



CLIMATE & RESILIENCY COMMISSION MEETING

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 20th, 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

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

Present: Chairperson Michell Buchanan, Vice Chairperson Cindi Gilliard, Councilmember David Zito, Commissioners Heather Rock, Ken Flagg, Mika Nagamine, Matthew Cleary, Heidi Dewar

Junior Commissioners Madeline Boles, Lila Gilbert, Cole Leshner, and Beckett Caine

Absent: Commissioner Jenny Byars and Junior Commissioner Oona Norvell

Also Present: Nicole Grucky, Sustainability Program Manager; Tiffany Wade, Associate Planner

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Moved by Gilliard. Seconded by Dewar. Approved 8/0/1 (Absent: Byars)
Motion Carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 18, 2026

Motion: Moved by Cleary. Seconded by Flagg. Approved 8/0/1 (Absent: Byars)
Motion Carried.

4. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

5. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PRESENTATION *(informal)* – City Staff

Ms. Grucky presented an update on Climate Action Plan Implementation.

Commissioner Gilliard said that the urban forestry plan can cost up to 100K. Ms. Grucky agreed and noted they are typically one-hundred-page documents. Commissioner Gilliard asked if there is an intermediate step that could be less costly. Ms. Grucky said that forestry plans are generally recommendations that are specific to a city. Chairperson Buchanan asked if our neighbors have this recommendation for their cities and if so, we could use it as a resource. Commissioner Dewar asked if the Commission should have a meeting with staff and that they have the beginnings of a tree list. The Coastal Rail Trail (CRT) replacement plans are mostly nonnative. Commissioner Dewar asked if the City could transition the CRT plants to something that is more consistent with the Mayor's Pledge. Councilmember Zito said this has not been discussed, but could be recommended to Council, especially with the Lomas Santa Fe Corridor project in progress.

Chairperson Buchanan asked if there is any interest in corporate partnership for EV chargers. Ms. Grucky said that none were interested in that model at our scale. She noted that the City's grant covered most of the cost, and they are required to maintain the equipment. Chairperson Buchanan asked how the decarbonization committee could help with the building performance standards. Ms. Grucky responded that staff is doing research that still needs to be reviewed before discussing it further.

6. NEW JUNIOR COMMISSIONER SELECTION (*action*)

Chairperson Buchanan recommended retaining current members and filling the two vacant seats. Commissioner Cleary proposed changing the bylaws to allow six (6) Junior Commission seats. Ms. Grucky noted that the bylaws cannot be changed at this meeting. Councilmember Zito noted that the number of Junior Commissioners was directed by Council.

Junior Commissioners speak in support of Lyra Graziano.

Councilmember Zito motioned to re-elect the existing three (3) Junior Commissioners (Lila Gilbert, Madeline Boles, Beckett Caine) and add Tess Franklin and Lyra Graziano.

Motion: Moved by Zito. Seconded by Gililand. Approved 8/0/1 (Absent: Byars)

Motion Carried.

7. OVERVIEW OF ENCINITAS COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS (*informal*) – Commissioner Flagg

Commissioner Flagg presented main takeaways from the Encinitas' Benefit Cost Analysis. The highest scoring measures are residential and municipal solar and battery photovoltaic systems. Commissioners discussed the meaning of positive and negative values, and what this means for the measures.

Commissioner Dewar asked if they calculated the dollar amount per metric tons of CO2. This was calculated per measure and is the last column in the summary chart. Ms. Grucky explained that the net cost per MTCO2 was estimated to be \$60 per metric ton.

Commissioner Flagg mentioned how there is a lower cost when residents are adopting electric appliances, for example, and the City does not have a lot of involvement beyond permitting. Commissioner Nagamine mentioned the benefit of San Diego Community Power and would like to mimic it. Councilmember Zito explained that Encinitas has all the benefit because they are enrolled in a default 100% renewable program. Ms. Grucky explained that the City is currently waiting to move forward with it due to rising electricity rates. Councilmember Zito explained that water conservation is beneficial in ways that are not reflected in the table, such as sewer systems that are designed with a certain flow rate. This is going down recently, could be tasked with pumping water to move sewer.

Commissioner Buchanan asked if the top two measures (municipal and residential solar) assume that the maximum amount of solar and battery has been added.

8. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

a) Pollinator Friendly City & Urban Forestry – Heidi Dewar

Commissioner Dewar said that they are planning to promote pollinator habitat and urban forestry but maybe take a step back and do something that is intermediary. They are looking at how to promote including trees in pollinator habitats. Their scope has expanded to help native birds, reduce pesticide use, etc. There will be a poster at Fiesta del Sol with the SeaWeeders. The sub-committee also hopes to get a better sense of pollinator habitats in Solana Beach.

b) Resiliency – Heather Rock

The subcommittee submitted their goal to explore best practices in wildfire resilience. The subcommittee plans to research 3 case studies of coastal communities that have implemented resilience plans and to look into SDGE's climate vulnerability plan. Commissioner Dewar asked how Commissioners should share information between subcommittees. Commissioners were directed to share information with staff.

c) Decarbonization – Ken Flagg

Subcommittee has been looking at how the City can increase solar and batteries locally, particularly in multi-family developments. HOA is interested, but don't know what to do. Ms. Grucky explains that connecting with HOA's is very helpful to staff.

d) Community Outreach – Cindi Gilliard

Commissioner Gilliard explained that the subcommittee met with city staff and will help them produce videos and other content to help explain the CAP.

9. JUNIOR COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Junior Commissioner Leshner shared that the most immediate opportunity for Junior Commissioners is volunteering at Fiesta del Sol and asks if there are other future opportunities.

Ms. Grucky noted that staff is planning another farmer's market and the next clothing swap in the fall.

- 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.

Chairperson Buchanan asked if there is a way to fast-track permitting time. Ms. Grucky responded that this has been considered by staff but can get complicated.

Councilmember Zito clarifies the difference between single-trade permits and larger projects requiring discretionary review and public hearings.

Commissioners and Staff discuss a potential meeting with permitting staff to discuss permitting time.

Commissioner Dewar requests to include an EDCO presentation in the next meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting is adjourned at 6:33 PM.



Diana Jama'eddine, Sustainability
Management
Assistant

Approved: 7/22/2026