

Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission

Record of Action for December 9, 2024, 5:00 P.M.

Present: Luz Gomez  
Chuck Leonard  
Susan Hurl  
Victoria Smith  
Christopher Easter  
Michael Moore  
Norman Cohen  
Charles Davidson  
Renee Fernandez-Lipp  
Sarah Foster

Absent: Howdy Goudey  
Shoshana Wechsler  
Erin Levine  
Brandon Matson  
Wesley Sullens  
Kimberly Hazard  
Kiara Pereira

Staff Present: Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;  
Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Dept. of Conservation and Development;  
Emily Groth, Planner, Department of Conservation and Development;  
Adam Scarbrough, Planner, Department of Conservation and Development

Attendees: Bruce "Ole" Ohlson, Denice Dennis, Devin Jackson

1. Roll Call and Introductions

*Chair Gomez called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m.*

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

*There was no public comment for items not on the Agenda.*

3. APPROVE Record of Action for October 28, 2024, Commission meeting and revised Record of Action for the August 26, 2024, Commission meeting

*The Commission noted one edit to the Record of Action for October 28, 2024: the Commission's suggestion to invite the Contra Costa Refinery Transition Partnership to present at a future meeting should be included in the minutes under Item 5.*

*Foster moved to approve the Records of Action with the suggested edit to the October 28, 2024 Record of Action. Second: Moore.*

*The Records of Action were approved. Smith and Gomez abstained for the October 28, 2024, Record of Action.*

4. **ADOPT Sustainability Commission 2024 Annual Report**

*The Commission requested the following addition to the Annual Report under “Other Sustainability Topics”: At its April meeting, the Commission received a report on the remediation of the former Pacific Refinery that was written up in a May 2 East Bay Times article.*

*Smith moved to adopt the Annual Report with the suggested edit. Second: Foster.*

*The Sustainability Commission 2024 Annual Report was adopted unanimously.*

5. **ADOPT CALENDAR and WORK PLAN for 2025**

*Demian Hardman-Saldana from the Department of Conservation and Development noted that historically the Sustainability Commission Annual Report and Work Plan were included together as one agenda item since these items must go to the Board. They are now two separate items to allow the Commission to look back on the year then look at the Calendar and Work Plan together. Staff identified two minor corrections in the Work Plan: (1) the Sustainability Committee is not an ad hoc committee and (2) the Climate Action Plan (CAP) is now called the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), therefore any mention of CAP will also be revised to CAAP in both the Calendar and Work Plan.*

*Commission Discussion:*

*Chair Gomez reviewed the draft 2025 Calendar and topics identified in the 2025 Work Plan. Additional topics of interest identified by the Commission included what the new federal administration will mean for County climate action work (potentially as a standing item); how the Commission can support the County in implementing the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP); including metrics by geographic county areas in the Staff Activities that Support Sustainability Goals standing item; and hearing from other cities and counties in the Bay Area that have implemented climate action plans. There was a question regarding how the County’s work implementing the CAAP could be valuable to cities in the process of preparing climate action plans, and staff shared the County has regular meetings with the cities. The Commission noted the Calendar includes a CAAP update at every meeting and expressed interest in doing a deeper dive on specific CAAP topic areas, with a focus on progress towards that topic’s goals and how the Commission can support. The Commission also noted there needs to be a plan to assess what resources from an equity perspective are going to unincorporated communities, such as those with a lot of historical or active industry.*

*Staff noted that the County’s new energy efficiency ordinance will be heard at the California Energy Commission’s January meeting, though staff have already begun developing staff training and a webpage. Additionally, staff noted the County’s Climate Action Progress Report is usually brought to the Sustainability Commission in February.*

*Moore moved to adopt the Calendar with the suggested edits.*

*The Commission requested four amendments to the Work Plan: (1) combining the second and seventh bullet points and adding language that the CAAP will be reviewed at each meeting, (2) including wildfire planning and mitigation in the second bullet point, (3) adding the health impacts of extreme heat events to the eighth bullet point, and (4) adding an update on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan from the County's Office of Emergency Services.*

*Moore amended the previous motion and moved to adopt the Calendar and Work Plan for 2025 with the amendments discussed. Second: Smith.*

*The Calendar and Work Plan for 2025 were adopted unanimously.*

**6. RECEIVE Report on Commission Member Seats**

*Hardman-Saldana informed the Commission that half of the Commission's terms will be expiring at the end of March 2025. Seats with terms ending are listed in the staff report. There will be a special meeting of the Sustainability Committee to discuss filling the at-large seats; supervisors fill the district seats. Open at-large seats include community group, commercial, environmental justice, and education/research institution; districts 2, 3, and 5 also have open seats. Jody London from the Department of Conservation and Development noted staff will be advertising the open seats. Hardman-Saldana encouraged those interested to apply at the application link in the staff report and requested Commissioners let him know whether they are planning to reapply.*

*There was no public comment.*

**7. CONSIDER ELECTING OFFICERS for the Sustainability Commission for 2025**

*Hardman-Saldana clarified that decisions regarding officers did not have to be made at this meeting but will need to be made at the February meeting at the latest. London noted that the Sustainability Committee will interview at-large applicants for the Sustainability Commission after the Committee schedule is determined in January.*

*The Commission discussed the timeline for electing officers and decided to elect officers at the February 24, 2025, meeting. Chair Gomez encouraged Commissioners to think about whether they would like to serve as Chair or Vice Chair.*

*Hardman-Saldana will inform Commissioners not in attendance that officer elections will occur at the next meeting.*

*There was no public comment.*

**8. RECEIVE Report on Staff Activities that Support Sustainability Goals**

*London gave an overview of the County's recent sustainability activities, including the adoption of the updated Climate Action and Adaptation Plan on November 5, 2024; work with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to develop a Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan;*

*several energy efficiency pilots to support installing electric appliances in homes; updates to the County's Green Building Materials webpage with the support of an extern; the first meeting of the Economic Development Committee; an upcoming G3 Champions meeting where Champions will have an opportunity to tour the new TRUE-certified administration building; upcoming approval of the County's new energy efficiency reach code by the California Energy Commission; and the Green Business Program's new partnership with MCE to do bilingual outreach. London also noted the upcoming Sustainability Committee meeting which will feature a presentation from Richmond City, British Columbia about its circular city economy.*

*Updates on grants included work executing a \$1.5 million grant from the Ocean Protection Council to develop the Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan; receipt of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program funds from the U.S Department of Energy to retrofit family-based daycare facilities and get technical information on the county's building stock; an interview with the Strategic Growth Council for a grant to fund development of an Urban Forest Management Plan; grants submitted by Public Works for bicycle and pedestrian projects; and a \$19 million grant award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support projects in North Richmond.*

*There was no public comment.*

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

*Leonard noted that Phillips 66 will be hosting a ribbon cutting for a new solar field, which will be tied to biodiesel, sustainable aviation fuel, and the Green Empowerment Zone.*

*There was no public comment.*

10. RECEIVE Report from Sustainability Commission Chair and IDENTIFY TOPICS for next report to the Committee on Sustainability

*Chair Gomez noted that the Mokelumne River watershed, managed by the East Bay Municipal Utility District, saw its largest Chinook salmon run since recordkeeping began. 50% of the commercial catch off the San Francisco Bay can be traced back to the Mokelumne River. Chair Gomez shared that she transitioned her home to all-electric. During this process, Gomez used QuickCarbon, a tool to guide homeowners step-by-step through the transition process from looking at bids to connecting with vetted contractors, and the SwitchIsOn, a tool to find incentives available for all-electric appliances, like heat pump water heaters. Chair Gomez also attended a recent Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board meeting where there was an update on the Air District's NOx rules requiring water heaters and furnaces to be all-electric starting in 2027. At the meeting, there was a discussion on the timeline for the rule, and the discussion will continue at the next Board meeting.*

*The Commission asked for clarification on whether the Air District's rules apply to all homes. They apply to all homes within the Air District's jurisdiction.*

*There was no public comment.*

11. The next meeting is currently scheduled for February 24, 2025

12. Adjourn

*The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.*

DRAFT