



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Sustainability Commission

Jamie Duran, Business Seat 1
Vacant, 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
Vacant, Environmental Justice Seat 1
Sarah Foster, Environmental Justice Seat 2

Monday, April 27, 2026

5:00 PM

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

ZOOM LINK

<https://cccounty-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. INTRODUCTIONS Call to order and Roll Call.

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

Staff

Present: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Blake McPherson, Energy & Resilience Fellow, Dept. of Conservation and Development;

Jennifer Quallick, Chief of Staff, Office of Supervisor Andersen;
 Tamia Brown, Executive Director of Workforce Development Board, Employment and Human Services Department;
 Alyson Greenlee Escarzaga, Economic Development Manager, Dept. of Conservation and Development

Attendees: Kathryn Grace, Melane NockSalgado

Present Solomon Bellette, Jamie Duran, Christopher Easter, Sarah Foster, Luz Gomez, Howdy Goudey, Julie Haas-Wajdowicz, Devin Jackson, Reilly Kent, Brandon Matson, Victoria Smith, and Shosana Wechsler

Absent Kim Jones, and Wesley Sullens

2. PUBLIC COMMENT on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two (2) minutes).

There was no public comment on this item.

3. APPROVE Record of Action for February 23, 2026, Sustainability Commission Meeting.

Attachments: [3a. 2.23.26 Minutes DRAFT](#)

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

This Discussion Item was approved.

Motion: Smith

Second: Foster

4. CONSIDER Electing new Vice-Chair for the Sustainability Commission for 2026.

Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, provided a verbal recap of the discussion at the last Commission meeting. The Commission decided to continue with Vice Chair Matson until this meeting. Hardman-Saldana confirmed with County Council that a vote to elect a Chair or Vice Chair position requires a majority of the Commission to vote yes for the vote to pass successfully.

Vice Chair Matson expressed interest in serving again as Vice Chair but would leave the decision up to the Commission. Chair Wechsler expressed gratitude to Vice Chair Matson and their work together over the last year.

Commissioner Smith motioned to keep Vice Chair Matson as Vice Chair for 2026. There was not a second, so the motion failed.

Commissioner Jackson motioned to nominate Julie Haas-Wajdowicz for Vice Chair for

2026. Second: Foster. The motion passed unanimously. Haas-Wajdowicz became Vice Chair for the Commission effective immediately.

The Commission expressed gratitude and thanked Commissioner Matson for his service as Vice Chair.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

This Discussion Item was approved.

Motion: Jackson

Second: Foster

5. RECEIVE Report on Bay Area Air District Local Community Benefits Fund opportunities.

Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, provided a verbal update on Sustainability staff's involvement in preparing grant applications for the Bay Area Air District's Local Community Benefits Fund grant opportunities for Richmond, Benicia, and surrounding communities.

Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, explained which geographic areas are covered by each of the two grant opportunities. Areas eligible to apply for grant funding in Contra Costa County include Richmond, North Richmond, El Sobrante, and the northern waterfront from Rodeo to Pittsburg.

London explained that the County Sustainability team has assembled a grant application as the lead applicant for each grant program. The grant application for the Richmond area is similar in composition to the \$19 million Environmental Protection Agency Community Change Grant that the federal government cancelled in 2025. London highlighted the project partners and amenities to be improved in the North Richmond area.

London and Hardman-Saldana also highlighted the County's application to the Benicia grant for \$5 million. Major projects in this grant would be for all-electric retrofits and remediation required for retrofit projects in residential homes.

The draft of each grant application is planned to be submitted by May 11th for the technical assistance team to review and provide feedback. The grant applications are due May 29th.

Commission Discussion:

The Commission inquired about the distribution of financial resources between Contra Costa County and areas in Solano County if the County's grant for the Benicia program is awarded. Hardman-Saldana explained that grant partners believe it is too early on to define distribution of resources in the grant application. If awarded, County staff would discuss with grant partners to ensure there is an equitable distribution of funds across

eligible areas in Contra Costa County and Solano County.

London shared information about other known grant application projects by other applicants for each grant opportunity.

Commissioner Smith asked if any known grant applications for the Benicia grant are looking to serve Concord and the Monument Corridor. London stated she had not heard of other grant applications for that geographic area. However, the County's program would serve homes in that area if awarded the grant.

Commissioner Goudey asked if any projects include mitigation of existing air quality issues. London stated that indoor air quality is being addressed but believes there isn't enough money available to create a program to effectively mitigate outdoor air quality.

The Commission discussed the importance of air filtration and home sealing to keep poor outdoor air quality from entering homes.

The Commission discussed County staff capacity for grant administration. County staff would likely have to increase in capacity by hiring more staff members if these grants were awarded.

County staff confirmed that MCE and Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) are working together with the County's grant application for the Richmond area. MCE and BayREN will align programs for home remediation and electrification measures to be installed in low-income homes.

