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Why San Diego:

San Diego is a great location to discuss cooperation on infrastructure for the Indo-Pacific Interest thanks to numerous resources such as robust digital infrastructure, successful transportation and housing projects, and leadership in climate resiliency and green infrastructure. San Diego is one of the top 10 cities in terms of greenest city in America, and Cleantech Innovation Hub. San Diego excels in climate change resiliency with green infrastructure and natural disaster preparedness, making it a model for sustainable urban planning. The region offers diverse resources, including a strong private sector with green energy, state and local agencies overseeing infrastructure development, and active NGOs advocating for sustainability. The presence of ports, airports, and green energy companies, particularly those focused on marine protection and combating climate change, further enhance its relevance. The city also has a number of academic institutions, government resources, and local organizations that can provide opportunities for the visitors to talk about their work.

Climate Change Innovators

Beam Global

[Envision Solar Announces Rebranding as Beam Global | Beam \(beamforall.com\)](#)

In the context of growing global concerns about climate change, the atmosphere and the environment; escalating costs and reduction in availability of fossil fuels, and increased interest and investment in green technology development, Envision Solar is taking a unique approach to renewable energy systems design and implementation. Solar doesn't have to sit on rooftops. Parking lots are valuable real estate that can actually generate power and revenue. They can provide additional LEED points and be incorporated as key sustainable design elements of any project. As a solar developer, Envision Solar is taking the lead in developing new designs, systems and technologies.

Meeting focus: Discussion of cutting-edge design for solar power systems that contribute to the growing green infrastructure of San Diego

SANDAG

[SANDAG - About](#)

SANDBAG is both a metropolitan planning organization and a council of governments, bringing together local decision-makers to develop solutions to regional issues including improving equity, transportation, air quality, clean energy, economic development, goods movement, public health, public safety, housing, and more. The agency is currently focused on speeding up delivery of major infrastructure projects throughout the region. This includes stabilizing the LOSSAN Corridor from erosion along the Del Mar bluffs and relocating the tracks off the bluffs, building regional transit connections to the San Diego International Airport, and strengthening crossborder travel between U.S. and Mexico by creating a new, modern border crossing—the Otay Mesa Easy Port of Entry. Beyond planning for our region's infrastructure, they play a leading role in administering the TransNet Program, disseminating critical economic and criminal justice data, providing a forum for housing needs, implementing the census, and offering funding and technical assistance to partner agencies.

Meeting Focus: Explore how SANDBAG delegates between private and public sectors to improve critical infrastructure throughout the SoCal region

Qualcomm

[Qualcomm: Intelligent Computing Everywhere](#)

Qualcomm is a pioneer in the 5G industry, working to provide people with wireless technology to stay connected to their communities and communicate across distances. The company develops digital communications products for companies in a variety of industries, ranging from

healthcare and education to automotive and wearables. Their business model focuses on how to get the latest in communications technology to the greatest population possible, inventing new AI and virtual reality devices that can be distributed on a mass scale. Qualcomm has created innovations in 5G-enabled smartphones that double as pro-level cameras and gaming devices, smarter vehicles and cities, and the technology behind the smart, connected factories that manufacture many current technologies.

Meeting focus: Explore how Qualcomm integrates its wireless technology with the digital infrastructure of San Diego in order to promote infrastructure investment

Flatiron

About Flatiron - Flatiron (flatironcorp.com)

Flatiron develops innovative solutions to build critical infrastructure and landmark projects. Flatiron builds roads, bridges, rail, airports, dams, industrial, water and underground projects from common to complex, large-scale jobs. Delivering successful projects under a variety of contracting methods, Flatiron has unparalleled design-build and public-private partnership experience and expertise. Founded in Boulder, Colorado, in 1947, and named for the unique rock formations there, Flatiron now operates across the U.S. and Canada. Flatiron is a subsidiary of German-based HOCHTIEF, one of the world's largest international construction service providers.

Meeting Focus: Explore how Flatiron has infused environmental, social and governance principles into the foundation of their sustainability plan to transform infrastructure development in the U.S and Canada

SDG&E

About Us | San Diego Gas & Electric (sdge.com)

San Diego Gas & Electric is an innovative San Diego-based energy company that serves the people and businesses of San Diego and southern Orange counties. California is targeting a just and equitable energy transition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. That means removing as much carbon from the atmosphere as California produces. In the San Diego and southern Orange County region, SDG&E and many local cities also embrace carbon neutrality as their goal.

