



Record of Action

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**
An Advisory Body to the Board of Supervisors

**April 22, 2019
5:00 P.M.
30 Muir Road, Martinez, CA**

Nick Despota, Vice-Chair, Member, District 1
Shoshana Wechsler, Alternate, District 1
Victoria Smith, Member, District 2
Ryan Buckley, Alternate, District 2
John Sierra, Member, District 3

Gretchen Logue, Alternate, District 3
Wes Sullens, Member, District 4
Travis Curran, Alternate, District 4
Charles Davidson, Member, District 5
Vacant, Alternate, District 5

Harry Thurston, At-Large, Community Group
Vacant, At-Large, Business
Vacant, At-Large, Business
Vacant, At-Large, Environmental Justice
Kim Hazard, At-Large, Education
Vacant, At-Large, Community Group

**Agenda
Items:**

Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

- Present:** Nick Despota, Vice-Chair, Member, District 1
Victoria Smith, Member, District 2
Ryan Buckley, Alternate, District 2
John Sierra, Member, District 3
Gretchen Logue, Alternate, District 3
Wes Sullens, Member, District 4
Travis Curran, Alternate, District 4
Harry Thurston, At-Large, Community Group
Kim Hazard, At-Large, Education
- Absent:** Shoshana Wechsler, Alternate, District 1
Charles Davidson, Member, District 5
- Staff Present:** Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator
Will Nelson, Department of Conservation and Development
Jessica Barrett, CivicSpark Fellow, Department of Conservation and Development
Michael Kent, Hazardous Materials Ombudsman
Chris Wiler, Field Representative, Supervisor Mitchoff
Dom Pruett, Field Representative, Supervisor Andersen
Warren Lai, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works
- Attendees:** Marti Roach, Carol Weed, Jan Warren, Eli Krispi, Tammy Seale, Devin Jackson, Lynn McGuiren, Ogie Strogatz, Rick Bikoff, Andrew Chahour, Sara Gurdian, Felipe Solis

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

Andrew Chahour commented that there are new weed abatement standards in Contra Costa County that he believes could impact fire prevention efforts. The new standards increase the setback requirement. Will Nelson said that the updated General Plan, expected to be complete by the end of 2020, will include measures related to fire, and pointed out that some codes are mandated by the State. Michael Kent said that the County's Integrated Pest Management Advisory Board looks at issues related to roadside maintenance in the unincorporated County.

4. APPROVE Record of Action for February 25, 2019 meeting.

The Record of Action was approved unanimously.

Motion: Smith Second: Hazard

5. RECEIVE Presentation on Emissions Inventory for 2019 Climate Action Plan Update

Tammy Seale and Eli Krispi from PlaceWorks, the consultants on the County's General Plan and Climate Action Plan (CAP) updates, discussed the importance of the CAP as a strategic implementation document that complements the General Plan. The General Plan provides vision and goals and extends through 2040; the CAP is focused on a 5-10 year horizon and is more action-oriented. The CAP should be flexible and easy to revise, providing more opportunity for impact.

Seale noted that the scope of the CAP Update has expanded to include an update to the County Operations CAP.

Seale reviewed the timeline for CAP activities. In April and May the team will host community meetings for the General Plan and CAP. They are all listed at EnvisionContraCosta2040.org and will include information and gather community input on issues related to the CAP. There also will be community meetings on specific topics, including climate action, later in Q2 and Q3.

This evening PlaceWorks is presenting the initial emissions inventory. At the June Sustainability Commission meeting PlaceWorks will present the preliminary results of the vulnerability assessment, which looks at areas of particular sensitivity. At the August meeting will begin opportunities to identify specific measures for the CAP.

Krispi reviewed the process for developing the emissions inventory. Overall, emissions in the unincorporated County using the new baseline year of 2017 are down 13% from the first inventory conducted in 2005. He observed that emissions in most sectors have decreased, and that on-road transportation continues to be by far the largest source of emissions. He also noted that the non-residential building data is incomplete because of challenges obtaining the data from PG&E. PlaceWorks is using 2013 building data as a placeholder. Jody London observed that this is an ongoing, statewide problem.