Chair Wechsler mentioned there is a community group called Benicia Community Air Monitoring Project (BCAMP) with extensive experience in air quality monitoring.

The Commission discussed the County's strategy to ensure equitable distribution of projects across the air district area, including areas like Rodeo.

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 - FIN.](#)

Jody London provided a verbal report on County Sustainability staff activities. London mentioned that the format has been switched to text instead of a table to comply with federal government American Accessibility Act accessibility regulations that will be enforced in the future.

- *The County's Resilient Shoreline Plan Academy is going well, with meetings occurring every other Saturday through June. Staff members Nicole Shimizu and*

Emily Groth have been attending every meeting.

- *The County plans to create an environmental stewardship academy based around the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) if future grant funding is secured to support the academy.*
- *The County's Tree Plan Academy has been successful. County staff lead an advisory working group for the Tree Plan, including staff from multiple County departments, utility companies, community members, activist groups, and more. A draft of the Tree Plan is expected to be available early in 2027 for public review.*
- *Surveying efforts in coordination with Ambrose Recreation and Park District are underway in the Bay Point area to establish a shared understanding of what a Resilience Hub means to Bay Point. Surveying is nearing completion, so staff are working to analyze results and report back to the community what was heard.*
- *A building inventory cost study is around 90% complete for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant. A Request for Proposals was recently re-released after not receiving any bids for the first bidding cycle. The required projects scope size has been reduced to encourage more interest in bids. The installation of whole-home comprehensive all-electric measures is the goal of this program.*
- *The Board of Supervisors have adopted the 2025 CAAP Progress Report.*

Commission Discussion:

The Commission discussed the definition of a Resilience Hub. London stated that the County plans to create a Resilience Hub Master Plan in accordance with a CAAP strategy to create a network of resilience hubs.

Commissioner Goudey highlighted that the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension's Climate Stewards curriculum has similar goals to the idea of the County offering an environmental stewardship academy. The Commission discussed how this could be a possible partnership to customize their curriculum to the County's CAAP. London indicated that County resources are too strained with grant applications at this time to investigate this idea.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

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

Commissioner Jackson explained the details of proposed Assembly Bill 2158 (Hoover) centered around outdoor learning at schools. The bill will set outdoor education as a requirement for students and establish regulations around outdoor education. The bill

would also initiate an outdoor learning pilot program with an end date of January 1, 2032.

Vice Chair Haas-Wajdowicz reported that she and Commissioner Jackson attended the annual Northern California Recycling Association (NCRA) meeting. Jackson mentioned that there are now artificial intelligence-powered waste sorting applications that allow users to conduct waste audits of disposal bins by taking pictures in the application.

Commissioner Foster attended a tree planting event in Pittsburg. The Commission discussed planting trees in areas that need trees the most, rather than in areas that are easiest to have school children plant trees.

Vice Chair Haas-Wajdowicz reported on a local non-profit organization lobbying to have travel sports team organizations transition to reusable jerseys instead of one-season customized jerseys to reduce textile waste. Haas-Wajdowicz suggested having the Commission receive a presentation in the future from the organization.

Commissioner Duran reported that he attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the County's East County Service Center being built in Brentwood. This facility is planned with sustainability in mind, with a net-zero energy plan using solar panels, geothermal heating, and battery back-up for resilience. The building will be built with a mass timber frame to reduce the amount of concrete used and reduce carbon emissions associated with construction.

Chair Wechsler provided an update on the proposed carbon sequestration project that the Commission received a report on in 2024. The project is called the Montezuma NorCal Carbon Sequestration Hub. The project would involve building a 45-mile pipeline along the county's shorelines and across the Carquinez Strait to transport carbon dioxide gas from refineries to a location in Solano County. Wechsler stated that the project is slowly moving forward. Solano County is the next step in the chain of approval for an injection well that would provide more data. Richmond City Council is considering a proposal in opposition to the project.

Commissioner Jackson highlighted that the City of Oakley issued a 45-day moratorium on data centers due to their high water and energy usage. Jackson asked if a data center moratorium has been considered for the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County. County staff did not have any knowledge of planned data centers trying to be built in unincorporated areas.

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

Chair Wechsler suggested receiving a presentation from Orinda resident Paula Reinman on home hardening for wildfire preparedness at a future meeting. London suggested inviting the County's Fire Protection District to present as well and offered to facilitate

that connection.

Chair Wechsler also suggested receiving a presentation from MCE to the Commission in June.

Commissioner Jackson suggested receiving a presentation from ReThink Disposable, an organization that helps support restaurants to remove single-use plastics from their business.

Commissioner Easter suggested learning about potential sustainability-related implications of the possible future reduction of BART services along with reductions across most other Bay Area transit agencies.

9. **ADJOURN** until the next Sustainability Commission meeting to be held on Monday, June 22, 2026, at 5:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: