



Record of Action

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

**Monday, February 22, 2021
5:00 P.M.**

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

Agenda Items:

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

Present: Nick Despota, Member, District 1
 Shoshana Wechsler, Alternate, District 1
 Victoria Smith, Member, District 2 Mike Moore, Alternate, District 3
 Wes Sullens, Member, District 4, Chair
 Travis Curran, Alternate, District 4
 Charles Davidson, Member, District 5
 Renee Fernandez-Lipp, Alternate, District 5
 Russell Driver, At-Large, Business
 Harry Thurston, At-Large, Community Group
 Howdy Goudey, At-Large, Community Group
 Sarah Foster, At-Large, Environmental Justice, Vice Chair

Absent: Ryan Buckley, Alternate, District 2
 John Sierra, Member, District 3
 Marisha Farnsworth, At-Large, Business
 Isabella Zizi, At-Large, Environmental Justice
 Kim Hazard, At-Large, Education

Staff: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Conservation and Development
 Will Nelson, Advance Planner, Conservation and Development
 Justin Sullivan, Business Recycling and Organics, Conservation and Development
 Michele Mancuso, Watershed Mgmt. Planning Specialist, Public Works
 Nicole Shimizu, Climate Corps Fellow, Conservation and Development

Attendees: Marti Roach, Joanna Jansen, Sadie Wilson, Valerie Jamison

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. APPROVE Record of Action for December 14, 2020 meeting.

The Record of Action was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Foster

SECOND: Thurston

4. ELECT OFFICERS for the Sustainability Commission for 2021.

Victoria Smith nominated Wes Sullens for Chair. The Commission voted unanimously for Wes Sullens to become the new Sustainability Commission Chair.

Wes Sullens nominated Sarah Foster for Vice Chair. The Commission voted unanimously for Sarah Foster to become the new Sustainability Commission Vice Chair.

5. ADOPT CALENDAR for 2021.

Nick Despota motioned to adopt the Sustainability Commission calendar for 2021. The Commission voted unanimously to approve this motion.

MOTION: Despota

SECOND: Foster

6. RECEIVE UPDATE on Draft Environmental Justice Policies for General Plan.

Joanna Jansen presented an update on the Draft Environmental Justice Policies for the General Plan update otherwise known as Envision Contra Costa 2040. Jansen emphasized the importance of engaging the community in decision-making and the role the community profiles played in identifying the goals and priorities of disadvantaged communities. Jansen acknowledged the past General Plan presentations made to the Sustainability Commission and focused her update on the public outreach being conducted to get more input on the draft policies. Jansen emphasized the recent February Countywide open house events focused on environmental justice and the two surveys distributed to get more community input on the Draft Environmental Justice Policies. Feedback on the draft Environmental Policies will be compiled and synthesized for the next revision. Jansen offered an overview of the Environmental Justice Policies goals and outlined the next steps to ultimately weave these Environmental Justice policies throughout the General Plan.

The Commission posed questions to Jansen about the proliferation of alcohol outlets and including a Just Transition in the Environmental Justice Policies

During public comment, Marti Roach noted the importance of ensuring that industries, not communities, are responsible for cleaning up industrial pollution.

The Commission asked how it could continue its involvement in the Environmental Justice Policies process. Jansen requested that the Commission spread information about the Environmental Justice Policies broadly to the community.

Will Nelson, Advance Planner for Contra Costa County, made a note of the County's lack of legal authority when it comes to imposing decommissioning requirements upon facilities that predate permitting and zoning.

7. RECEIVE PRESENTATION on Green Benefits Districts Research.

Sadie Wilson presented her research on Green Benefits Districts. Wilson's presentation gave an overview of special districts, the history of Green Benefits Districts, and dove deep into the benefits of a special kind of district – a Community Climate Resilience District (C²RD) – that would give power back to local communities in addressing their adaptation investment needs. Wilson's research evaluates existing district types in search of a framework that would best suit Contra Costa's needs and give local communities both the agency and the funding needed to address their future climate adaptation needs. Wilson asked the Commission what elements and functions of a C²RD are essential as well as who should be at the table and be in charge of running the District.

The Commission had several questions regarding special districts' authority over industry, geographic continuity, and similarities to a joint power authority. Wilson noted that many of these specifics would be determined by how the special district is formed

8. RECEIVE UPDATE on Solid Waste Programs and Policies.

Justin Sullivan presented an overview of how Senate Bill 1383's (SB 1383) implementation and enforcement will affect County operations. SB 1383's two main goals are organic waste reduction and recovery of currently disposed edible food. Sullivan explained SB 1383's impact on all County departments and gave an overview of the jurisdiction's responsibilities as outlined in SB 1383, which include providing organic waste collection services to all residents and businesses, establishing edible food recovery programs, and enforcement.

The Commission had a number of questions regarding the County's existing capacity to process organic waste. Sullivan responded that composting facilities currently have adequate capacity. Sullivan added that two of the County's four waste haulers provide food waste collection services and the other two are altering their agreements to account for food waste collection by January 2022, in alignment with timeline set by SB 1383.

Jody London added that the Climate Action Plan interim work plan will include the SB 1383 implementation effort.

Sullivan noted that he is happy to update about recycling or other waste issues at future Commission meetings.

9. RECEIVE UPDATE from Just Transition Working Group, and PROVIDE DIRECTION as needed.

Nick Despota and Mike Moore presented the final work product of the Just Transition working group. The group's first action brought the Just Transition letter written and signed by community groups to the Commission to recommend to the Sustainability Committee and the Board.

Despota recommended the Commission read the principles outlined in Carol Zabin's report "Putting California on the High Road: A Jobs and Climate Action Plan for 2030" and to keep the report recommendations in mind when relevant to the Commission's work.

During public comment, Valerie Jamison from Richmond LAND mentioned Richmond LAND's interest in staying in contact about Just Transition and commended the Commission on its report. Marti Roach asked how work on Just Transition would continue. Jody London clarified the Commission is not done with its work on Just Transition; the Just Transition working group has concluded.

10. RECEIVE UPDATE on and DISCUSS Implementation of Climate Emergency Resolution.

Jody London updated the Commission on the Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force's progress. Staff continues to conduct research on Just Transition and Green Empowerment Zones. A building electrification reach code will be going to the Sustainability Committee in March and to the Sustainability Commission in April. London directed people to the staff report included in the agenda for a full report.

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

Victoria Smith thanked Harry Thurston for his dedication to the Commission since the very beginning and thanked Howdy Goudey for his work as the Commission Chair for the last two years.

12. RECEIVE Report from Sustainability Coordinator.

Jody London referred people to the written report in the agenda. London noted that earlier in the day the Sustainability Committee interviewed eleven applicants for the Commission's four open at-large seats.

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

Howdy Goudey voiced his appreciation for Harry Thurston and Russell Driver's work on the Commission.

Wes Sullens stated that he would update the Sustainability Committee on topics discussed at this meeting and the Commission's 2021 calendar.

14. The next meeting is currently scheduled for April 26, 2021.

15. Adjourn