



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Sustainability Commission

Jamie Duran, Business Seat 1
Joseph Donaldson, 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
Gelberg Rodriguez, Environmental Justice Seat 1
Sarah Foster, Environmental Justice Seat 2

Monday, June 22, 2026

5:00 PM

**1025 Escobar Street, Room 110
Martinez, CA 94553**

ZOOM LINK

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/86070171680>

Join via audio:

1 855-758-1310 US Toll Free

Webinar ID: 860 7017 1680

The public may attend this meeting in person at either the above location, remotely via Zoom, or call-in.

AGENDA ITEMS may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Commission.

1. INTRODUCTION Call to order and Roll Call.

Chair Wechsler called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Staff

Present: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, DCD;
Nicole Shimizu, Planner, DCD;
Demian Hardman-Saldana, Climate & Energy Principal Planner, DCD
Blake McPherson, Energy & Resilience Fellow, DCD

Jamar Stamps, Transportation Principal Planner, DCD

Attendees: Kiara Donato, Tom White, Madeline Kronenberg

Present Solomon Bellette, Jamie Duran, Joseph Donaldson, Sarah Foster, Luz Gomez, Howdy Goudey, Devin Jackson, Kim Jones, Brandon Matson, Gelberg Rodriguez, Victoria Smith, and Shosana Wechsler

Absent Christopher Easter, Julie Haas-Wajdowicz, Reilly Kent, and Wesley Sullens

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 on this item.

3. APPROVE Record of Action for April 27, 2026, Sustainability Commission Meeting.

Attachments: [3a. 04.27.26 Meeting Minutes](#)

Commissioner Smith moved to approve the Record of Action. Second: Jackson. The Record of Action was unanimously approved.

4. RECEIVE Report on MCE Program Activities.

Attachments: [4a. MCE CCCSustainability Commission June2026](#)

Kiara Donato, Bilingual Community Development Manager at MCE, provided a visual presentation on MCE's background and programs offered for Contra Costa County residents. Donato provided background information on the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) model for electricity providers. MCE has served Contra Costa County residents as the default electricity provider since 2018. MCE offers 60% renewable electricity plans by default, with an option to opt-up to the 100% renewable energy Deep Green plan. Donato described several rate reduction and customer bill relief programs offered to customers.

Donato presented Contra Costa-specific statistics for enrollment in customer programs and community benefit programs. Donato provided a summary of MCE's community engagement efforts and local sponsorship. Contra Costa County has utilized MCE's Strategic Energy Management program that provides incentives for energy use reductions at County facilities from behavior changes and building programming.

MCE partnered with the Richmond community for the Solar One project that provides up to 10.5 megawatts of power to local customers. MCE is also managing a Virtual Power Plant (VPP) project which began in Richmond in 2022 to remotely shift power from distributed energy resources to areas requiring more electricity in real-time. The homes that participate were retrofitted with all-electric smart appliances and were sold to first-time homeowners.

Commission Discussion:

The Commission discussed the differences between MCE and PG&E electricity rates for 2026. Donato confirmed that Power Charge Indifference Agreement exit fees change based on the community and are factored into customer's bills. Donato also explained that PG&E undercharged MCE customers for exit fees in 2025, so the California Public Utilities Commission allowed PG&E to recover costs by charging MCE customers more in 2026, making it more difficult to keep MCE's current rates lower than PG&E's rates.

The Commission inquired about the cybersecurity of the VPP project. Donato will find more information on the present cybersecurity of the VPP system.

The Commission discussed a quote from an MCE statement in 2017 committing to invest in Contra Costa County. One example mentioned was to revitalize underutilized sites along the northern waterfront of the county with renewable energy projects. The Commission indicated that they would like to see more projects and investments made by MCE in the rest of the county, such as solar development on brownfields or microgrid development. Donato mentioned that MCE has solicitations available annually that the County has promoted in the past. MCE has also collaborated recently with the County on grant applications and workforce development projects to better support the waterfront communities.

The Commission and Donato discussed the criteria to join the Virtual Power Plant and MCE's outreach to encourage people with all-electric homes to enroll in the program. There are regional programs that help people convert home appliances to all-electric that could coordinate with MCE to encourage them to join the Virtual Power Plant program if their technology is eligible. Donato stated she would find more information and send it out.

The Commission asked about future data center plans for electricity access. Donato stated that no data centers have come online at this time in the county. MCE would have to plan to source more electricity to match the draw for any potential data centers.

The Commission discussed the local sources of wind and solar electricity. Donato named several wind and solar generation sites in Contra Costa County. Donato also mentioned that tours are offered to schools at wind and solar sites. MCE has an education-oriented dashboard as well.

The Commission asked about programs and opportunities for businesses to utilize from MCE. Donato described workforce development programs and outreach for local suppliers. MCE has an annual solicitation for suppliers.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

5. PROVIDE FEEDBACK on measuring success for Bay Area Regional Energy Network

equity and market support programs.

Attachments: [5a. BayREN Programs Feedback Presentation](#)
 [5b. Equity Programs Feedback Form](#)
 [5c. Market Support Programs Feedback Form](#)

Demian Hardman-Saldana provided a visual presentation on the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN). BayREN is a coalition of the Bay Area's nine counties and is one of many entities implementing various energy efficiency programs across the State.

In 2024, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) identified two new categories of programs: equity and market support. Equity programs focus on hard-to-reach communities, including disadvantaged or impacted communities. Market support programs help build the energy market by increasing and sustaining the demand for energy efficiency and electrification improvements, like contractor trainings.

Hardman-Saldana described the nine BayREN programs, of which seven programs are either equity programs or market support programs.

Commission Discussion:

The Commission asked about the funding source for BayREN funds. BayREN is ratepayer-funded through the public programs service charge, which is collected and distributed by the CPUC.

London described the background and need for regional energy networks. The regional energy networks were established to better incorporate feedback from local jurisdictions into energy efficiency programs to better serve the residents of each community.

Hardman-Saldana led an online survey process for the Commission to provide feedback on equity and market support programs offered by BayREN.

After the Commission finished the survey, Hardman-Saldana asked the Commission to discuss the content of the survey. Commissioners provided feedback on the survey questions and answers. Comments included describing the answers provided as naïve and not directly related to equity. The Commission described the CPUC survey as removed from the people that are trying to be reached. Comments included the survey lacking tangibility. The audience for the survey was not clear.

Hardman-Saldana stated that the survey results will be incorporated into a future report from BayREN including feedback from other participating counties in the Bay Area.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

6. RECEIVE Reports on Staff Activities that support Sustainability Goals.

Attachments: [6a. Sustainability Staff Report for Sustainability Commission - June 2026](#)

Due to time constraints, Jody London provided a brief verbal report on County Sustainability staff activities. London highlighted staff members' work on several submitted and in-progress grant applications to advance sustainability work in the county.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

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

There were no reports on this item.

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

Chair Wechsler highlighted that Contra Costa Health has proposed dissolution of the Hazardous Materials Commission. Wechsler highlighted that it is possible that some or all functions of the Hazardous Materials Commission could be moved to the Sustainability Commission if the Hazardous Materials Commission were to be abolished.

9. ADJOURN until the next Sustainability Commission meeting to be held on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 5:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: