

September 20, 2017

Petition: San Antonians for Climate Justice

To: Mayor Nirenberg, Council Member Trevino, Council Member Shaw, Council Member Viagran, Council Member Gonzales, Council Member Brockhouse, Council Member Sandoval, Council Member Pelaez, Council Member Courage, and Council Member Perry

From: Greg Harman, Sierra Club; Kaiba White, Public Citizen; Krystal Henagan, Moms Clean Air Force

CC: City Manager Sculley

RE: San Antonio Climate Action Plan

Mayor Nirenberg and Council Members,

We are pleased to present you with the attached petition signatures calling for the establishment of San Antonio climate action plan.

Climate change is a serious problem for all San Antonians. Flooding, drought, and extreme heat are making life in San Antonio more difficult and more expensive for everyone, especially those on fixed and low incomes. What's more, pollution from fossil fuels is disproportionately impacting people of color, our children with asthma and seniors suffering from respiratory illnesses. To begin addressing this problem, I call on the City of San Antonio to allocate adequate funding to develop a Climate Action Plan that sets clear goals up front for reducing citywide greenhouse gas emissions in every sector and establishes specific action items that will make meeting those goals possible.

Meaningful public participation should drive the development of the plan, and goals should be set based on the scientific consensus on climate change. Co-benefits — such as reduced local air pollution — should be identified in the plan. Climate change is a global problem, but cities — especially large cities like San Antonio — must be a significant part of the solution.

We are working with a number of San Antonio organizations to raise awareness about climate change and the need to develop a climate action plan. While the impacts of climate change are a significant threat to the San Antonio community, implementing climate solutions offers opportunity to grow our local economy, create jobs, reduce local air and water pollution, and improve quality of life.

We and many other organizations and individuals are ready and eager to participate in the climate action planning process. We look forward to engaging with you over the coming weeks, months and years. We encourage you to reach out to us with any questions, concerns or ideas.

Thank you for your service and attention to this critical challenge.

Sincerely,

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Additionally, dozens of local organizations have come out in support of San Antonio climate justice, including among their demands a resolution committing San Antonio “to adopt, honor, and uphold the the goals enshrined in the Paris Agreement,” funding and development of a community-led Climate Action Plan that works w/ our residents, advancing their interests—particularly those at most threat from rising temperatures and extreme weather—and rapidly putting our city on a path to 100-percent renewable power.

These organizations include:

TX20 & TX21 Indivisible; Moms Clean Air Force; Kalpulli Ameyaltonal Tejaztlan; Public Citizen, Texas; Society of Native Nations; UNITE HERE; 350 SA; LULAC Concilio Zapatista; Southwest Workers Union; Sierra Club-Lone Star Chapter and the Alamo Group; Fuerza Unida; Headwaters at Incarnate Word; Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word; Esperanza Peace and Justice Center; Stone in the Stream/Roca en el Rio; Beautycounter; Environmental Defense Fund; Environment Texas; Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance; Vecinos de Mission Trails; imagineSanAntonio; American Indian Movement; Pro-Immigrant Coalition/Coalicion Pro-Inmigrante; Texas Drought Project; Texas Organizing Project; Carrizo-Comecrudo Nation; MOVE San Antonio; Bexar County Green Party; Martinez Street Women’s Center; Domesticas Unidas; Carnalismo Brown Berets; Pax Christi; Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence; American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions; Bexar County Young Democrats; Citizens Climate Lobby; Willie Velasquez Institute; Energía Mía; U.S. Green Building Council, South Texas Region.