



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

## Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Sustainability Commission

Jamie Duran, Business Seat 1  
Susan Hurl, 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  
Kiara Pereira, Environmental Justice Seat 1  
Sarah Foster, Environmental Justice Seat 2

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**Monday, February 23, 2026**

**5:00 PM**

**|| REVISED ||**

**1025 Escobar Street, Room 110**

**Martinez, CA 94553**

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#### 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 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 Commission.*

1. INTRODUCTIONS Call to order and Roll Call.

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

**Absent:** Susan Hurl, Business Seat 2

**Staff Present:** Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Dept. of Conservation and Development;

Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;  
 Emily Groth, Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;  
 Blake McPherson, Energy & Resilience Fellow, Dept. of Conservation and Development;  
 Jamar Stamps, Principal Planner, Dept. of Conservation and Development;  
 Jennifer Quallick, Chief of Staff, Office of Supervisor Andersen;  
 Alyson Greenlee Escarzaga, Economic Development Manager, Dept. of Conservation and Development

**Attendees:** Scott Alman, Carol Weed, Susan Harris, Benisa Berry, and Richard Free

**Present** Solomon Bellette, Jamie Duran, Christopher Easter, Sarah Foster, Luz Gomez, Howdy Goudey, Julie Haas-Wajdowicz, Devin Jackson, Kim Jones, Victoria Smith, and Shosana Wechsler

**Absent** Reilly Kent, Brandon Matson, Kiara Pereira, 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 (2) minutes).

*There was no public comment on this item.*

3. APPROVE Record of Action for December 8, 2025, Sustainability Commission Meeting.

**Attachments:** [Minutes 12.08.25](#)

*Chair Wechsler moved to approve the Record of Action. Second: Haas-Wajdowicz. The Record of Action was unanimously approved.*

4. ELECT OFFICERS for the Sustainability Commission for 2026.

*Gomez moved to nominate Chair Wechsler as Chair and Haas-Wajdowicz as Vice Chair for 2026. Both Wechsler and Haas-Wajdowicz accepted these nominations. Second: Jackson. After Commission discussion, Gomez amended the motion to nominate and vote on one role at a time, nominating Chair Wechsler as Chair for 2026. Second: Jackson. The motion was unanimously approved.*

*The Commission deliberated over the Vice Chair position. Commissioners noted that historically, the Commission has not conducted an election for a Chair or Vice Chair position in which the incumbent is willing to continue serving for another term.*

*Gomez motioned to nominate Haas-Wajdowicz as Vice Chair for 2026. Second: Foster. Votes Yes: Goudey, Wechsler, Belette, Gomez, Foster, and Haas-Wajdowicz. Votes No: Duran and Smith. Abstained: Jackson. The motion failed with 6 votes yes, 2 votes no, and 1 abstention. Smith motioned to continue with Vice Chair Matson as Vice Chair for the upcoming year. Second: Jackson. Votes Yes: Smith and Jackson. Votes No: Duran, Foster, Goudey, Wechsler, Gomez, Belette, and Haas-Wajdowicz. The motion failed with 2 votes yes and 7 votes no.*

*Foster motioned to retain Vice Chair Matson as Vice Chair until the next meeting and table voting on the Vice Chair position for the rest of 2026 until the next meeting. Second: Jackson. The motion was unanimously approved.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*There was no public comment on this item.*

5. REVIEW and Possible ADOPTION of Draft Contra Costa County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan 2025 Progress Report.

**Attachments:**                    [5. 2025 CAAP Progress Report Overview Presentation 02.23.26 Attachment B: Draft Contra Costa County CAAP 2025 Progress Report](#)

*Emily Groth, Planner from the Dept. of Conservation and Development, provided a visual presentation on the Draft Contra Costa County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) 2025 Progress Report. Groth provided annual updates for the 2025 calendar year compiled from at least 18 County departments. The report covered 29 CAAP strategies organized under 8 categories, including a total of 231 individual Implementation Actions.*

*Groth stated that for 2025, just over half of all CAAP Implementation Actions were reported as Complete/Ongoing or On-track. Two CAAP strategies with the largest percentage of Implementation Actions with Complete/Ongoing or On-track status were the Clean and Efficient Built Environment and the Clean Transportation Network, which are the two largest greenhouse gas emissions emitting sectors in Contra Costa County. The two CAAP strategies where the most action is needed to successfully implement CAAP actions are Climate Equity and Reduce Water Use and Increase Drought Resilience.*

*Updates presented of the County's CAAP implementation progress made in 2025 were grouped by overall strategies in the CAAP, such as Clean and Efficient Built Environment and No Waste Contra Costa. Some highlights of details presented include:*

- *The Clean Energy Roadmap for Existing Buildings was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on November 4, 2025.*
- *The Bay Point/Pittsburg Energy Enhancement Pilot Program that provides incentives for heat pump appliances was very successful, with all available rebates reserved in 2025.*
- *Keller Canyon Landfill operated the first renewable natural gas plant powered by captured landfill gas. This operation is estimated to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 62,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.*
- *Dept. of Conservation and Development and Public Works Dept. received multiple grants to fund bike and pedestrian improvements.*
- *Staff began implementing two academies for community members: the Resilient Shoreline Leadership Academy and the Neighborhood Tree Plan Academy.*
- *There were 20 year-round and 4 seasonal certified farmers' markets in the county.*
- *The Sustainability Fund was utilized to begin energy-efficient lighting upgrades and increase implementation of electric vehicle chargers at County facilities.*
- *Staff completed the greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the calendar year of 2023.*

