

Sustainability Staff Report for Sustainability Commission

August 24, 2026

This report provides updates on activities that have occurred since the Sustainability Commission's meeting on June 22, 2026, listed below. For each activity, the report indicates how it supports the goals in the 2024 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Department of Conservation and Development

Resilient Shoreline Plan

Staff continue to work with consultants to develop the [Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan](#). This work is compliant with Senate Bill (SB) 272 and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan. This work is partially funded through the County's Ocean Protection Council (OPC) SB 1 Grant. The consultant team completed the initial administrative draft of Element B: Existing Conditions. County staff are in the process of reviewing the administrative draft of Element B, which will then be shared with BCDC for review.

Applications for the Resilient Shoreline Community Advisory Cohorts closed in July 2026. The project team is in the process of reviewing the 135 applications received.

In response to interest among Contra Costa cities in developing a multijurisdictional plan, County staff have been coordinating with OPC, BCDC, and city staff to determine a path forward for developing a multijurisdictional plan, including necessary budget and timeline adjustments.

Individuals interested in tracking the progress of the Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan can subscribe to the [Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline email list](#) for periodic updates.

Applications are open to join a Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Community Advisory Cohort. Participants in these Cohorts will provide input and share their local knowledge and lived experience; learn about shoreline challenges and adaptation strategies; and collaborate with fellow community members, local leaders, and technical experts to help guide Plan development. [Resilient Shoreline Community Advisory Cohort applications](#) are due by June 30, 2026.

The Shoreline Leadership Academy concluded on June 13, 2026. Since the last report, Academy members learned about shoreline contamination during the May 2 session at the Zeneca site in Richmond. Members were welcomed by Supervisor Scales-Preston at the May 16 session, where they toured the Pinole-Hercules Water Pollution Control Plant and heard from staff at the cities of Martinez, Pinole, and Pittsburg about the cities' sea level rise planning efforts. At the May 30 session on Zoom, members practiced their final project presentations in preparation for graduation. The Shoreline Leadership Academy graduation took place on June 13 at the Big Break Regional Shoreline Visitor Center in Oakley. Supervisor Burgis welcomed the cohort and their friends and family, and cohort members presented their final projects and were recognized for their achievement in completing the program.

CAAP Goal 5 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure

Tree Plan

Work continues to develop the [Tree Plan](#), a roadmap for addressing the impacts of extreme heat by increasing tree canopy cover in the unincorporated areas of the County. This project is funded by an extreme heat grant from the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI). Contra Costa County was invited by LCI to be the featured presentation at a meeting in July of the other recipients of the extreme heat round 1 large planning grants.

The Tree Plan Academy graduated 25 County residents in June. The Advisory Working Group (staff from various County departments, partner agencies, community groups, and community members) at its meeting on July 14 received a report on the results of a community needs assessment conducted by Sustainable Contra Costa to capture public understanding, attitudes, and feelings regarding urban trees and extreme heat; identify residents' specific priorities for urban forest management, tree placement, and ongoing maintenance; and gauge community interest in hands-on tree care and stewardship. The meeting included graduates of the Tree Plan Academy, who shared their experience and learnings.



The draft Tree Plan is anticipated to be available for public comment in early 2027.

People interested in tracking the progress of this project should [register for the mailing list](#).

CAAP Goal 5 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure

Climate Resilience Hubs

Staff continue working on a [feasibility study](#) of what would be needed for the Ambrose Community Center to serve as a **climate resilience hub**. This project is funded through a grant from PG&E. This project is also receiving no-cost technical assistance from the Bay Area Regional Energy Network's (BayREN) Energy Roadmapping program. The final Energy Roadmap report is expected to be completed in September. The information learned from the project will inform the County's work to establish a network of resilience hubs across the county, as directed in the CAAP.

Staff provided a presentation about the in-progress feasibility study and community outreach to date at the Ambrose Recreation and Park District Board's July 9, 2026, meeting. Staff tabled at the Bay Point Community Resource Fair on July 25, 2026, to provide the community with additional opportunities to learn about the project and provide community feedback on the survey results and infrastructure improvement lists

CAAP Goal 5 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure

Transformative Climate Communities Grant

Sustainability staff have been working since the end of May on a [Transformative Climate Communities](#) grant application for the community of Rodeo. On June 30, staff submitted a pre-proposal to the California Strategic Growth Council that described a \$27.5 million implementation project focused on transit access and mobility; solar installation, energy efficiency, and all-electric appliances; urban greening and green infrastructure; and a community solar and battery storage project that would provide electricity to residents of the Bayo Vista housing authority complex. The State received 49 pre-proposals for implementation projects and has funding for only three. The

State advised the County that its application would need significant work to be competitive and suggested the County consider submitting a proposal in the project development category.

