



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION 2019 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2020 WORK PLAN

PURPOSE

The Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission was created to:

- A. Advise the Board of Supervisors and staff on successful implementation of the *Climate Action Plan*, including suggestions on how that work can be performed more efficiently and effectively.
- B. Advise the Board of Supervisors on opportunities to realize equity and fairness across the diverse communities of Contra Costa County in sustainability programs that support the *Climate Action Plan*.
- C. Advise the Board of Supervisors and staff on how to better engage Contra Costa County residents and businesses on sustainability issues and implementation of the *Climate Action Plan*.

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The current members of the Sustainability Commission are:¹

Howdy Goudey, At-Large, Community Group, Chair	Charles Davidson, Member, District 5
Nick Despota, Member, District 1, Vice Chair	Renee Fernandez-Lipp, Alternate, District 5
Shoshana Wechsler, Alternate, District 1	Harry Thurston, At-Large, Community Group
Victoria Smith, Member, District 2	Russell Driver, At-Large, Business
Ryan Buckley, Alternate, District 2	Nicholas Snyder, At-Large, Business
John Sierra, Member, District 3	Doria Robinson, At-Large, Environmental Justice
Mike Moore, Alternate, District 3	Sarah Foster, At-Large, Environmental Justice ²
Wes Sullens, Member, District 4	Kim Hazard, At-Large, Education
Travis Curran, Alternate, District 4	

The Commission meets the fourth Monday in February, April, June, August, October, and December, at 5:00 p.m., at 30 Muir Road, Martinez, unless a different location has been determined. The December meeting is earlier in the month. Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, is lead staff. All members have completed the mandatory training. The Sustainability Commission has been asked to provide a representative to the County's Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee; Kim Hazard is filling that role.

The Chair and other members of the Commission participate in meetings of the Board of Supervisors' Sustainability Committee. The Commission receives briefings from County staff and representatives of other agencies and groups on a range of issues related to the Climate Action Plan. The Commission spent the majority of its time in 2019 advising staff on the ongoing updates to the County's General Plan and Climate Action Plan. Below is a summary of the Commission's 2019 accomplishments.

¹ Several members of the Sustainability Commission resigned during 2019. The Commission thanks Gretchen Logue (Alternate, D3), Mark Thomson (Alternate, D5), and Kathy Cutting (At-Large, Business) for their service.

² The Board of Supervisors in 2019 created an additional seat for Environmental Justice, designating that the two seats should reflect the geographic diversity of the County.

Topic	Accomplishments
Climate Action Plan Update	The Commission received reports from staff and consultants on components of the Climate Action Plan. Commission members developed recommendations for goals and strategies for the Climate Action Plan. Commission members assisted the Sustainability Coordinator in planning and conducting four community engagement meetings specific to the Climate Action Plan. Nearly 75 people attended one of the four meetings, which were held across the County.
General Plan Update	The Commission appointed one of its members to the Technical Advisory Working Group for the General Plan Update. The Commission provided input to staff and consultants on outreach, environmental justice, sustainability, and health aspects of the General Plan Update. The Commission provided input to the vulnerability assessment. Commission members participated in General Plan community meetings.
County Transportation Expenditure Ban	The Commission recommended to the Board of Supervisors priorities for the Transportation Expenditure Plan developed by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. These priorities were conveyed to the CCTA Board.
Polystyrene Ban	The Commission continued to provide recommendations to staff and the Board of Supervisors regarding the polystyrene ban adopted by the Board in September 2019.
Electric Vehicle Deployment	The Commission received updates on the Electric Vehicle Readiness Blueprint developed by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. Members of the Commission participated in the stakeholder meetings for the project.
Carbon-Neutral Building Materials	The Commission recommended County staff explore options for using carbon-neutral materials in buildings and roads. Commission members assisted County staff in identifying pilot programs in other jurisdictions and becoming more familiar with options.
Realizing Equity and Fairness	The Commission adopted an environmental justice assessment tool and recommended it to County staff for use in updating the General Plan and Climate Action Plan. (See attached.)
Communication and Engagement	Commission members helped promote the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge.
Climate Emergency Mobilization Resolution	The Commission researched climate emergency mobilization resolutions adopted by other jurisdictions. The Commission recommended the Board refer deliberation on whether to adopt a similar recommendation to the Sustainability Committee, which referral happened on November 19, 2019.
Adapting to Rising Tides	Members of the Commission have monitored the ongoing ART-East Contra Costa project.

2020 WORK PLAN

The Commission will continue to report to the Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability, as well as to the full Board. Projects and initiatives related to the *Climate Action Plan* on which the Commission anticipates it may advise the Board of Supervisors and staff include:

- General Plan Update
- *Climate Action Plan* update
- Integrating equity and environmental justice into the *Climate Action Plan* and related documents and projects

- Identifying and pursuing opportunities to develop green benefits districts throughout the County
- Electric Vehicle Readiness Blueprint implementation
- Advocacy on issues related to the *Climate Action Plan*
- Potential health impacts of climate change
- Building electrification
- Carbon-neutral building materials
- A climate emergency resolution
- Increasing resilience to climate-related disasters and incidents, including the Adapting to Rising Tides studies for Eastern Contra Costa County and the Bay Area region and Public Safety Power Shutoffs
- Outreach and education on sustainability to Contra Costa County residents and businesses
- Other issues in the Climate Action Plan, including water conservation and drought; land use and public transportation, including pedestrian and bicycle access; energy efficiency and renewable energy; and recycling and composting.