CLIMATE & RESILIENCY COMMISSION MEETING

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, July 22nd, 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 Gilliand, Councilmember David Zito, and Commissioners Heather Rock, Ken Flagg, Mika Nagamine, Matthew Cleary

Commissioner Jenny Byars joined at 5:35 PM

Junior Commissioners Lyra Graziano and Tess Franklin

Absent: Commissioner Heidi Dewar, Junior Commissioners Madeline Boles, Lila Gilbert, and Beckett Caine

Also Present: Jocelyn Francis, Assistant City Manager; Nicole Grucky, Sustainability Program Manager; Diana Jamaleddine, Sustainability Management Assistant

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA *(action)*

Motion: Moved by Gililand. Seconded by Flagg. Approved 7/0/2 (Absent: Byars, Dewar)
Motion Carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES *(action)*

- May 20, 2026

Motion: Moved by Cleary. Seconded by Flagg. Approved 7/0/2 (Absent: Byars, Dewar)
Motion Carried.

4. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

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

Ms. Grucky provided an update on Climate Action Plan (CAP) implementation since the last CRC meeting, the inclusion of CAP priorities in the FY 26/27 Work Plan, and the new CAP Update dashboard on ClearGov.

Vice Chairperson Gililand asked if staff can add a section to ClearGov about what residents can do. Ms. Grucky explained that this may not make sense for a dashboard that is focused on CAP implementation updates only.

Commissioner Nagamine asked what a Fixit Clinic is and how the senior transportation program is doing. Staff responded that a Fixit Clinic is an organized event for the community to fix various broken items. Ms. Grucky provided an update on the transportation program [14 seniors have signed up and 9 rides have been scheduled].

Commissioner Rock asked about the status of the heat pump water heater (HPWH) rebate funds and what QuitCarbon is. Ms. Grucky responded that the rebate program has received 8 applications, and 4 out of the 8 rebates have been issued; a majority of funds remain. Commissioner Rock asked to include broader goals in the update presentation, in addition to specific priorities and projects.

6. COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS PRESENTATION *(informational)* – City Staff

Ms. Jamaleddine presented a review on the Encinitas Climate Action Plan Update and Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA).

Commissioner Byars agreed with overlaying GHG reduction estimates with low, medium, and high co-benefits to assess impact on Solana Beach, as well as feasibility, and who pays (residents vs. city vs. grant). Commissioner Byars stated how the 100% renewable default energy measure is paid by residents, for example.

Commissioner Nagamine asked why the implementation cost is so high for the active transportation measure. Ms. Jamaleddine responded that this measure is for large capital improvement projects such as constructing sidewalks, which would require high upfront costs.

Councilmember Zito commented that Encinitas' default energy is already 100% renewable, and inquired about how they calculated the ROI. Staff explained that this was likely included in the analysis to display the impact of what the city is already doing.

Commissioner Cleary asked about the $15,715 number included in the Solana Beach Tree Inventory and benefits slide. Ms. Jamaleddine responded that this is the estimated annual benefit for all City trees in Solana Beach.

Councilmember Zito commented that additional research can be done to further adapt the cost-benefit to Solana Beach.

Commissioner Byars agreed and recommended utilizing AI. Staff explained that the City does not yet have an AI policy.

Commissioner Flagg commented that this was a good overview of Encinitas' BCA.

7. EDCO OVERVIEW PRESENTATION *(informational)* – Commissioner Cleary

Commissioner Cleary provided an update and overview on EDCO. Commissioner Cleary's presentation included the history of EDCO, Solana Beach waste tonnage, SB 1383 compliance efforts, current diversion rates, and collection and processing challenges.

Commissioner Byars asked about how Solana Beach is doing by diverting 45% in comparison to other cities and what the target is. Commissioner Cleary responded that zero waste is the target for 2030/2045, but Solana Beach is doing very well in comparison.

Commissioner Flagg asked about what type of customers do the best at waste diversion. Commissioner Cleary responded that residential does the best, the most challenging is multifamily apartments, and commercial is in the middle.

Councilmember Zito asked about organics recycling numbers, and if there are state requirements for this. Staff responded that the City is on track to comply with state requirements.

Commissioner Cleary commented that the new most common 'wish cycle' items are clothes and textile waste, which are ending up in the blue bin recycling stream. Commissioner Cleary mentioned that Goodwill is a great way to properly recycle clothing. Councilmember Zito requested to add something about textile recycling to the Weekly Update.

Commissioner Cleary recommended EDCO's What Goes Where tool to prevent incorrect sorting.

Commissioner Cleary presented on EDCO's collaboration with the City for the compost hub at the Public Works Yard. Commissioner Rock asked how good EDCO's compost is. Commissioner Cleary responded that it is appropriate to use for a vegetable garden and was recently certified organic. Staff clarified that the hub is at 1764 Highland Drive.

Chairperson Buchanan asked about the 20% of items that are recyclable but not recycled. Commissioner Cleary explained that this percentage is mostly items that do not have an end market for recycling. Chairperson Buchanan asked about load fires caused by residents placing batteries in their curbside recycling carts and how we can educate the community about the dangers they pose.

Vice Chairperson Gililand asked about how she could enforce her multifamily residence to use the green bin. Commissioner Cleary responded that EDCO does this upon request by adding signage, providing free green bins and kitchen caddies, and providing education.

Chairperson Buchanan recommended coordinating Fiesta del Sol bin graphics to better match the utensils and compostable items from the vendors. Staff responded that this is hard because the EDCO bins between all events are the same. Staff had previously added informational signage about what to compost at the tables in the food court.

8. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES *(informational)*

a) Pollinator Friendly City & Urban Forestry – Vice Chairperson Gililand provided an update on the group's progress on reviewing Urban Forestry Plans, including one done by Carlsbad. Gililand explained that she understands how an urban forestry plan is a large lift. Chairperson Buchanan provided an update on recent collaboration with the SeaWeeders.
b) Resiliency – Commissioner Byars provided an update on the subcommittees goal of looking at three comparable case studies of resiliency plans. The subcommittee is in their research phase and are narrowing it down to see which studies might provide lessons and best practices to apply to Solana Beach.
c) Decarbonization – Commissioner Flagg provided an update that single family homes are doing well with installing solar panels in Solana Beach. The subcommittee is looking for ways to reach multifamily homes, which is more of a challenge. They are reaching out to local complexes and plan to meet with a few soon. Gililand recommended COOSA. Chairperson Buchanan explained that she had reached out to them.
d) Community Outreach – Commissioner Gililand explained that she is working on an excel sheet with a list of community stakeholders to reach out to. The subcommittee expressed recent roadblocks they've been experiencing and asked staff how to better approach communication efforts. Staff explained that the subcommittee could shift their focus to outreach and find areas that the City may not already be reaching.

9. JUNIOR COMMISSIONER UPDATES *(informational)*

The new Junior Commissioners introduced themselves.

Commissioner Buchanan explained that they can join their preferred subcommittees by emailing Ms. Grucky.

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 CRC agenda at a future date. Pursuant to the Brown Act, there will be no action taken on these items.

Commissioners Byars and Rock agreed to present an update from the resiliency subcommittee next meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting is adjourned at 7:20 PM

Diana Jamaleddine

Approved: 9/16/2026

Diana Jamaleddine, Sustainability Management Assistant