On the question of emissions from large industrial sources, the County has little control over these stationary sources, which are regulated by the State and regional agencies including the

Bay Area Air Quality Management District and Regional Water Quality Control Board. The State does not require that local CAPs include large stationary sources. Commission members expressed interest in seeing them included for comparison.

Krispi reviewed the process and methodology for developing the emissions forecast. He noted that there are some reductions mandated by the State that are factored in to the inventory. In terms of setting target dates, PlaceWorks recommends setting targets for 2030 and 2050, consistent with State targets and guidance.

Commission members asked for data on sensitive communities, which would allow the Commission to consider how to ensure those communities are able to take advantage of programs that can reduce emissions, for example energy efficiency. Commission members suggested they might form working groups to collaborate with the consultants on recommendations for specific sectors.

Marti Roach offered public comment, suggesting the Commission might want to discuss options for higher target and what has been done elsewhere.

6. CONSIDER proposal from Member, District 1, to Recommend the Use of Carbon-Neutral Building Materials in County Projects.

Nick Despota described a proposal for the Board of Supervisors to use the County's procurement process to specify the use of manufactured limestone aggregates that contain captured and sequestered carbon dioxide for concrete in County-funded projects. Warren Lai, Deputy Director, Contra Costa County Public Works Department, explained to the Commission that the County uses concrete in horizontal projects (i.e., roads) and vertical projects (i.e., buildings). Lai described the process of adopting materials specifications and the County's reliance on standard-setting entities like CalTrans. Lai also described the process the County uses to vet new materials. He said the County look for opportunities to use recycled materials on-site and avoid transportation costs.

Commission members discussed potential opportunities to learn from work occurring in other counties, particularly Alameda and Marin. They also expressed concern about the wording of the current proposal.

The Commission voted unanimously to direct Nick Despota and Wes Sullens to explore the proposal with County staff.

Motion: Smith Second: Sullens

7. ADOPT Environmental Justice Rubric Developed by the Commission's Environmental Justice Working Group and RECOMMEND Its Use in Updating the County's General Plan.

The Commission discussed the proposed rubric. Will Nelson, County staff, clarified that the General Plan is a land-use planning document. Michael Kent, County staff, recalled that when the County adopted an Environmental Justice policy in 2003, there was someone in the County Administrator's Office who was charged to work with all departments on how to implement the policy. That position was not refilled after the Great Recession. Kent noted that the Hazardous Materials Commission has investigated and reported back to the Board of Supervisors on this topic several times. After further discussion, the group determined that it will further refine this proposal and bring it back at the next meeting.

8. DISCUSS Community Organizations to Consult in Preparation of the County's General Plan Update and PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS to Staff.

The group discussed the importance of having broad participation in the General Plan and Climate Action Plan updates. Will Nelson said there is interest in identifying more contacts with non-governmental organizations, etc. The group directed the Sustainability Coordinator to set up an online document where members can post suggestions.

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

Victoria Smith reported that she participated in the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Working Group for the General Plan Update.

Gretchen Logue reported that Tanya Drlik, the County's Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, has retired. A search is ongoing for her replacement.

Ryan Buckley reported that the Outreach working group is organizing to conduct an inventory of environmental groups in the County and will report back.

10. RECEIVE Report from Sustainability Coordinator.

Jody London summarized the written report included with the agenda. The Commission directed London to send a letter of support from the Sustainability Commission to the California Public Utilities Commission regarding the value of the Bay Area Regional Energy Network.

11. RECEIVE Report from Sustainability Commission Chair and IDENTIFY TOPICS for next report to Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability.

The group recommended the following items be highlighted for the Board of Supervisors Sustainability Committee:

- *Environmental justice rubric and potential applicability to the Climate Action Plan and General Plan updates.*

- *Emissions inventory presentation. Note that the Commission is still working on this and will want more detailed demographic information.*

12. The next meeting is currently scheduled for June 24, 2019.

13. Adjourn