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# Declaration of Interdependence for a Healthy and Sustainable San Diego

## Declaration Background

The declaration was developed from a document created by a core group of architect members of the Union Internationale des Architects (UIA) and American Institute of Architects (AIA) at the 1993 World Congress of Architects. The original document was distributed to members of the Congress for review and comment and their feedback was incorporated into a final “Declaration of Interdependence for a Sustainable Future.” The UIA and AIA presidents signed it and read the commitment segment of the declaration to 10,000 architects at the closing plenary session. Afterward, large banners were available, and about 3000 participants signed on to the declaration.

The sustainability tenets in this declaration and the value of the commitment of the world’s architect leadership holds true for today’s world and local leaders. As members of San Diego leadership, we can align with this message in unity.

This document is presented with the hope that San Diego leadership, architectural, urban planning, environmental design and public health professionals and its citizenry sign on to this “Declaration of Interdependence for a Healthy and Sustainable San Diego.”

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# Declaration of Interdependence for a Healthy and Sustainable San Diego

## **In recognition that**

a sustainable society restores, preserves, and enhances nature and culture for the benefit of all life, present and future; a diverse and healthy environment is intrinsically valuable and essential to public health and to a fit society; today's San Diego is exploring and beginning to implement recognized sustainable strategies with the intention of contributing to a sustainable and healthy environment.

We in San Diego are ecologically interdependent with all local, regional, national, and global environments; we are socially, culturally and economically interdependent with all of humanity; sustainability, in the context of this interdependence, requires partnership, equity and balance among all parties and disciplines.

Buildings and the built environment are significant contributors to human impact on San Diego's natural environment and our quality of life. Sustainable design integrates the efficient use of regional resources and renewable energy, healthy buildings and materials, ecologically and socially sensitive land use, and an aesthetic sensitivity that inspires, affirms and ennobles; sustainable design can significantly reduce adverse human impacts on San Diego's natural environment while simultaneously improving quality of life and economic well-being.

## **We commit ourselves**

as members of San Diego leadership, as architectural, urban planning, environmental design and public health professionals, and as its citizenry, to:

- Choose environmental and social sustainability as a priority in our lives, work and professional responsibilities
- Develop and continually improve practices, procedures, products, curricula, services and standards to enable implementation of sustainable, health-promoting solutions
- Educate the workforce, building industry, corporate business, governing agencies and students about the critical importance and substantial opportunities of sustainable, health-promoting solutions
- Collaborate across disciplines and sectors—mobilizing our collective talents, resources and voices—to address this issue comprehensively
- Establish policies, regulations and practices in government and business to ensure that sustainable, health-promoting design and strategies become normal practice
- Bring up existing and future elements of San Diego's built environment—design, production, use and eventual reuse—to sustainable design and lifecycle standards.



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