



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Sustainability Committee

Supervisor John Gioia, Chair
Supervisor Ken Carlson, Vice Chair

Monday, March 9, 2026

1:00 PM

|| REVISED ||

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

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

ZOOM LINK

<https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/88069018034>

| Dial: 1 855-758-1310 US Toll Free
Webinar ID: 880 6901 8034

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 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.

Supervisor Gioia called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Staff Present: Raquel De La Torre, Advance Level Secretary, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Trish Dominguez, Advance Level Secretary, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Adam Scarbrough, Planner, Dept of Conservation and Development;
Blake McPherson, Sustainability Fellow, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
John Kopchik, Director, Dept. of Conservation and Development;
Nicole Shimizu, Planner, Dept of Conservation and Development;
Will Nelson, Assistant Deputy Director, Dept of Conservation and Development;
Kristine Solseng, Principal Planner, Dept of Conservation and Development;
AiLi Pigott, Student Intern, Dept of Conservation and Development;
Robert Sarmiento, Planner, Dept of Conservation and Development;
Jason Crapo, Deputy Director, Dept of Conservation and Development;
Salvador Morales, Planner, Dept of Conservation and Development;

Lia Bristol, Deputy Chief of Staff, Board of Supervisors District 4
Wendy Fabian, District Representative, Board of Supervisors District 3
Tuere Anderson, Employment and Human Services
Alyson Greenlee Escarzaga, Economic Development Manager, Dept of
Conservation and Development

Attendees: Jan Warren, Miranda Murphree

Present: District I Supervisor John Gioia and District IV Supervisor Ken
Carlson

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 for the Sustainability Committee meeting of November 10, 2025.

Attachments: [3a. Sustainability Committee 11.10.25 Minutes](#)

The Record of Action was approved unanimously.

There was no public comment.

4. RECEIVE REPORT on proposed updates to CalEnviroScreen, and PROVIDE DIRECTION.

Attachments: [4a. 2016 Letter to CalEPA Regarding CalEnviroScreen](#)
[4b. CES 5.0 Presentation](#)

Kristine Solseng, Principal Planner, provided a visual presentation on County staff's analysis of the State's proposed draft revision of CalEnviroScreen (CES) to version 5.0 and its impact on the disadvantaged (or impacted) community classification of certain communities in the county. CES scores for communities are important because the score for each community determines if they meet the threshold to be considered a disadvantaged community by the State, which makes the community eligible for certain state grants.

Solseng explained how variability in scores and impacts from pollution occur due to geographic attribution, the weighted scoring system, and evolving calculation methodologies between CES 4.0 and 5.0. Due to the shifting or splitting of census tracts, some communities in draft version 5.0 would lose or gain the disadvantaged community designation. Contra Costa County has the largest impacted population of all Bay Area counties, with over 180,000 impacted people in disadvantaged communities per the draft CES 5.0 classification. With the methodology changes proposed from CES 4.0 to draft CES 5.0, around 41,000 Contra Costa residents live in newly that would be defined as impacted areas while around 53,000 residents live in areas that would no longer be considered impacted.

Solseng presented a map of Contra Costa County indicating the status of disadvantaged communities between CES 4.0 and draft 5.0. One example showed one census tract in

Bay Point with a very large data swing from the top 76% of tracts for hazardous waste to the lowest 7%, with no change on the ground.

The Committee discussed preparing a draft comment letter to the California Environmental Protection Agency. Among the topics to be included could be encouraging CES 6.0 to include climate impacts in the methodology for CES score determination. Solseng noted multiple cases in which the change in score and disadvantaged community determination for communities in the county according to CES 5.0 do not reflect local knowledge of the county's communities.

Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, commented that to reduce local government staff time on reading and applying to the 100+ grant options from the State, the State could change how grants are distributed so that all communities be awarded a base level of funds, with additional funds for applicants that meet other priorities, for example, partnering with community-based organizations, working in disadvantaged communities, and so on.

Committee Discussion:

The Committee directed the Department of Conservation & Development to develop and send a comment letter regarding the proposed CalEnviroScreen updates to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. The Committee agreed to follow the County's process for submitting comments letters, working with the County Administrator's Office.

Public Comment:

Jan Warren, Walnut Creek, commented that this is a draft and the County can provide comment to influence the final CalEnviroScreen 5.0 model. Supervisor Gioia confirmed that the Committee intends to provide feedback to influence the final model.

5. RECEIVE REPORT on new State legislation related to Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, and PROVIDE DIRECTION.

Attachments: [5a. Legislation Preview 2026 - Politico](#)

Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, provided a verbal update highlighting recently passed legislation with impacts to Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) strategies, particularly affecting the energy and built environment sectors. County staff compiled a list of State bills passed in 2025 with potential impacts, listed in the staff report. London stated that the County should still be able to pass energy efficiency reach codes if desired due to exemptions listed in the bill that restricted most local governments from creating stricter reach codes for residential buildings.

