



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Sustainability Committee

Supervisor Ken Carlson, Chair
Supervisor John Gioia, Vice Chair

Monday, July 14, 2025

1:00 PM

11780 San Pablo Ave., Ste. D,
El Cerrito, CA 94530 |

2255 Contra Costa Blvd., Ste. 202
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

ZOOM LINK

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/81614339223>

| Dial: 888-278-0254 |

ACCESS CODE: 841892

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

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

1. INTRODUCTIONS Call to order and roll call.

Chair Carlson called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. Carlson stated that Supervisor Gioia had to attend to an important matter that could keep him from attending this meeting.

Staff Present: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Raquel De La Torre, Advance Level Secretary, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Lia Bristol, Deputy Chief of Staff, Supervisor Carlson's Office;
Blake McPherson, Student Intern, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Joe Smithonic, Associate Civil Engineer, Public Works;
Colin Clarke, Senior Transportation Planner, CCTA;

Attendees: Shoshana Wechsler, Sustainability Commission Chair
Marti Roach
Denice Dennis
Lisa Jackson
Cheryl Sudduth
Veronica Robles
Carmen Cano

Caitlin Powell
Ogie Strogatz
Lily Rahnema
Jan Warren

Present: District IV Supervisor Ken Carlson

Absent: District I Supervisor John Gioia

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.

3. APPROVE Record of Action of May 12, 2025, meeting of the Sustainability Committee.

Attachments: [5.12.25 Sust Cmte MINUTES DRAFT](#)

This item was deferred to the Sustainability Committee meeting scheduled for September 11, 2025.

There was no public comment.

4. RECEIVE Report on Contra Costa Asthma Initiative Grant Project and PROVIDE DIRECTION, if needed.

Attachments: [CC Asthma Initiative Report 7-2025](#)

This item was deferred to the Sustainability Committee meeting scheduled for September 11, 2025.

There was no public comment.

5. RECOMMEND that the Board of Supervisors DIRECT staff to participate in CPUC Rulemaking 24-09-012 for the purpose of identifying communities that could potentially be designated to participate in pilot projects of neighborhood-level conversion to all-electric buildings.

Attachments: [Attachment A - SB-1221 Gas corporations_ ceasing service_ priorit neighborhood decarbonization zones](#)
[Attachment B - Article re Richmond Gas Line Removal](#)
[Attachment C - This Oakland Block Tried to Quit Fossil Fuels. Here What They Learned_KQED](#)

Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, introduced the item by providing background information on Senate Bill 1221, which directed the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to authorize up to 30 pilot projects in which gas utility companies would remove an entire neighborhood's gas lines and convert each home to operate entirely on electricity. There is an ongoing CPUC proceeding to designate neighborhoods in California for this pilot program. London requested the Board to direct staff to participate in the proceeding to advocate for Impacted Communities in Contra Costa County's to have the option to participate in this program.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

Chair Carlson expressed support for the County's participation in the CPUC Rulemaking proceeding and recommended bringing this item to the Board of Supervisors' meeting on July 22, 2025, as a consent item.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

6. RECEIVE report from the Sustainability Commission Chair, or Designee.

Shoshana Wechsler, Sustainability Commission Chair, did not have a report due to the cancellation of the Sustainability Commission meeting from a lack of quorum on June 23, 2025. Wechsler explained the Commission is in the process of rescheduling the meeting, with the same agenda, for the end of July.

Chair Carlson invited the Commission to reach out for any help the Committee can offer in achieving a quorum and expressed support for the Commission.

Chair Carlson highlighted the importance of guidance from the Commission and Committee in the coming months to direct the County's actions relating to air pollution reduction, increased educational outreach, and affordability of transitioning to all-electric appliances. One topic of discussion was Rule 9-7, a California State Regulation limiting the emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and carbon monoxide from large boilers at industrial facilities. Another highlighted idea was the potential to bring manufacturing of "No NOx" appliances to Contra Costa County to aide in the transition to all-electric appliances for healthier communities.