In April 2022, SDG&E published *The Path to Net Zero: A Decarbonization Roadmap for California*. The economy-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) study, which is supported by leading third-party experts, informs their options to achieve net zero emissions by 2045 while maintaining energy resiliency, reliability and affordability.

Meeting Focus: Explore how SDG&E has created innovative solutions to critical infrastructure development and sustainment to meet private and state goals to embrace carbon neutrality

Uprise Energy

<https://upriseenergy.com/>

Uprise Energy, co-founded by John Knight, has its roots in Knight & Carver Yachtcenter's innovative wind turbine blade development in the 1990s. The company leverages over two decades of expertise in advanced composite construction and wind turbine technology to create the Mobile Power Station, a portable wind energy solution. This device aims to overcome the limitations of traditional wind turbines, providing reliable, sustainable power in diverse and off-grid locations. Uprise Energy's mission is to make renewable energy accessible, practical, and efficient, contributing to a greener future.

Meeting Focus: Explore how Uprise Energy's portable wind turbines can address the renewable energy needs of Indo-Pacific regions, especially in remote and off-grid areas.

Oberon Fuels

[Renewable methanol, DME and Hydrogen | Oberon Fuels](#)

Specializing in the production of ultra-low carbon, renewable dimethyl ether (rDME), Oberon Fuels is on a mission to drive the transition towards a greener future. With a focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable solutions, Oberon Fuels offers a viable alternative to traditional diesel, providing cleaner, more efficient fuel options for industries ranging from transportation to agriculture. Their commitment to environmental stewardship, coupled with cutting-edge research and development, positions Oberon Fuels at the forefront of the clean energy revolution.

Meeting Focus: Discuss how Oberon Fuels' renewable dimethyl ether (rDME) can serve as a clean and efficient alternative fuel source for various transportation and industrial applications in the Indo-Pacific region.

Education Resources

University of California Revelle Program on Climate Science and Policy (UCRP)

<https://scripps.ucsd.edu/projects/cop21/about-us/>

The University of California Revelle Program on Climate Science and Policy (UCRP) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) formed in 2000 to foster interaction among scientists, social scientists, and policy makers. UCRP is designed to improve communication and enhance the impact of natural and social science on the issue of global climate change. The program does not take policy positions or make policy recommendations. Rather, it endeavors to identify important scientific research relevant to policy issues and to make this science readily available, in an understandable form, to nonscientific audiences. UCRP stimulates interaction between natural scientists and researchers in the social sciences and law. It enables scientists to learn

about the policy-making process and how scientific results are taken into account in deliberations, as well as to provide policy makers with timely scientific knowledge needed for those deliberations.

The UC Revelle Program is led by Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. Its primary activities are related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP), an annual U.N.-led summit on global climate change policy to which UCRP is accredited. UCRP organizes COP delegations, inclusion in which is open to students, researchers, administrators, and faculty members from all University of California campuses, and can facilitate the hosting of COP side events, exhibits, and press conferences.

Meeting Focus: Explore how the UCRP fosters interactions among scientists, social scientists, and policy makers in order to enhance the impact of natural and social science on the issue of global climate change

Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation

<https://scripps.ucsd.edu/centers/adaptation/>

The Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation at Scripps Oceanography leverages experts in marine and atmospheric science; leaders in policy, sociology, and economics; and key representatives at all levels of government. This dynamic network will develop strategies for climate change adaptation based on top-tier science and a thorough understanding of community needs. The center focuses on a new chapter of climate research that considers how society can address the consequences that are already unfolding or that appear to be inevitable. These consequences range from sea-level rise to more extreme weather with the potential to disrupt commerce, agriculture, and the habitability of certain regions on a large scale.

Meeting Focus: To discuss the different efforts to combat global warming and the measures taken to make sure San Diego's infrastructure coincides with knowledge of environmental and climate issues in the region

University of California San Diego, Adaptation and Solutions

[Adaptation and Solutions \(ucsd.edu\)](http://adaptation.sdsu.edu)

The University of California San Diego, Adaptation and Solutions program supports positive change in the future through social engagement and offers mitigation strategies for the current negative impacts of climate change. This research theme encompasses energy alternatives, infrastructure, engineering, urban planning, sustainable food production and green industry. In addition, sociologists, psychologists, artists and communications researchers focus on the social implications of adaptation.

