



CLIMATE & RESILIENCY COMMISSION MEETING

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 21st, 5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers
635 S. Highway 101, Solana Beach, California

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 5:33 PM

Present: Vice Chairperson Michelle Buchanan, Councilmember Zito, Commissioners Mika Nagamine, Cindi Gilliland, Heidi Dewar, Ken Flagg

Junior Commissioners Cole Leshner, Beckett Caine, Lila Gilbert, and Oona Norwell

Junior Commissioner Madeleine Boles arrived at 6:00 PM

Absent: Commissioners Rock and Byars

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

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Moved by Gililand. Seconded by Zito. Approved 6/0/2 (Absent: Rock, Byars)
Motion Carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 12, 2025

Motion: Moved by Dewar. Seconded by Zito. Approved 6/0/2 (Absent: Rock, Byars)
Motion Carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment from Lane Sharman about personal experience as a concerned Solana Beach citizen to encourage local leadership.

5. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PRESENTATION– City Staff

Ms. Grucky provided an update on CAP implementation efforts.

Commissioner Dewar commented that Heat Pump Water Heaters may not be fit for every household, as one wasn't able to be installed at her own house. Ms. Grucky responded that this is the purpose for the contractor incentive in the rebate program.

Commissioner Dewar inquired about the cost difference to opt-up to 100% renewable with CEA. Councilmember Zito responded that this cost is variable but is around \$2 per pay period. Commissioner Dewar asked a question about the number of EVs in Solana Beach.

Councilmember Zito commented on the potential for the City to adopt an electrification reach code. Ms. Grucky responded that this has been forwarded to legal, as the City's Climate Action Plan may not be sufficient as an exception.

Councilmember Zito recommended adding educational stickers to EDCO green waste bins.

Commissioner Nagamine asked how electrification is monetized for charging stations.

Vice Chairperson Buchanan recommended giving extra grant funds to small businesses to help them comply with the single use plastic ordinance. Staff responded that they would look into grant guidelines to see if this is a possibility.

Commissioner Dewar commented on commercial building solar development in El Cajon, as it relates to their cost-benefit analysis. Public comment responded to Commissioner Dewar's question about potential for adding rooftop solar in Solana Beach.

6. WORK PLAN WORKING SESSION – City Staff

Ms. Grucky provided an overview on current Work Plan followed by a working session to prioritize 2026-27 goals.

Commissioner Gililand asked for clarification on the 15-minute city analysis. Staff responded that this is an analysis to make everywhere in the city accessible within 15 minutes via walking, biking, or public transit.

Commissioner Dewar asked about the investment policy and recommended that staff wait for neighboring cities to come out with a cost benefit analysis before starting one for Solana Beach. Commissioner Dewar expressed a preference for prioritizing opting up to 100% renewable with CEA and working with EDCO to create stickers for green bin (waste sorting education and signage). Commissioner Dewar also offered an additional recommendation to begin a native sapling tree program.

Commissioner Gililand asked about a community solar analysis and how this could inform the development of a microgrid. Councilmember Zito commented that implementing a neighborhood microgrid is a challenging and long-term process.

Councilmember Zito expressed preference for the Urban Forestry Plan. Commissioner Dewar commented that there are local Forestry Plans to take inspiration from.

Commissioner Dewar asked about benefit of the e-bike safety classes. Councilmember Zito commented that he attended the class and has positive feedback on its role in the City. Vice

Chairperson Buchanan commented that the e-bike class could be great in conjunction with community bike rides.

Commissioner Nagamine inquired about separating locations to the west and east of the I-5 Freeway in the GHG inventory to address potential environmental factors such as wind direction.

Vice Chairperson Buchanan agreed with Commissioner Dewar to put a cost benefit analysis lower on the list.

Vice Chairperson Buchanan advised to add Rooftop Commercial Solar to the list.

Commissioner Flagg agreed that adding solar panels is an effective action and should be prioritized in the Work Plan.

Commissioner Dewar inquired about Tree Canopy Expansion budget in consideration for the cost of larger trees. City staff responded that the budget might need to be adjustable to account for planting mature trees.

Discussion about increasing rooftop solar coverage, considering public vs commercial vs residential. Staff recommended adding a Public Parking Solar item, if the goal is to increase on municipal facilities.

City Staff requested each Commissioner to list their top three priorities.

Commissioner Nagamine's top three priorities are Rooftop Commercial Solar, Community Solar Analysis, and the HPWH and Space Heating Rebate Program.

Vice Chairperson Buchanan's top three priorities are Rooftop Commercial Solar, the HPWH and Space Heating Rebate Program, and the Urban Forestry Analysis/Tree Canopy Expansion.

Councilmember Zito's top three priorities are the Cost Benefit Analysis, the Tree Canopy/Urban Forestry, and Commercial Solar.

Commissioner Dewar's top three priorities are Opting Up to CEA 100% Renewable, Commercial Solar, and Tree Canopy Expansion.

Commissioner Flagg's top three priorities are Opting Up to CEA 100% Renewable, Commercial and Public Parking Solar, and Tree Canopy Expansion.

Commissioner Gilliland's top three priorities are Opting Up to CEA 100% Renewable, Commercial or Public Parking Solar, and Tree Canopy Expansion.

7. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT OUT

- a) Pollinator Friendly City – Commissioner Dewar reported on the pollinator garden just planted in front of City Hall. Commissioner Dewar commented that she is brainstorming on next steps and discussed the potential for a registry of pollinator habitat and monthly garden highlights/tours with local businesses. She shared plans

to help with a Forestry Plan based on other cities. Staff commented that they have been making progress to add pollinator signage to gardens in the City.

- b) Localized Energy – Commissioner Flagg reported on research to increase solar energy, expedite permits, and approach commercial solar. Vice Chairperson Buchanan requested to see SDGE franchise agreement record, and if it is negotiable to terminate. City Staff responded that the franchise agreement is does not give the City much negotiating power to make modifications.
- c) Community Outreach – Commissioner Gilliland presented new ideas for the subcommittee to complete in the next year. This included the creation of a one-page climate action plan document, resident focused action guides based on CAP goals, and an informational series to help move residents from awareness to action. Commissioner Gilliland also recommended conducting a climate action survey about barriers and support and beginning a climate champion series on Instagram. Commissioner Dewars asked about viewers. Vice Chairperson Buchanan commented that a climate champion newsletter series would be exciting and effective. Junior Commissioner Leshner recommended doing an Instagram Reel CAP campaign.
- d) Microtransit – Commissioner Nagamine gave an update on the SANDAG Flexible Fleet Grant opportunity.

8. JUNIOR COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Junior Commissioners Gilbert and Boles presented on the Solana Beach clothing swap.

Commissioner Gilliland asked about the approximate age range of participants at the swap. Junior Commissioners Gilbert and Boles responded that community members of all ages attended the swap.

Commissioner Dewar commented that she would like to see this expand beyond clothes and asked where the leftover clothes went. City staff responded that excess clothing was donated or recycled, depending on their condition.

9. **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 Dewar inquired about the Council response to offshore drilling Council response. Councilmember Zito responded that Council added opposition to offshore drilling to the City's Legislative Policy.

Vice Chairperson Buchanan asked for an update on Fiesta del Sol sustainability preparation. City Staff responded that preparation is underway.

The Commission asked to reevaluate the subcommittees and who was in each subcommittee at the next meeting.

Ms. Grucky announced the ribbon cutting event to unveil the new Beach Toy Borrow Box at Fletcher Cove.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting is adjourned at 7:16 PM

Diana Jamaledine

Approved: 3/18/2026

Diana Jamaledine, Sustainability Management Assistant