***Commission Discussion:***

*The Commission discussed the details of the transit-oriented communities planning and implementation grants funded by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). Jamar Stamps, Principal Planner at Dept. of Conservation and Development, stated that the grants are technical assistance opportunities in which MTC hires a consultant to analyze a specific scope of work. The County partners with MTC for this work. Typically, the analysis looks at transportation station access gaps and determines opportunities to close bike and pedestrian gaps between major facilities and mobility corridors.*

*The Commission suggested correcting “leftover food” in slide 12 of the presentation to another word or phrase that does not include “leftover.” The Commission also recommended adding a legend for abbreviations to the report’s figure for CAAP Implementation Actions Progress by Category.*

*The Commission discussed the closure of the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Community Change Grant for \$19 million that was previously awarded to the County then cancelled in 2025. Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, explained that the County had to close out the grant with the federal government to not risk potentially losing all of the County’s federal grants.*

*The Commission suggested for next year’s report to include information about wildfire mitigation efforts from other Fire Protection Districts besides Contra Costa Fire Protection District that also cover some unincorporated areas of the county.*

*The Commission discussed challenges associated with estimating transportation-related emissions in the unincorporated county, including variability in data sources and limited staff capacity to conduct inventories.*

*Smith motioned to adopt the Draft CAAP 2025 Progress Report with the incorporation of suggestions of replacing “leftover food” and including a legend in the specified figure. Second: Wechsler. The motion passed unanimously.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*There was no public comment on this item.*

6. RECEIVE Report on Bay Area Regional Energy Network Programs.

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

*Demian Hardman-Saldana, Principal Planner at Dept. of Conservation and Development, provided a visual presentation on the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) programs offered through Contra Costa County. BayREN was formed in 2012 as one of the first two regional energy networks in the United States. BayREN has participation from all 9 Bay Area counties and has grown to offer 9 programs, up from 3 programs at the organization’s inception.*

*The BayREN Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EASE) program began in 2025 to cover 80% of core energy efficiency measures targeting moderate-income single-family households. EASE has received applications from low-income households as well, possibly because it offers more extensive services (like mold remediation) that similar program offerings for low-income households do not include.*

*Home Energy Score is a popular program that provides incentives to homeowners for contractors to inspect and rate aspects of the home’s energy efficiency. Home Energy Score started in the Bay Area but has now launched statewide. Over 1,000 participants used this program in the county in 2025.*

*The Green House Call program provides no-cost energy and water savings toolkits. This program also trains youth energy specialists to visit households and conduct energy audits. The Bay Area Multifamily Building Enhancements program offers free, no obligation technical assistance for building assessment and project scoping for multifamily buildings, such as apartment buildings. The program now has many extra incentives for multifamily buildings that are based on equity parameters and the owner’s intent to completely electrify the building(s). The BayREN Business program provides incentives to contractors for completing energy efficiency projects at small businesses. Similarly, the BayREN Refrigerant Replacement program will provide incentives to cover 80% of project costs to contractors to replace refrigeration systems or high global warming potential refrigerants in businesses, launching in 2026.*

*BayREN Public Programs help local governments and special districts improve energy performance and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in public buildings.*

*Commission Discussion:*

*The Commission discussed the possibility of BayREN partnering with the Electrify My Block program for neighborhood gas line removals to stack incentives and ensure satisfaction for both programs. Staff agreed to reach out to the Electrify My Block program.*

*The Commission suggested inviting MCE to present at a future meeting on their energy efficiency programs. Staff agreed to engage with MCE to see if they would be interested in presenting to the Commission.*

*PUBLIC COMMENT:*

*There was no public comment on this item.*

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

**Attachments:**      [7. 2026\\_02\\_23 Sust. Staff Report to Sust. CMSN v.2](#)

*Jody London provided a verbal report on recent and on-going staff activities that support sustainability goals. Some highlights include:*

- Staff are supporting two different learning academies for community members: the Resilient Shoreline Leadership Academy and the Neighborhood Tree Plan Academy.*
- As part of the Tree Plan development, an advisory working group is planned to begin meeting. This group includes County staff, partner agencies, and community members to advise the technical consultants for the Tree Plan's development.*
- The County plans to apply for funding through the Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund to renew the Bay Point/Pittsburg Energy Enhancement Pilot program that had all presently funded rebates reserved by community members.*
- A Request for Proposal was issued by the County to hire consultants to develop the Just Transition Economic Revitalization Plan. Applicants are currently being interviewed.*

*Commission Discussion:*

*London noted that the State has released a draft of a new CalEnviroScreen 5.0 website, redefining how disadvantaged communities are scored by the State. This update will change what communities in the county are considered disadvantaged communities, potentially impacting future funding for various communities in the county.*

*The Commission revisited the proposed letter of support of the Make Polluters Pay bills that was discussed at the prior Commission meeting. The bills were withdrawn from the State legislature by the authors and may return by the end of the 2026 legislative cycle or in the 2027 legislative cycle.*

*London added that the Bay Area Air District is issuing Community Investment Grants for communities affected by past Richmond and Benicia refinery violations. The grant applications are due in May of 2026.*

*The Commission discussed exploring ways in which all Commissions could be allowed to advise the Board of Supervisors' Committees directly.*

*PUBLIC COMMENT:*

*There was no public comment on this item.*

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

*There were no reports provided for this item.*

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

*There were no reports provided for this item.*

10. ADJOURN until the next Sustainability Commission meeting in 2026, date TBD.

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

### HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

DRAFT