



*Targeting Waste • Promoting Efficiency*

1855 First Avenue # 201, San Diego, CA 92101 • P: (619) 234-6423 • [www.sdcta.org](http://www.sdcta.org)

July 11, 2017

Honorable Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer  
Council President Myrtle Cole  
Council President Pro Tem Mark Kersey  
Councilmember Barbara Bry  
Councilmember Laurie Zapf  
Councilmember Chris Ward  
Councilmember Chris Cate  
Councilmember Scott Sherman  
Councilmember David Alvarez  
Councilmember Georgette Gómez  
City of San Diego  
202 C Street  
San Diego, California 92101  
[Delivered Electronically]

Dear Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Members of the San Diego City Council:

While I applaud efforts to achieve important goals that tackle climate change, I must reiterate that you should prioritize cost effectiveness when considering different climate action choices that may come before you. As you know, complex public policy choices can have many implications that need to be thoroughly studied, and costs and benefits must be weighed to attain the biggest return for taxpayer investment.

Several cities are considering Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), including the City of San Diego, which plans to receive a CCA feasibility study this week. The Taxpayers Association strongly believes it is premature to enter into a government-controlled energy model without knowing the true costs to taxpayers, which are still being debated by state regulators.

To assist in your efforts, I am also writing to inform you that the Taxpayers Association plans to release by summer's end a process for the evaluation of climate action implementation choices.

Similar to SDCTA's school bond endorsement process, this new process aims to ensure that before a climate action policy decision is made, municipalities quantify the return on investment of any policy. Aligned with our mission, SDCTA's goal in creating this endorsement process is to encourage the responsible and effective spending of taxpayer dollars in the course of achieving important climate, environmental, and conservation targets.



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The endorsement process will include criteria for the evaluation of cost benefit analyses to ensure that these studies are completed responsibly with peer-reviewed methodology. The process will emphasize the importance of considerations such as technological progress, reliability and resiliency, job creation, and public health.

It is of utmost importance to the Taxpayers Association that municipalities carefully examine policies before they are adopted. We look forward to working closely with your office and the City Council as the City moves forward with its implementation of policies to meet the goals of the Climate Action Plan.

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Haney Hong".

Haney Hong  
President and CEO  
San Diego County Taxpayers Association

CC:

Independent Budget Analyst Andrea Tevlin