



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Final

Sustainability Commission

Jamie Duran, Business Seat 1
Susan Hurl, Business Seat 2
Luz Gomez, Community Seat 1
Howdy Goudey, Community Seat 2
Shoshana Wechsler, District 1 Seat
Kim Jones, District 1 Alternate
Victoria Smith, District 2 Seat
Christopher Easter, District 2 Seat Alternate
Julie Haas-Wajdowicz, District 3 Seat
Vacant, District 3 Seat Alternate
Brandon Matson, District 4 Seat
Wesley Sullens, District 4 Seat Alternate
Solomon Belette, District 5 Seat
Reilly Kent, District 5 Seat Alternate
Devin Jackson, Education/Research Seat
Kiara Pereira, Environmental Justice Seat 1
Sarah Foster, Environmental Justice Seat 2

Monday, April 29, 2024 **4:00 PM** **1025 Escobar St., Martinez, Rm 110**

ZOOM LINK: <https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/84209078212> | Call in: 888-278-0254, access code 841892 | Joint Meeting with Hazardous Materials Commission from 4pm to 5:30pm | Regular Business of the Sustainability Commission will begin at 5:30pm

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1. Roll Call and Introductions

Absent: Erin Levine

Hazardous Materials Commission Member Attendees

Present: Fred Glueck
Ron Chinn
Mark Hughes
Maureen Brennan
Marielle Boortz
Madeline Kronenberg

Staff Present: Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Michael Kent, Hazardous Materials Ombudsman, Contra Costa Health Services;

Adam Scarbrough, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Luis Avalos, Inventory Manager, Contra Costa Health Services;
Wade Finlinson, Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, Contra Costa Health Services;
Cameron Soo, Medical Countermeasures Coordinator, Contra Costa Health Services;
George Carter, Economic Development Project Manager, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Emily Groth, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Nicole Shimizu, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development

Attendees: Mark Z. Jacobson, Anthony R. Kovscek, Victoria Bogdan Tejada, Kimberley Mayfield, Devin Jackson, Yuan Wang, Chloe Carey, Jan Callaghan, Marti Roach, Valerie Ventre-Hutton, Rhea, Marinell Daniel, Kate Lenhardt, M.F Gomez, Katie Lauer, Marcia Liberson, Mike Landmeier, Tom Blanks, Tim Laidman, Carol Weed, Jean Tepperman, Bruce “Ole” Ohlson, Gary Farber, Illana Weisman, Louis Flores, Kathryn Grace, Nick Persampieri, Bob Atchinson, Sheila Tarbet, Marjorie Alvord, Denice Dennis, Maile Chinn, 9253257093, 9712634826, 5104272136

Chair Gomez called the joint meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present	Norman Cohen, Charles Davidson, Christopher Easter, Sarah Foster, Luz Gomez, Howdy Goudey, Kimberly Hazard, Susan Hurl, Chuck Leonard, Michael Moore, Kiara Pereira, Victoria Smith, and Shosana Wechsler
Absent	Renee Fernandez-Lipp, Brandon Matson, and Wesley Sullens

- Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Commission(s) and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

There was no public comment for items not on the agenda.

- RECEIVE Presentation and DISCUSS Carbon Capture and Storage from invited panelists

A panel of experts shared their work and findings related to carbon capture and storage to the Sustainability Commission and Hazardous Materials Commission.

Kimberley Mayfield, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, provided a ground-setting presentation about carbon capture and storage. Mayfield presented an overview of the difference between Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR). CCS captures carbon dioxide before it can go into the air; CDR takes carbon dioxide out of the air. Both CCS and CDR may result in geologic carbon storage. Mayfield described the United States’ strategy to reach net zero emissions. Mayfield shared California’s strategy for getting to net zero emissions looking at forests, agriculture, biomass, and direct air capture. Biomass for Carbon Removal and Storage (BiCRS) represents the largest opportunity to remove carbon from the atmosphere. Direct Air Capture would capture the rest. Both BiCRS and Direct Air Capture require geologic carbon storage. Geologic carbon storage refers to US Environmental Protection Agency-permitted Class VI wells. Mayfield summarized the presentation by stating that we have waited too long to decarbonize and now need to do CDR.

Mark Z. Jacobson, Stanford University, asserted that direct air capture processes are

energy intensive and not financially feasible unless the operations are subsidized. Jacobson cited the Petranova Plant in Texas as the only plant where carbon capture equipment was installed; a natural gas plant was installed to power the carbon capture equipment due to the energy demand associated with operating the equipment. Jacobson stated that carbon capture takes resources away from investments in renewable energy like solar, wind, and geothermal; electric vehicles; and battery storage.

Anthony R. Kavscek, Stanford University, shared research modeling California and the costs of zero emissions electrical systems. The results of the study show that options where CCS is dispatchable is the lowest cost option. CCS allows for a more flexible system. Kavscek stated that California has a good portfolio of geological CCS sites both on- and off-shore and storage sites can be located away from seismically and environmentally sensitive areas.

Victoria Bogdan Tejeda, Center for Biological Diversity, presented the portfolio of proposed CCS projects in California. Tejeda shared which agencies have regulatory or permitting authority over a CCS project. Tejeda presented the Montezuma Wetlands CCS Project in greater detail which touches both Solano and Contra Costa Counties. Tejeda explained concerns about the carbon dioxide plume area, uncertainty about how far the carbon dioxide plume could spread, and the effects of compressed carbon dioxide leaks. The Commission raised questions about pipeline safety risks, potential technology for capturing carbon dioxide from mobile sources, phase out of the oil industry given the demand for oil in the US, potential health and safety impacts related to the solvent used for different carbon capture methods, whether emergency plans factor in carbon dioxide leak risks, and the scope of natural carbon sequestration being considered compared to industrial carbon sequestration.

