CITY OF SAN DIEGO RESILIENCY ADVISORY BOARD FISCAL YEAR 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Table of Contents

Introduction to the Resiliency Advisory Board	
Board Membership	
Doard Membership	
Summary of the Fiscal Year 2025 Work Plan	
Board Achievements in Its First Year	
Issues and Recommendations	
Looking Ahead to Fiscal Year 2026	1
Appendix	1!



Image Credit: Cynthia Rose Harris

Introduction to the Resiliency Advisory Board

limate Resilient San Diego is the City of San Diego's comprehensive climate adaptation and resiliency plan, adopted on December 14, 2021. Resiliency, as defined by the plan, is the capacity to respond to and recover from climate change hazard events and trends and maintain essential services, while also providing new equitable opportunities for a thriving future.²

The concept applies as much to the City of San Diego's (City) human residents and communities as to property and public infrastructure, our non-human relatives and their habitat, and the region's diversity of natural resources and cultural landscapes. The challenge lies in recognizing our greatest areas of exposure, identifying and addressing vulnerabilities, and fortifying our ability to adapt to a changing climate.

The San Diego City Council established the eleven-member Resiliency Advisory Board (Board) in 2023.³ The Board's mandate is to advise the Mayor, City Council, and relevant departments on policies and strategies that enhance San Diego's resilience to climate-related hazards. The Board supports initiatives such as the Climate Resilient SD Plan, Biodiverse SD, and the Climate Action Plan Strategy 5, focusing on resilient infrastructure and healthy ecosystems. The Climate Advisory Board is its counterpart with jurisdiction over climate, environmental justice, climate equity, sustainability, and energy policy.⁴

The City Council appointed the inaugural board on August 1, 2024, and the Board held its first meeting on September 19, 2024. Its initial three meetings of 2024 centered on establishing a solid foundation for the Board's subsequent activities in 2025. This Annual Report aims to highlight the Board's accomplishments during the fiscal year in a clear and concise manner that holds the Board accountable, by City leadership and the broader public alike, for achieving both its mandate under the Municipal Code and its own adopted goals for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.).

¹ https://www.sandiego.gov/climate-resilient-sd/plan; City of San Diego, Press Release, San Diego City Council Adopts First-Ever Comprehensive Climate Resiliency Plan (Dec. 14, 2021), https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12-14 climate resilient sd adoption.pdf.

² City of San Diego, Climate Resilient San Diego, 2.

³ City of San Diego, Ord. No. O-21625, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article 6, Division 10 of the San Diego Municipal Code by Retitling Division 10, Amending Sections 26.1001 and 26.1002, and Adding New Section 26.1003, Relating to Establishing the Resiliency Advisory Board and Disbanding the Wetlands Advisory Board ⁴ San Diego Muni Code §§ 26.1001–26.1003.

Board Membership

an Diego's inaugural Resiliency Advisory Board consists of eleven members, nine appointed by City Councilmembers to represent each of the nine council districts, and two appointed by the Mayor. It represents a cross-section of communities, professional experience, and subject-matter experience including biodiversity, carbon markets, environmental justice, environmental law, flood mitigation, Indigenous rights, marine biology, public infrastructure, renewable energy, sea level rise, sustainable development, urban planning, and water quantity and supply. The Board today encompasses six Council Districts and prioritizes appointing members from Council Districts Four, Eight, and Nine by mid-2026.



Cynthia Rose Harris Chair, District 2 Member



Eric James Lardy Vice Chair, District 6 Member



Jamie Garrett Secretary, General Member



Andrew Meyer General Member



Ian Clampett
District 1 Member



Erika Morgan District 3 Member



Stan M WilliamsDistrict 5 Member



A-bel Yee Gong District 7 Member

Summary of the Fiscal Year 2025 Work Plan

he Resiliency Advisory Board adopted its Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Work Plan on February 20, 2025.⁵ Its key elements are:

