



# CLIMATE & RESILIENCY COMMISSION MEETING

## REGULAR MEETING

# MINUTES

Wednesday, September 17, 5:30 PM  
City Hall Council Chambers  
635 S. Highway 101, Solana Beach, California

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Minutes contain a summary of the discussion and actions taken by the Climate & Resiliency Commission during a meeting. Climate & Resiliency meetings are audio recorded. The audio recordings capture the complete proceedings of the meeting and are available for review.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Buchanan called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

Present: Vice Chairperson Michelle Buchanan, Councilmember Zito, Commissioners Mika Nagamine, Cindi Gilliland, Heidi Dewar, Jenny Byars (arrived at 5:33), Ken Flagg

Junior Commissioners Cole Leshner and Beckett Caine

Absent: Chairperson Lane Sharman, Commissioner Rock; Junior Commissioners Lila Gilbert, Oona Norwell, Madeleine Boles

Also Present: Dan King, Assistant City Manager, Nicole Grucky, Sustainability Program Manager; Diana Jamaledine, Sustainability Management Assistant

### 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**Motion:** Moved by Zito. Seconded by Dewar. Approved 6/0/3 (Absent: Sharman, Rock, Byars)  
**Motion Carried.**

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 11, 2025

**Motion:** Moved by Gilliland. Seconded by Flagg. Approved 6/0/3 (Absent: Sharman, Rock, Byars)  
**Motion Carried.**

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

### 5. TREE REBATE PROGRAM PRESENTATION – City Staff

Ms. Grucky gave a presentation on the tree rebate program and provided updates on additions to the program since the last meeting. Ms. Grucky discussed the prioritization of location based on the existing tree canopy and including shorter trees to the Approved Tree List.

Vice Chairperson Buchanan recommended adding habitat creation as a key program benefit.

Commissioner Byars asked about canopy coverage zoning to assess tree density and recommended utilizing low-income data for prioritization as well. Ms. Grucky responded that tree

density will be assessed by quadrants with the consultant and that applicants would self-attest as low income when applying for this program.

Commissioner Dewar asked about complications regarding income and eligibility factors. Ms. Grucky agreed that this is something that staff are considering.

## **6. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PRESENTATION – City Staff**

Ms. Grucky gave a presentation on the status of the City's implementation of the Climate Action Plan and its relation to the proposed FY25/26 Budget and WorkPlan.

Councilmember Zito commented on the SANDAG Grant cycle coming up and recommended that staff apply and adjust Intra-city shuttle program plan to comply with potential grant qualifications. Ms. Grucky responded that staff created the RFP to define the project outline and prepare the City for grant qualifications, once they are released.

Commissioner Nagamine gave an update on the SANDAG Flexible Fleet and predicted that the Grant will open at the end of 2025 or beginning of 2026. Commissioner Nagamine and Councilmember Zito are concerned about the use of gas vehicles for a shuttle program and encourages reconsidering the use of EVs in the pilot program.

Commissioner Nagamine expressed concern about the 2-hour parking limit for the EV charging station at La Colonia. Ms. Grucky responded that the station is not meant to fully charge residents' cars, but rather to allow multiple people to charge their car while visiting La Colonia. Mr. King responds that the parking limit is a courtesy recommendation so that multiple community members can benefit from the station and it is not enforced.

Councilmember Zito asked if the City will attempt to readopt existing reach codes with the development of AB 130 and 306. Ms. Grucky confirms that staff plans to do this under one of the exemptions of the recent bills.

Commissioner Nagamine would like to include the IRA Heat Pump Water Heater incentive in an upcoming Weekly Update, since it is soon expiring. Commissioner Byars supports adding this information over multiple weeks. Ms. Grucky and Mr. King expressed concern about information fatigue but will request to include it in upcoming articles.

Vice Chairperson Buchannan requested included CEA programs as well.

Commissioner Dewar commented on Go Greenish efforts at Earl Warren and recommended utilizing them for restaurants during SB 1383 inspections and education efforts.

## **7. INVESTMENT & DIVESTMENT FROM FOSSIL FUELS – Commissioner Dewar & Melissa Fischel**

Ms. Fischel gave a presentation on request for the City to add environmental sustainability to investment policy and invest in fossil fuel companies.

Councilmember Zito commented on the City's position in fossil fuels investment and the complications with complete disinvestment due to unavoidable prioritizations for the City under state law.

Commissioner Dewar considered potential for new investment subcommittee. Councilmember Zito responded that the commission must choose certain items to prioritize instead of creating new subcommittees.

Mr. King recommended that commissioners attend budget and finance commission for further insight.

Commissioner Byars asked about CalPERS integration within City finances.

Mr. King states that about 6% of city investments are in fossil fuel companies and will mature in 2029. Councilmember Zito further explains the City's moderate investment strategy.

Commissioner Flagg asked about how and why making plastics is bad. Commissioner Dewar emphasized the resources required and the associated CO2 emissions with plastic production.

## **8. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT OUT**

- a) Pollinator Friendly City – Commissioner Dewar updated work on the Tree Rebate Program and City Hall Pollinator Garden to include irrigation and boulders. Commissioner Dewar thanks Ms. Grucky for nominating the SeaWeeders for a local award.
- b) Localized Energy – Vice Chairperson Buchannon provided an update on the success of the Solar Saturday event with almost 50 attendees. Vice Chairperson Buchannon recognized Junior Commissioners Cole Leshner, Beckett Kane, and Madelaine Boles for helping with the organization and sign-ups at the event. Vice Chairperson Buchannon recommends commissioners to participate in San Diego Climate Week.
- c) Community Outreach – Commissioner Gilliland provides update on research and ideas that the subcommittee is working on for potential e-blasts.
- d) Building Performance Standards – Councilmember Zito asks if subcommittee can move forward with AB 130. Ms. Grucky responds that focus should be on existing buildings. Ms. Grucky proposes CEA item on changing the default to 100% renewable energy in Solana Beach. Commissioners agree.
- e) Micro transit – Commissioner Nagamine update on SANDAG monitoring for Flexible Fleet Funding.
- f) Organizational and Prioritization – Commissioner Byars provides update on cost benefit analysis work by pulling methodology and assumptions from other local cities. Commissioner Byars discusses the potential for reviewing the Encinitas cost-benefit analysis document, once released, to determine whether a formal Solana Beach analysis is needed. Commissioner Byars proposes to include cost benefit analysis on the agenda to request funds.  
Commissioner Byars inquired about funding from organizations/individuals in Solana Beach and partnership with Kris Kelly. Mr. King and Commissioner Dewar support idea with certain guidelines and regulations. Commissioner Byars would like to create a proposal for a CAP vision document to foster community interest.

## **9. JUNIOR COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

Junior Commissioner Leshner emphasizes the success of Solar Saturday and offers further support for community-based events.

10. **NEW/PROPOSED BUSINESS:** New or proposed business provides an opportunity for Commissioners to discuss items not on the agenda but that may be added to the CAC agenda/workload at a future date. Pursuant to the Brown Act, there will be no action taken on these items.

Commissioner Byars proposed a presentation on cost-benefit analysis options and funding.

Commissioner Byars proposed a presentation on a vision statement.

Commissioner Buchanan proposed moving deep decarbonization action item proposed at the last meeting to the November meeting.

Commissioner Dewars requested a future presentation on the TREX recycling program and what can and cannot be recycled.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting is adjourned at 7:31 pm.

  
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Approved: 11/12/25

Diana Jamaledine, Sustainability Management Assistant