Public Comment raised concerns about pipeline vulnerability during an earthquake, ensuring a just transition to renewable energy sources, and how the public could receive a recording of the Commission meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION BEGAN AT 5:30PM

Norman Cohen, Chuck Leonard, and Kiara Pereira arrived at the start of the Sustainability Commission regular meeting.

4. APPROVE Record of Action for February 26, 2024, Sustainability Commission meeting

Attachments: [2024-02-26 Draft Sustainability Commission Minutes](#)

Commissioners requested one edit to the Record of Action for February 26, 2024, meeting: “impervious surface” should read “pervious surface” on page 3.

Smith moved to approve the Record of Action with the requested edit. Second: Moore. The Record of Action was approved.

5. RECEIVE Report on Bay Area Regional Energy Network Programs

Attachments: [2024_04_29 BayREN 2024-27 Overview for Sustainability Commission](#)

Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, Department of Conservation and Development, presented Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) program metrics

for 2023 under BayREN's existing program portfolio and provided a preview of the upcoming programs launching as part of the BayREN 2024-2027 Business Plan. The Commission asked about BayREN's goal to serve underserved communities and how that goal is reflected in program participation, whether the BayREN Single Family Program redesign would offer gas appliances, and how the redesigned BayREN Single Family Program would leverage other incentive programs. The Commission remarked upon the success of the Rising Sun Center for Opportunity's Climate Careers Program. There was no public comment on this item.

6. RECEIVE Reports from Sustainability Commission members and alternates, and PROVIDE DIRECTION as needed

Attachments: [Pacific Refinery Cover Letter_041524](#)
 [Pacific Refinery Presentation_042924](#)

Commissioner Moore gave a presentation on the former Pacific Refinery in Hercules. Moore noted that the closure and remediation of the Pacific Refinery site in Hercules may provide insight into what could happen when the existing refineries may close. Moore detailed how the Regional Water Quality Control Board provided oversight of site remediation and how the remediation was funded through a Development and Owner Participation Agreement between the City of Hercules and Hercules LLC. Moore also referenced the East Bay Times article, "Is this East Bay refinery-turned-housing-development a model for reclaiming contaminated sites?" published on May 2, 2024.

The Commission raised questions about the similarities and differences between the Pacific Refinery and current refineries. The Commission was curious to learn about who was responsible for monitoring the site to ensure remediation was successful and what the cost share for remediation was. Commissioner Leonard mentioned the forthcoming study by the Asian Pacific Environmental Network and the BlueGreen Alliance which includes draft recommendations for what a just transition could look like.

Public comment raised questions about who paid for the remediation and whether Contra Costa Health Services conducts monitoring of toxic sites. Members of the public shared about their local environmental club at their middle school and their work in the community. One member of the public requested a similar presentation be done on Criterion Catalyst in Bay Point of the toxic substances dumped in Shell Pond.

7. RECEIVE Report on Staff Activities that Support Sustainability Goals

Attachments: [2024_04_29 Sust. Staff Report to Sust. CMSN](#)

Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Department of Conservation and Development, highlighted recent staff efforts that support the County's sustainability goals. County staff are pursuing grant opportunities to support sea level rise planning, an energy efficiency pilot for home-based daycares, cost studies for converting existing buildings to be all-electric, and an urban forest management plan. County staff are supporting two regional grant applications to the US Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program to transition homes to be all-electric and develop mobility hubs. Through BayREN, the County funded a pilot program to give

away portable induction cooktops. The Sustainability in the County Newsletter went out on March 28, 2024. The first Sustainability Exchange of 2024 was held on April 24, 2024 at the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge. London verbally corrected her report, noting that the Just Transition Request for Proposal was not yet out. London announced May was Bike to Wherever Month and Bike to Work Day was on May 16th. Staff anticipates presenting to the Sustainability Committee at its next meeting with options on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions since the County's All-Electric Ordinance is no longer being enforced. Public Works received bicycle and pedestrian improvement funding and continues to submit grant applications to fund further bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Contra Costa County is officially a Vision Zero County. Public Works' Flood Control District continues to do watershed restoration. Public Works submitted another grant application to support electric vehicle charging for local government fleets. Contra Costa Health Services provided a summary of the Contra Costa Asthma Initiative. The Green Business Program has hired additional staff and is searching for more businesses to participate. The Commission asked how many air filters were distributed by Contra Costa Health Services.

There was no public comment on this item.

8. RECEIVE Report from Sustainability Commission Chair and IDENTIFY TOPICS for next report to Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability

Chair Gomez summarized her report to the Sustainability Committee which highlighted the joint meeting of the Sustainability Commission and Hazardous Materials Commission. Chair Gomez commended staff for their exploration of alternative ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in light of the suspension of the County's All-Electric Ordinance for New Construction.

9. The next meeting is currently scheduled for June 24, 2024

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

The Commission will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend Commission meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Commission less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 30 Muir Road, Martinez CA 94553, during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible on line at www.contracosta.ca.gov. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact: Commission Staff, Demian Hardman-Saldana, 925-655-2816, demian.hardman@dcd.cccounty.us