Staff have pivoted to developing a \$5 million project development proposal that may include a feasibility study of the former redevelopment property on Parker Avenue in the business district, clean home upgrades, urban greening and green infrastructure, as well as significant engagement with the community to build the capacity of community groups in Rodeo to lead community transformation work. Details are in process, with a goal of identifying projects and partners by the end of August. The grant proposal is due September 30, 2026.



On August 13, staff organized a walking tour of Rodeo for the organizations that are working on the grant, including representatives from the Rodeo Citizens Association, California Foundation for Stronger Communities, GRID Alternatives, Sheet Metal Workers Local 104, MCE, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, Contra Costa County Clean Water Program, Office of Supervisor Scales-Preston, and the Contra Costa County Department of

Conservation and Development. The visit provided an opportunity for participants to exchange information, ask questions, and discuss the community from a variety of perspectives. The tour helped County staff and community partners develop a stronger shared understanding of Rodeo and the issues important to those who live and work there.

CAAP Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment

CAAP Goal 5 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure

CAAP Goal 6 – Climate Equity

CAAP Goal 7 – Leadership

Keller Canyon Mitigation

Sustainability staff submitted two grant applications to the **Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund**. The first application is a \$106,000 request for funding to plant trees in Bay Point, including recruiting tree sponsors and educating them about how to ensure the trees thrive. This project leverages the Tree Plan described above. The second application is a \$75,000 request for funding to provide enhanced Weatherization Program services, including health and safety improvements and enhanced insulation installation, in Bay Point, Pittsburg, and Antioch.

CAAP Progress Tracking

Sustainability staff applied for and were accepted into the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN)/Cloudsyte Platform Pilot Project in July. The Cloudsyte platform is an integrated system that consolidates sustainability data, supports climate plan execution, tracks greenhouse gas reductions, and generates real-time public-facing dashboards. The County is part of a cohort of cities and counties across the country that are receiving dedicated support from the Cloudsyte team at no cost to improve climate action progress tracking and communication.

Climate Emergency Resolution:

Just Transition. The Board of Supervisors approved a contract with HRA Advisors for the Just Transition Economic Development Plan on August 11, 2026.

Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force. The Task Force received an update on the County's implementation CAAP measures related to County facilities and operations on July 21. At the G3 Champions meeting on August 12, the G3 Champions learned about White Pony Express's food recovery initiatives and opportunities for County departments to partner during events that involve food and for volunteering.

All-Electric Building Ordinance. The ordinance went into effect on May 1, 2025.

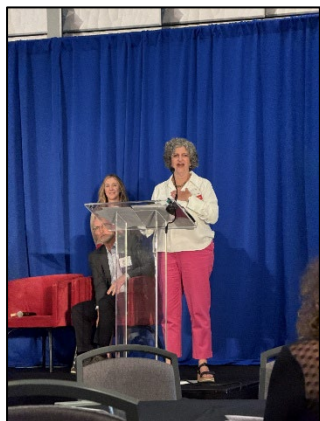
CAAP Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment

CAAP Goal 7 – Leadership

CAAP Goal 8 – Implementation.

In the community:

Jody London, Nicole Shimizu, and Emily Groth facilitated a workshop at the California Climate and Energy Collaborative Annual Forum on June 25 in Los Angeles on the topic of Talk Like a Human: How to Better Reach the People We Need If We Want Change. Over 100 people participated and the session received good reviews.



Jody London was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the California Climate and Energy Collaborative Annual Forum in June in Los Angeles. London was recognized for her work for many years on State energy policy and building local programs in Contra Costa County, as well as her work on the Oakland School Board. "Jody's defining contribution is institution-building: creating the structures, conditions, and policies that let communities drive their own climate solutions."

Nicole Shimizu participated in the Bay Point Resource Fair on July 25 and attended the Rising Sun Center for Opportunity's Climate Careers/Green House Call Program Open House in Concord on July 23.

Adam Scarbrough helped organize a training for contractors focused on heat pump water heater installation and best practices. The event featured over 10 vendor tables and presentations from manufacturers AO Smith and CALA Systems on their heat pump water heater product offerings. This training is part of the broader Sprint to 9-6 initiative to help prepare the San Francisco Bay Area for the upcoming Bay Area Air District's (BAAD) 9-6 appliance rule updates that will go into effect on January 1, 2027.

