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## **EHC Thanks Environment Committee for Incorporating Equity into Climate Action Plan**

*City Council to review amended climate action plan on December 15*

SAN DIEGO, November 30, 2015 – Today, the San Diego City Council Environment Committee listened to community residents who asked for the draft climate action to prioritize low-income communities. Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), an organization fighting toxic pollution in the city’s urban core, says these neighborhoods are on the front lines of pollution with some of the highest levels of air pollution, lack of transportation options and renewable energy homes.

The committee, chaired by Councilmember David Alvarez, directed staff to incorporate equity in all elements of the plan and report back to the Council before December 15, when the plan goes before City Council for final adoption.

“We’re grateful for the Environment Committee’s action that will adjust the plan and integrate equity to prioritize communities that have been historically overburdened with pollution,” says Georgette Gómez, associate director at EHC. “The plan has strong goals, and now we can look forward to a plan with a strong starting point. This is the City’s opportunity to address one of San Diego’s greatest environmental challenges and begin where it can have the greatest impact.”

EHC submitted petitions from nearly 1,000 San Diego residents who, along with close to 15 organizations, collectively asked the environment committee to build San Diego’s resilience as a whole by prioritizing the communities that need the plan most. With today’s decision, EHC expects to see changes in the draft climate action plan that reflect:

- Public transit, bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure before freeways
- Solar on homes and businesses to provide a sustainable energy choice
- Protection of natural resources, wildlife, coastline, infrastructure and public health from the harmful impacts of climate change
- Well-paying jobs for local residents

“My neighbors, my children and my community deserve clean air, better public transit and a healthy environment,” says Maria Martinez, a Barrio Logan resident. “I’m glad to see our elected officials recognize climate change as an issue demanding immediate action. Now we need to look at our city and prioritize who needs help the most so we can take the solutions there first.”

For more information on Environmental Health Coalition, [click here](#). To join EHC in supporting a strong Climate Action Plan that prioritizes low-income communities, [please click here](#).

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION: Founded in 1980, Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) builds grassroots campaigns to confront the unjust consequences of toxic pollution, discriminatory land use and unsustainable energy policies. Visit us online at <http://www.environmentalhealth.org>.