Meeting Focus: Explore how the Adaptation and Solutions program at UCSD has created a synergy between climate action, policy, and sustainable infrastructure development in San Diego and beyond

University of San Diego School of Law, Energy Policy Initiative Center (EPIC)
www.sandiego.edu/epic/

The Energy Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC) is a non-profit academic and research center of the University of San Diego School of Law that studies energy policy issues affecting the San Diego region and California. EPIC integrates research and analysis, law school study, and public education, and serves as a source of legal and policy expertise and information in the development of sustainable solutions that meet our future energy needs. EPIC currently offers a law school course on Energy Law and Policy and is in the process of conducting legal and policy research into the following areas: renewable energy credits, distributed generation, solar laws, advanced electricity grid technology, and public interest program funding. In addition, EPIC monitors regulatory and legislative activity related to energy policy issues affecting the San Diego region and California.

Meeting Focus: Explore how the university integrates research and analysis, law school study, and public education, to be a hub of legal and policy expertise in the development of sustainable energy solutions.

Ignacio Sepulveda

[Ignacio Sepulveda Oyarzun | Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering | SDSU](#)

Ignacio Sepulveda is Professor in Coastal Engineering at the Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering, San Diego State University. He earned a Phd Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cornell University. He was also a John Miles Fellow at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD. Professor Sepulveda's expertise is Coastal Risk Assessments. He has developed new methods for probabilistic tsunami hazard assessments and Uncertainty Quantification, combining top-notch stochastic and geophysical models. His new research addresses the use of citizen data, the development of new remote sensing techniques for coastal observation and the impact of climate change.

Meeting Focus: Discuss how the Coastal Engineering Lab studies the most relevant natural hazards in the coastal environment and the engineering solutions to mitigate them with Ignacio Sepulveda

Advocacy Organizations

San Diego County Water Authority

[Home - San Diego County Water Authority \(sdcwa.org\)](#)

The San Diego County Water Authority, a quasi-public entity responsible for the region's water resource planning, makes regular investments in the region's water infrastructure. With the general public's limited understanding and knowledge of the Water Authority's role, the Water

Authority commissioned a report to help the public gain insight into the importance of water resource planning and investments in water infrastructure. The San Diego County Water Authority sustains a \$220 billion regional economy and the quality of life for 3.3 million residents through a multi-decade water supply diversification plan, major infrastructure investments and forward-thinking policies that promote fiscal and environmental responsibility.

Meeting Focus: Explore how the SDCWA enhances its visibility and increases public awareness regarding the importance and economic impact of regular water infrastructure investments.

San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation

[San Diego Regional EDC - Maximizing San Diego's Economic Prosperity and Global Competitiveness \(sandiegobusiness.org\)](http://sandiegobusiness.org)

San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation is an independently-funded economic development organization that mobilizes business, government, and civic leaders around an inclusive economic development strategy in order to connect data to decision making, maximize regional prosperity, enhance global competitiveness, and position San Diego effectively for investment and talent. EDC's research team conducted an in-depth economic impact assessment of both capital and operational expenditures to create and maintain water infrastructure in the region in order to support the San Diego County Water Authority on the 2018 "Brought to You by Water" campaign. This campaign seeks to help the public gain insight into the importance of water resource planning and investments in water infrastructure.

Meeting Focus: Explore how NGOs like San Diego Regional EDC have leveraged their connections and expertise to inform the San Diego public on the importance of water infrastructure investment

Union-Tribune San Diego, Energy & Green Business Reporter

www.utsandiego.com/staff/morgan-lee/

Writing about energy and green business for the U-T, Morgan Lee provides both rapid and in-depth perspectives of Southern California's pioneering efforts to power its homes, businesses and transportation in more creative and responsible ways. His reporting about plans to bill electricity customers for catastrophic, multibillion-dollar wildfires triggered by utility power lines won the first place prize for business & financial journalism from the San Diego Press Club.

Meeting Focus: Discuss journalism coverage of climate change and green energy initiatives in the region.

CleanTech San Diego

www.cleantechsandiego.org/

CleanTECH San Diego is a non-profit member organization that serves as a catalyst for a diverse group of stakeholders to advance a common agenda. CleanTech San Diego's mission is to stimulate innovation and advance the adoption of clean technologies and sustainable industry practices for the economic, environmental and social benefit of the greater San Diego region. They accomplish this through a series of programs including education and outreach, policy advocacy and leadership opportunities. Membership includes business and financial leaders, academic and research institutes, and government and non-profit organizations.

Meeting focus: Discuss methods of integrating the clean technology and sustainable industry sector, to increase cooperation, and to broadly advocate for green technology within public policy and for consumer use.

The San Diego Foundation Climate

<https://www.sdfoundation.org/programs/programs-and-funds/climate/>

The San Diego Foundation Climate program focuses on preparation for and resilience to the impacts of climate change by leading efforts to inform, educate and engage policy makers, and other regional and local leaders. We assist with the development and implementation of regional and local government action plans, and address climate change through research, strategic investments and collaborations with business, scientists, academia, government, community leaders and policymakers so we can all enjoy cleaner air, water and a healthier and safer region. We develop research to better understand the regional and local impacts of climate change to inform and educate policymakers and help our regional communities address this shared challenge. The San Diego Foundation has independently and collaboratively commissioned and funded multiple reports and studies authored by experts from science, academia, business, government and nonprofits, many supported by the Blasker-Rose-Miah Fund at The San Diego Foundation.

Meeting Focus: Explore how the program prepares for the impacts of climate change

Circulate San Diego

[About Us \(circulatesd.org\)](http://About Us (circulatesd.org))

Circulate San Diego often partners with local governments, school districts, private planning firms, and other nonprofits to create planning and community engagement programs. Their work includes Safe Routes to School projects, community workshops, civic engagement activities, pedestrian safety training, and the development of transportation planning documents. In addition, they are also advocates for public policy. They work to promote transportation choices and sustainable land use policies at cities, regional governments, and on the state and federal levels.

Meeting Focus: Examine how Circulate San Diego leverages its connections as an NGO with local organizations, and government agencies to create mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods

San Diego Green Infrastructure Consortium

[About Us - San Diego Green Infrastructure Consortium](#)

The consortium's purpose is to improve community resiliency by helping implement integrated green infrastructure projects, programs, and policies that make a significant, measurable impact, providing the expertise and orchestration needed to do so. They incorporate a green infrastructure approach into the region's existing efforts to enhance sustainability. This includes educating government staff and offering expert capacity and assistance, substantially increasing fundraising efforts from outside entities, e.g., regional, state and federal grants, private sector business investments, and private philanthropy. Furthermore, their approach focuses on adjusting policies and plans, such as Climate Action Plans, to use integrated green infrastructure wherever it is cost-efficient and effective. Moreover, they partner with organizations that help improve green infrastructure on both public and private property including incorporating green infrastructure-related businesses into the region's economic development programs.

Meeting Focus: Explore how the SDGIC partners with other organizations, such as municipalities and non-profits, as well as local/state entities, to advocate for the use of green infrastructure or nature-based solutions within a highly robust, collaborative framework

Government Resources

Port of San Diego, Environmental Services Department

www.portofsandiego.org/environment.html

The Port of San Diego is a self-supporting public benefit agency that oversees the protection and development of public tidelands surrounding San Diego Bay. A Green Port Program was developed by the Port of San Diego to support the goals of the Green Port Policy that was approved by the Board of Port Commissioners in 2008. The ultimate goal of the program is to achieve long-term environmental, societal and economic benefits through resource conservation, waste reduction and pollution prevention.

Meeting Focus: Examine the policies implemented to ensure preservation of the bay environment by the Port Authority and businesses within the Port District to best protect regional marine resources.

California Coastal Commission (San Diego Branch)

www.coastal.ca.gov/

The mission of the Coastal Commission is to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance environmental and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations. The Coastal Commission, in partnership with coastal cities and counties, plans and regulates the use of land and water in the coastal zone. Development activities, which are broadly defined by the Coastal Act to include (among others) construction of buildings, divisions of land, and activities that change the intensity of use of land or public access to coastal waters, generally require a coastal permit from either the Coastal Commission or the local government.

Meeting Focus: To learn about how the local San Diego Coast District Office protects, conserves and restores environmental resources by regulating the use of land and water in the coastal zone.

Urban Innovation Division by City of San Diego

<https://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/news-programs/downtown-development>

The Urban Innovation Division of the Development Services Department provides the planning and development functions to implement the vision of the Downtown Community Plan. With key partnerships and unique programs, their team provides a streamlined review process and focused approach for Downtown projects.

Meeting Focus: Learn about the approach for Downtown infrastructure projects.