Jody London participated on July 30 in a visit with Civicorps, the Civilian Conservation Corps program for Alameda and Contra Costa County, to a site in Tilden Park where Civicorps works to

reduce wildfire risk, one of several sites in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties where Civicorps is working.

Jody London participated on August 7 in a tour of an all-electric home and an all-electric community center in San Francisco with the Building Power Resource Center.

The Sustainability Team launched the [Meet the Sustainability Team webpage](#) on August 12, 2026. The webpage features each member of the Sustainability Team along with a short video about what motivates their climate action work. The videos are part of a larger series made in partnership with the Office of Communications and Media titled "Every Job is a Sustainability Job."

CAAP Goal 6 – Climate Equity

CAAP Goal 7 – Leadership

Department of Public Works

Transportation Engineering

Public Works has completed the 65% design stage for the Iron Horse Corridor San Ramon Double Tracking project (Phase 1) and is currently working toward 95% design stage. This project will add a second paved pathway to the Iron Horse Corridor between Bollinger Canyon Road and Crow Canyon Road. Phase 1 will extend 1.3 miles through an area of San Ramon that is rapidly being redeveloped for high-density housing and will connect the new residents to the downtown commercial area, as well as to local medical facilities, a transit hub, parks, schools, and City Hall, allowing residents to stay well, shop for groceries, access transit, recreate, go to school, and participate in local government without a car. Transportation Engineering is currently applying for construction funding for Phase 1 under the Coordinated Call for Projects (CCFP) issued by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) and will be applying for Recreational Trails Program Grant from California State Parks later this year.

A second phase of the project, Iron Horse Corridor Danville Double Tracking Project (Phase 2), has been initiated, and Public Works will be asking CCTA for design funding as part of the CCFP process. Phase 2 will extend from the north side of Crow Canyon Road in San Ramon to the south side of Sycamore Valley Road in Danville, a distance of 2.6 miles. County Supervisor Andersen and Public Works staff have made presentations regarding the project to the Danville Town Council and the San Ramon City Council. An additional presentation to the East Bay Regional Park District Board is scheduled for September 1.



CAAP Goal 1 – Clean and Efficient Built Environment

CAAP Goal 4 – Clean Transportation Network

CAAP Goal 7 – Leadership

CAAP Goal 8 – Implementation

County Watershed Program

County Watershed Program staff have been working with the City of San Pablo, the Contra Costa Clean Water Program, and other cities to develop [the Regional Alternative Compliance \(RAC\) System](#), which develops an alternative pathway to meet the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit's (MRP) numeric requirements. The RAC System provides local governments and developers with another way to meet their stormwater treatment requirements. Instead of building every system onsite, they can buy "compliance units" — credits for stormwater treatment facilities constructed elsewhere within the County.

The RAC System offers a flexible, cost-effective compliance option, particularly for sites where installing low impact development features (LID) is difficult due to space limitations, infrastructure conflicts, or site constraints, such as steep slopes or proximity to creeks. It also enables construction of larger, more strategically located regional treatment facilities, often at a lower cost. Municipalities may use the RAC System to meet their additional LID requirements when they are unable to build sufficient treatment systems within their own jurisdiction.

Stormwater treatment systems must be maintained in perpetuity. The RAC system supports long-term operations and maintenance costs through annual fees paid by the purchasers of compliance units. To collect these fees from private developments, participating Contra Costa municipalities are forming a Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The JPA will create a Community Facilities District (CFD) that collects fees from private projects that buy RAC compliance units. The RAC and CFD will operate only within the jurisdictions of JPA member agencies. As a result, only projects located within participating jurisdictions may buy or sell RAC compliance units. Unincorporated County will only be able to coordinate projects and opportunities in communities that are part of the JPA.

CAAP Goal 6 – Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure

CAAP Goal 7 – Leadership

CAAP Goal 8 - Implementation

Library

The Kensington, Pinole, and Ygnacio Valley Libraries are all receiving new, all-electric heat pump HVAC systems. Details can be found at:

[A New Chapter: Kensington Library Set for Major \\$5.3 Million Renovation | Contra Costa County Library](#)

[Pinole Library to Undergo Major Renovation to Modernize the 50-Year-Old Facility | Contra Costa County Library](#)

[Upgrades Ahead: Ygnacio Valley Library Prepares for Temporary Closure and Major Improvements | Contra Costa County Library](#)