Committee Discussion:

The Committee indicated that the Board is also learning of legislation updates from the Bay Area Air District as well as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Association of Bay Area Governments.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

6. RECEIVE UPDATE on Bay Area Regional Energy Network, and PROVIDE DIRECTION.

Attachments: [6a. BayREN Programs Overview](#)

Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, made presentation on Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) programs offered for residents, businesses, and local governments/special districts within the county.

Nicole Shimizu, Planner, described the single-family home programs that provide energy efficiency measures for residences. The Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EASE) Home program provides direct installation of core energy efficiency measures for moderate- to low-income households. Home Energy Score assesses the energy performance of residences and is now state-wide. The Green House Call program provides free energy efficiency toolkits sent to homes. This summer, the Green House Call program will be in-person in Contra Costa County.

Adam Scarbrough, Planner, presented information on the multi-family program and business program. The BayREN Business program provides incentives to contractors for completing energy efficiency projects at small businesses. The BayREN Refrigerant Replacement program replaces high global warming potential refrigerants with more environmentally friendly alternatives. The Codes and Standards program helps local jurisdictions and special districts to understand the State's building code and how to enforce it. There are multiple BayREN Public Programs that assist local governments and special districts with improving strategies for implementing all-electric building retrofits to reduce energy use and provide improved indoor air quality.

Committee Discussion:

Supervisor Gioia asked if this information is clearly available to the public.

Hardman-Saldana stated these BayREN programs, as well as every other sustainability and energy efficiency resource that staff is aware of, are all listed on the Sustainability website, with links to more information on the BayREN website.

Public Comment:

Jan Warren inquired about the funding sources for BayREN. Hardman-Saldana explained that BayREN is funded by the California Public Utilities Commission using ratepayer funds.

7. RECEIVE REPORT on subsidies and incentives currently available to County residents and businesses for appliances that meet requirements of pending regulations by the Bay Area Air District, and PROVIDE DIRECTION.

Attachments:

[7a. CCC Heat Pump Funding Options](#)

[7b. Appliance Rules Myths vs Facts V8r 092225 pdf](#)

[7c. Appliance Rules Potential Update](#)

Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, shared a document highlighting local and state rebate/incentive programs available to Contra Costa residents that are intended to help community members transition to all-electric water heaters as well as electric heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

Committee Discussion:

Supervisor Gioia recommended including Attachment A as a list of resources linked on the County's Sustainability website. The website states this list is made for helping community members find incentives and help regarding the new Air District heat pump rules. Gioia asked County staff to send them an email when the County Sustainability

website is updated with links to these programs in this attachment.

London explained that the model of Retrofit Navigators has worked well in other parts of the country and could be a viable model to pursue to ensure community members receive enough help to understand their options around paying for heat pumps when the Air District rules go into effect.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

8. RECEIVE REPORT on Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Annual Progress Report, as recommended by the Sustainability Commission, and REFER to Board of Supervisors for acceptance.

Attachments:

[8a. Draft Contra Costa County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan 2025 Progress Report](#)

Emily Groth, Planner, provided a verbal presentation summarizing the highlights of the County's progress in 2025 to implement the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). Groth noted that 2025 was the first year in which the CAAP was implemented for a full calendar year, after being adopted in November of 2024.

In 2025, over 50% of CAAP implementation actions were classified as Complete/Ongoing or On-track. The CAAP categories with the most progress were the Built Environment, Transportation, and Implementation. More progress is desirable in the coming years for the categories of Drought Resilience and Climate Equity.

Committee Discussion:

The Committee asked how this would be presented to the Climate Action Taskforce among County department leaders, and London explained there would be a slideshow to accompany the report. The Committee praised the draft report.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

9. RECEIVE Report from Sustainability Commission Chair, or Designee.

Shoshana Wechsler, Sustainability Commission Chair, gave a verbal report summarizing recent Sustainability Commission work. The Commission passed a resolution urging the Legislative Committee to support two bills, which were later withdrawn by their authors, that would establish a state climate super fund. The Commission is also concerned with whether adequate funding will be available to implement the CAAP's ambitious climate goals.

Wechsler described multiple bills being considered in the State legislature that would affect sustainability initiatives in the county.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

10. RECEIVE Report on staff activities that support sustainability goals.

Attachments:

[10a. 2026_02_23 Sust. Staff Report to Sust. CMSN v.2](#)

Jody London provided a verbal report on the Sustainability staff activities from

November 2025 to present. The County is moving ahead with two community leadership academies: the Shoreline Leadership Academy and Tree Plan Learning Academy. An advisory group to the Tree Plan has been launched as well. County staff are also busy with planning for the Bay Area Air District Community Benefits grants for the areas surrounding Richmond and Benicia. Other updates were detailed in the staff report attachment.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

11. **ADJOURN** until the next Sustainability Committee meeting to be held on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 1:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 pm.

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

DRAFT