Capital Improvement Plan by City of San Diego

<https://www.sandiego.gov/cip/projectinfo/featuredprojects>

The City of San Diego's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) manages numerous construction projects to enhance city infrastructure. The featured projects include upgrades and maintenance of public facilities such as parks, libraries, fire stations, and sewer systems. Each project has a dedicated webpage detailing its scope, schedule, and budget. Residents can search for projects by name, council district, or proximity to a city address. This initiative aims to improve community amenities and public safety across San Diego.

The Balboa Park Botanical Building Improvements project

<https://www.sandiego.gov/cip/projectinfo/BotanicalBuilding>

The Balboa Park Botanical Building Improvements project aims to restore the

historic Botanical Building to its original 1915 design. Phase I, led by the City of San Diego, focuses on structural restoration, accessibility upgrades, and maintenance enhancements. Phase II, managed by Forever Balboa Park, includes landscaping and the reconstruction of the historic pergola. The project began in 2021, with completion expected in 2024. The \$28.45 million budget is funded through regional park improvements, state grants, and commercial paper.

Alvarado 2nd Pipeline Extension Project

<https://www.sandiego.gov/cip/projectinfo/featuredprojects/alvarado>

The Alvarado 2nd Pipeline Extension Project aims to enhance water reliability for San Diego by extending and replacing aging pipelines. It involves installing approximately 10 miles of new water mains, including 24- and 48-inch transmission mains along Friars Road and a new 36-inch main at Napa Street. Additionally, new pressure-reducing stations and distribution mains will be installed. The project is currently in the award phase, with construction set to begin shortly thereafter.

The Coastal Rail Trail Project

<https://www.sandiego.gov/cip/projectinfo/featuredprojects/railtrail>

The Coastal Rail Trail Project in San Diego aims to create a multi-use trail connecting coastal cities from Oceanside to San Diego. The San Diego segment, spanning 10 miles from Carmel Valley Road to Gilman Drive, will feature a protected cycle track, continuous sidewalks, improved street lighting, ADA accessibility, and enhanced traffic signals. This project will facilitate direct north-south connections for cyclists, pedestrians, and joggers, linking key regional employment centers and transit stations.

Meeting Focus: Explore frameworks for public-private partnerships in infrastructure development. Visit one of the projects if it is possible.

**Home Hospitality can be offered for the group, as well as a volunteer activity (Saturdays only) **

Cultural Activities

San Diego Zoo

[San Diego Zoo | Home page](#)

Price: \$68-\$79 for one Adult Ticket

The 100-acre (40-hectare) Zoo is home to over 3,700 rare and endangered animals representing more than 650 species and subspecies, and a prominent botanical collection with more than 700,000 exotic plants. It is located just north of downtown San Diego in Balboa Park.

Harbor Cruise

[Flagship Cruises & Events | San Diego, California \(flagshipsd.com\)](#)

Price: Starting at \$24.75 for one Adult Ticket for one-hour tour

Their deluxe tour covers it all: Harbor and Shelter Islands, Point Loma, Cabrillo National Monument, North Island Naval Air Station, the Submarine Base, as well as the Coronado Bridge, and much more.

Balboa Park

[www.balboapark.org](#)

Home to 15 major museums, renowned performing arts venues, beautiful gardens and the San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park has an ever-changing calendar of museum exhibitions, plays, musicals, concerts, and classes—all in the beautiful and timeless setting of this must-see San Diego attraction.

Coronado

Consistently voted one of America's finest beaches by The Travel Channel, Coronado's beaches glisten year round due to the mineral Mica in the sand, while gentle waves caress the shoreline. From the shores of Silver Strand State Beach to the tip of the Coronado Municipal Beach, you'll find plenty of wide open sand, gentle waves and gorgeous views.

SeaWorld San Diego

[SeaWorld San Diego Theme Park - Aquarium, Zoo & Theme Park in California](#)

Price: Starting at \$71.99 for one single day Adult Ticket

Come celebrate the wonders of the sea at SeaWorld San Diego. Experience the Shamu show, One Ocean, and thrilling rides like Journey To Atlantis, Shipwreck Rapids and Wild Arctic. Feed and touch dolphins and get up-close to beluga whales, polar bears, sharks and penguins. Enjoy

fascinating aquariums and exotic birds from around the world. Then dive into the world of sea turtles at the all-new Turtle Reef attraction.