short-, mid-, and long-term. The County’s work on the RDF to date has created the opportunity for exactly this type of coordination and alignment among communities across the region, and there are opportunities to continue this momentum with a completed Implementation Playbook.

With the Implementation Playbook as a resource for all stakeholders interested in implementing decarbonization strategies and activities, the process of generating ideas for the Playbook could include a range of possibilities for future action, and to begin industry sector-level discussions on long-term climate-related investments.

There also may be ideas that require more than one local government or agency or business, understanding that addressing our climate crisis and implementing comprehensive strategies may
require multiple governments, agencies, organizations, business, communities, and stakeholders. Therefore, the Implementation Playbook could set up regional initiatives for example, ordinances around electrification, a regional tree study, and evaluation of farming techniques that convert farms from releasing emissions to absorbing emissions and keeping them in the soil. The climate mitigation initiatives may be combined with resiliency and adaptation efforts happening in the region, for example, tree canopy is both good for sequestering carbon as well as relief from extreme heat. In the long-term, we could explore a Regional Climate Action Plan similar to efforts adopted in Sonoma county in 2020 and efforts currently being developed in Humboldt county. These regional initiatives would be voluntary efforts among local jurisdictions that want to participate in a joint effort, have quantified goals with timelines, and measure our collective progress toward them in order to reach out region’s goal of zero carbon emissions.

In Spring 2023, the final three components of the Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework will be presented to the Board for consideration and adoption. This will include the final Implementation Playbook. It will include strategies and activities that are regional, multi-sectoral, and multijurisdictional. The playbook will be prepared with input from sectoral working groups that will review criteria such as greenhouse gas emissions impact, public and private sector costs, and social equity considerations. In utilizing the Implementation Playbook, USD EPIC will provide a set of options on actions that support the decarbonization of our unincorporated area.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT
This action is for the Board to receive an update on the integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework. Therefore, the action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a “project” as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) as it is administrative in nature and will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. No environmental determination is required for this action.
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LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN
This action to receive an update on the integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework supports the County of San Diego's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan initiatives of Sustainability (Climate, Environment, Resiliency), Equity (Health), Community (Engagement and Quality of Life), and Justice (Environmental) as the Framework provides data-driven strategies to help the region collectively achieve zero carbon emissions, reduce disparities caused by climate change impacts, center efforts on equity, and ensure the region has the steps to create a just transition of the workforce to a green economy.

Respectfully submitted,

SARAH E. AGHASSI
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)
Attachment A – Components and Sectors of the Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework
Attachment B – Technical Report by UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy
Attachment C – Putting San Diego County on the High Road: Climate Workforce Recommendations for 2030 and 2050 by Inclusive Economics
Attachment D – Integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework Project Timeline
Attachment E – Summary of Outreach and Engagement March – July 2022
Attachment F – Future Outreach and Engagement Fall 2022 – Spring 2023
Attachment G – Summary for Policy Makers by UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy