

Section V. Other Recommendations to City Council

This committee was tasked with providing recommendations to city council following our review and investigation into the franchise agreement between SDG&E and the city. The recently updated City of San Diego Climate Action Plan (“CAP”) has aggressive goals to reduce greenhouse gas “GHG” emissions and accelerate the clean energy transition. As an inducement to enter into a long-term franchise agreement with SDG&E in 2021, the parties entered into an Energy Cooperation Agreement (“ECA”) alongside the franchise agreement in an effort to ensure SDG&E acts as a partner to the city as it pursues its Climate Action Plan goals. A review and assessment of the parties’ performance of this agreement was included in the scope of this committee, but the agreement itself is difficult to assess because many of the provisions are aspirational and difficult to enforce. We also learned more about SDCP and its broad mandate as a new regional organization tasked with procuring renewable energy and the interplay between SDCP, the city, and SDG&E.

The committee recommends that the city council take the following actions:

1. Convene the Cooperation Agreement Summit (as described in section 3 of the ECA) (“CAS”) as soon as possible to comprehensively revise the ECA to meet the current needs and policy objectives of the city. Such revision should impose enforceable and easy to measure obligations on SDG&E to ensure SDG&E acts as an active partner to both the city and San Diego Community Power (“SDCP”) in their efforts to meet the city’s CAP goals. The current ECA is vague and ambiguous at times, making it difficult to assess compliance by SDG&E, particularly in the areas that are the most impactful to the city meeting its CAP goals.
 - a. In particular, the committee recommends revisions and additions be made to section 5 of the ECA, Clean Energy Collaboration Opportunities. One thing we have learned during this process is how impactful and important SDCP is to the city achieving its overall energy transition goals. As such, we recommend that SDCP has a seat at the table at the Cooperation Agreement Summit to ensure the agreement is structured to meet SDCP’s goals and that it imposes enforceable and easy to measure metrics on SDG&E to ensure compliance. As part of this CAS, the committee also recommends the city explore facilitating a stand-alone enforceable agreement between SDCP and SDG&E. With the city at the table, SDG&E would have more incentive to take positions and agree to take or not take certain actions to the long-term benefit of SDCP and the city’s CAP progress.
 - b. The committee also recommends that the city investigate whether SDG&E has taken actions to undermine SDCP and the exploration of municipalization by the city and incorporate provisions in the next ECA that prevent SDG&E from taking actions opposite the city’s stated clean energy goals and that undermine the city’s efforts to explore municipalization.

- c. The committee also recommends forming a working group with stakeholders from the environmental community, SDG&E, SDCP, and city staff to do a review of the ECA and make recommendations on additional areas that are appropriate for regulation as part of this agreement.
2. Improve the Franchise Review Committee process
 - a. Begin the process and committee earlier to give the committee more time to gather information and provide findings.
 - b. Fill the committee early and to its fullest
 - c. Convene a hearing with the franchise review committee and environment committee members at the outset of the process so the committee can ask questions and learn about concerns the current council has going into the review process.
3. Improve the public portal on undergrounding
 - a. As part of franchise review committee presentations and meetings, we were given the opportunity to access the Undergrounding mapping information provided by the city's web portal below:
<https://webmaps.sandiego.gov/portal/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=929e10afa0b64837a21e49e3df343149>
 - b. The portal provides information on the process of undergrounding and project level updates for active projects. The portal gives a color-coded map of the various neighborhoods and the phased approach to undergrounding projects.
 - c. Recommendation: While the information given is helpful and provides a general overview of each neighborhood, including more details about currently under-construction streets and a master plan timeline for future location would be beneficial. This would give consumers a more accurate picture of upcoming projects, both in the near term and beyond. A 10-year master plan of projects is a typical approach to planning work. This allows for flexibility based on schedule and budgeting changes but identifies timelines and scoping.