Wechsler emphasized that affordability is crucial to consider in supporting this transition.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

7. RECEIVE report on staff activities that support sustainability goals.

Attachments: [2025_07_14 Sust. Staff Report to Sust. CMTE](#)

Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, provided a verbal update on the County's Sustainability work, in which staff members are making progress on the following topics:

- Staff have received bids for two Requests for Proposal (RFPs) to hire technical and community engagement consultants to aid in the development of a shoreline adaptation plan, funded by the Ocean Protection Council's Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant.*
- The County will be utilizing funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to conduct research on the types of existing building stock in the unincorporated County to determine which types are most suitable for all-electric retrofits compared to appliance replacement.*
- An RFP is being prepared to hire a technical consultant for all-electric retrofits for licensed family-based daycare facilities.*
- The County has entered into contracts with community partners and the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan, and is in negotiation with a technical consultant for the technical aspects of the project.*

- *Public comments regarding the Clean Energy Roadmap have been received and are being considered. Staff is planning to present the Roadmap to the Committee in September.*
- *On May 1, staff received a Notice of Termination Award cancelling the \$19 million Community Change Grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The County is supporting a class action lawsuit to fight the unlawful termination of the EPA's Section 138 Environmental and Climate Justice Grant Program. The County also requests that staff at EPA need to be reinstated to administer the grant.*
- *Staff continues to implement the Bay Point/Pittsburg Energy Enhancement Pilot Program. London expressed gratitude to the Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund for trailblazing a new way to improve air quality for affected communities.*
- *Staff will soon issue a RFP for the development of the Just Transition Economic Revitalization Plan.*
- *The All-Electric Building Ordinance went into effect on May 1.*
- *Staff have attended and presented at regional conferences, including the Western Regional Meeting of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network and the California Climate and Energy Collaborative.*
- *Contra Costa Health continues to source funds and implement programs under the Building Healthy Communities Program, including helmet distribution events, bike rodeos, safety presentations and community engagement. This work is grant funded but would benefit from a stable funding source going forward.*
- *The Library has partnered with Sustainable Contra Costa and California Master Gardeners to host several educational and leadership-oriented events. This fall, the County will be updating the home energy efficiency toolkits available for check-out.*

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

Chair Carlson noted difficulty in past experiences attempting to reach railroad owners and large industrial facilities for sea level rise planning purposes and asked if staff has ideas on how to engage them for subregional shoreline adaptation planning. London explained that the Sustainability team has a comprehensive outreach strategy for communities but may face similar difficulties with engaging industry partners and would like to strategize with the Board on increasing railroad and industry participation in planning for sea level rise adaptation.

The Committee discussed the prioritization of impacted communities when planning for air quality with daycare providers. Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner with the Department of Conservation and Development, explained the County is working with CocoKids to help the County prioritize implementation at daycare facilities in impacted communities, specifically those next to point source emissions.

The Committee discussed the potential for the County's Regional Transportation Planning Committees to become a source of funding for Safe Routes to School programs from Measure J funds, rather than the programs relying primarily on annual competitive grants.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jan Warren commented on the topic of sea level rise planning and difficulty from personal experience with obtaining participation from railroads and large industrial facilities. Warren suggested requesting support from a State legislator to introduce legislation that would require the industrial facilities along the shoreline to participate in sea level rise adaptation planning.

Marti Roach, a member of 350 Contra Costa Action, mentioned the East Contra Costa Healthy Homes project that is performing work on homes in Pittsburg and Antioch, and suggested collaborating with the County to align efforts would increase efficiency in the region. Roach inquired if the County's planned work to improve air quality at daycare facilities includes installing all-electric appliances. Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, explained that the County must first determine the implementing contractor through the RFP process. Reducing asthma risk and making daycare homes all-electric will be prioritized, but cost will be a factor in the implementation strategy.

Colin Clarke, Senior Transportation Planner at Contra Costa Transportation Authority, submitted an online comment confirming that Safe Routes to School funds are annual competitive grants and that multi-year funding for the program will be critical for SRTS to be successful long-term and short-term. The One Bay Area Grant 3 program will also fund the expansion of Safe Route to School to become county-wide.

Chair Carlson suggested that the County could maintain a list of related air quality enhancement programs in the Bay Area to provide information to those who may not qualify for a certain program, but may qualify for a program through a different organization, like the Bay Area Air District.

8. **ADJOURN until the next Sustainability Committee Meeting to be held on, Monday, September 8, 2025, at 1:00pm.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:46pm

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: