

Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission
Record of Action for February 24, 2025, 5:00 P.M.

Sustainability Commission

Present: Luz Gomez
Sarah Foster
Susan Hurl
Shoshana Wechsler
Victoria Smith
Christopher Easter (remote)
Mike Moore
Brandon Matson
Charles Davidson
Renee Fernandez-Lipp
Howdy Goudey
Kiara Pereira

Absent: Norman Cohen
Wesley Sullens
Chuck Leonard
Kimberly Hazard

Staff Present: Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Jamar Stamps, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Emily Groth, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Wade Finlinson, Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, Contra Costa Health Services;
Lia Bristol, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Supervisor Carlson;
Carol Mascali, District Representative, Office of Supervisor Andersen

Attendees: Devin Jackson, Kim Jones, Bruce Ohlson, Carol Weed, Louis Flores, Denice Dennis,
Richard

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Gomez called the meeting to order and invited the Commissioners and staff present to introduce themselves. Commissioners Fernandez-Lipp and Moore announced this would be their last meeting on the Sustainability Commission. The Commission expressed their thanks to the outgoing Commissioners. Incoming Commissioners, Devin Jackson and Kim Jones, introduced themselves to the full Commission.

2. 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 on items not on the agenda.

3. APPROVE Record of Action for December 9, 2024, meeting and Special March 25, 2024, meeting

Moore moved to approve the Records of Action. Second: Smith. The Records of Action were unanimously approved.

4. ELECT OFFICERS for the Sustainability Commission for 2025

The Commission deliberated over the election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2025. Gomez nominated Wechsler for Chair and Foster for Vice Chair. Smith nominated Matson for Chair.

Gomez motioned to nominate Wechsler as Chair for 2025. Second: Davidson.

Gomez modified her motion for Wechsler as Chair and Matson as Vice Chair. Second: Moore.

The Commission voted unanimously in favor of Wechsler as Chair and Matson as Vice Chair.

There was no public comment on this item.

5. REVIEW and Possible ADOPTION of Draft 2024 Climate Action Plan Progress Report

Emily Groth, Department of Conservation and Development Planner, presented the Draft 2024 Climate Action Plan Progress Report, which documented progress on the 2024 Interim Climate Action Workplan.

Key accomplishments related to the clean and efficient built environment section included an amendment to the 2022 Energy Code to require increased energy efficiency standards for new construction projects, implementation of residential and commercial Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) programs, administration of the Pinole Energy Enhancement Rebate program, and award of three energy efficiency and all-electric-related grants. Groth highlighted the County Administration Building and Jail Demolition and Redevelopment Project which received Total Resource, Use, and Efficiency (TRUE) Gold certification, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification, and a California Green Building Award.

Key accomplishments related to the resilient communities and natural infrastructure section included implementation of the Healthy Lands, Healthy People study, award of a \$750,000 grant for the development of an urban forest management plan, and implementation of the Green Infrastructure Plan.

Key accomplishments related to the solid waste section included all four of the County's solid waste collection franchise agreements offering Senate Bill (SB) 1383-compliance services and implementation of the County's updated Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy.

Key accomplishments related to the water efficiency section included the retrofit of two County facilities' restrooms with motion-sensing faucets and toilets and continued monitoring of water use through the water districts.

Key accomplishments related to the transportation section included grant awards totaling over \$2 million for complete streets, active transportation, and pedestrian infrastructure improvement projects; the Building Healthy Communities Program's bicycle and pedestrian education and engagement programming; the addition of more electric vehicles (EV) within County fleets and EV chargers at County facilities; and award of grants to continue EV charging installation at County facilities.

Key accomplishments related to the equity section included, with the adoption of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and General Plan, direction to develop a process to analyze funds spent by County departments on energy efficiency and other services in impacted communities; completion of the environmental review for the Just Transition Economic Revitalization Plan; and continuation of support for the Green Empowerment Zone and implementation of the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative.

Key accomplishments related to the leadership section included continued meetings of the Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force and its two reports to the Board, continued meetings of the G3 (Green Government Group) Champions and their newly created low waste office events checklist, the County's Office of Communications and Media's videos highlighting the County's climate action work, coordination with community groups, initiatives to increase community familiarity with indication cooking, and a grant award to develop the Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan.

The Commission inquired about the scope of the urban forest management plan grant, how grant dollar impact is evaluated, security of grant funds, how vehicle miles traveled is measured and reduced, and the impact of EVs on vehicle miles traveled.

Smith moved to adopt the Draft 2024 Climate Action Plan Progress Report. Second: Gomez. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **RECEIVE** presentation on 2024 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and **CONSIDER** specific CAAP topics to discuss in the future

Jody London, Department of Conservation and Development Sustainability Coordinator, presented an overview of each Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) strategy and provided a breakdown of the community-facing programs and County operations actions included in each strategy. London highlighted the climate action strategies that directly contribute to greenhouse gas reductions.

The Commission inquired about compost facilities in the County, the status of the County's building code amendment to modify energy efficiency standards for new construction, greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, County staff's ability to further categorize CAAP strategies by greenhouse gas emissions reductions, pesticide and herbicide use, water and stormwater management, the Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan's connection to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and when the CAAP will be updated next. The Commission stated it would be helpful to know which CAAP actions contribute most to greenhouse gas emissions reductions; this would help inform its decision on which CAAP topics to focus on moving forward. Jackson

suggested inviting Project Drawdown to provide insight into actions that contribute most to greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Public comment stated the most important thing the County could do is create a connected network of bicycle facilities.

7. RECEIVE Report on Staff Activities that Support Sustainability Goals

London shared the BayREN Spanish language induction cooking demonstration video. London directed individuals to the staff report for more details about staff activities.

The Commission shared concerns about the closure of the grocery store in Rodeo and resulting safety concerns for Rodeo residents walking to the next closest grocery store.

There was no public comment on this item.

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

The Commission thanked Gomez and Foster for their service as Chair and Co-Chair in 2024.

Gomez announced East Bay Municipal Utility District would be hosting a workshop on its long-term water supply.

Moore announced the City of Oakley is preparing a Climate Action Plan.

There was no public comment on this item.

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

Gomez noted the new Chair of the Sustainability Committee is Supervisor Carlson. Wechsler confirmed she would be in attendance at the Sustainability Committee to provide an update as the new Chair of the Sustainability Commission.

10. The next meeting is currently scheduled for April 28, 2025

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.