- One Primary Goal and two Priority Goals to ensure the Board met its duties and functions under San Diego Municipal Code §26.1003. The *Primary Goal*, anticipated to remain substantially the same in succeeding Work Plans, was to evaluate and advise the Mayor and City Council on proposed climate resilience- and biodiversity-related plans, regulations, and initiatives. *Priority Goal 1* was to establish a strong foundation for the Board itself, and *Priority Goal 2* focused on the substantive issue of improving community resiliency to wildfires. The full Work Plan holds the Board accountable to achieving these goals by outlining specific Objectives and Action Items.
- Resilience Topics, discrete, climate resilience- or conservation-related topics to which the Board
 dedicates a portion of each meeting. Each reflects a concern critical to the City and is guided by
 both current events and public interest. Resilience Topics are selected and identified by individual
 Board members on a rotating basis. The following section summarizes the Resilience Topics
 covered.
- Meeting dates and deliverables, or a calendar of upcoming meetings holding the Resiliency Advisory Board accountable for achieving specific actions and activities.
- Accountability, listing a set of measures by which Board members can ensure, individually and
 collectively, that they fulfilled their duties and responsibilities.

⁵ City of San Diego 2025 Resiliency Advisory Board Work Plan, https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/rab-annual-work-plan-final-adopted.pdf (Feb. 20, 2025). *See also* Appendix.

Board Achievements in Its First Year

The Resiliency Advisory Board held meetings and regular meaningful progress toward its three strategic goals outlined in its adopted Fiscal Year 2025 Work Plan. As City leadership created the Board to support the City in evaluating and connecting climate-related initiatives, identifying tradeoffs, advising on plans and policies through a resilience lens, these meetings provided a collaborative space for stakeholder engagement and recommendations that promote a more resilient and equitable city.

Primary Goal

Evaluate and advise on climate resilience and biodiversityrelated plans, policies, and initiatives.

Priority Goal 1

Establish a Strong Foundation: Adopt bylaws, fill vacancies, create subcommittees, and launch community outreach.

Priority Goal 2

Improve Community Resilience to Wildfires: Identify and evaluate wildfire-related risks, invite presentations, analyze policies, and advise leadership.

Key Milestones

- Formal adoption of bylaws and establishment of standing meetings (Priority Goal 1). Bylaws provide the Board with a clear governance framework and reliable schedule for meetings, improving participation, accountability, and public trust.
- Launch of community engagement efforts, including recruitment of new board members to fill vacancies and broaden representation (Priority Goal 1). Expanded awareness of Resiliency Advisory Board with focused outreach to Communities of Concern to strengthen equity in decision-making and advice to City leadership. Created a replicable structure for engagement while raising public awareness of resilience issues.
- Meetings that provided opportunities for public participation both in-person and via Zoom to enhance accessibility (Priority Goal 1). Increased transparency and inclusion, giving residents more opportunities to participate who otherwise could not attend in person.
- Coverage of diverse Resilience Topics with invited speakers, including climate action, biodiversity, wildfire resilience, and food systems (Primary Goal). Brought expert knowledge into Board discussions and deliberations, ensuring that Board recommendations to City leadership reflect current best practices and research.
- Review of major proposed and existing city plans such as the Coastal Resilience Master Plan, Climate Action Plan Strategy 5, and Natural Resource Management Plans (Primary Goal). Enabled the Board to evaluate cross-departmental initiatives through a resiliency lens and provide early recommendations, helping align City policies with state mandates and community resilience needs.

The Resiliency Advisory Board in its first year not only built the organizational foundation required for effective operation, but also established itself as a credible, accessible, and forward-looking advisory body. By pairing structure with active community engagement, bringing in expert perspectives, and reviewing critical City plans, the Board has begun to shape actionable, equity-centered recommendations. These achievements position the Board to play a stronger role in ensuring San Diego's climate resilience strategies are coordinated, transparent, and responsive to both City leadership and community needs.

Summary of Meeting Minutes

Month	Activity	Description	Goal
Sept 2024	Action	Election of Chair and Vice Chair; creation of bylaws subcommittee.	Priority Goal 1
Oct 2024	Action	Amendments to bylaws; election of Secretary.	Priority
Oct 2024	Action	Amendments to bylaws, election of Secretary.	Goal 1
Nov 2024	Action	Adoption of bylaws; creation of ad hoc subcommittee for 2025	
Action		Work Plan.	Priority Goal 1
		Consideration of forming standing outreach subcommittee.	Priority
			Goal 1
Jan 2025	Action	Discussion and adoption of 2025 Annual Work Plan.	Priority
			Goal 1
	Action	Re-election of board officers; discussion of Work Plan and	Priority
		Resilience Topics.	Goal 1
Feb 2025	Action	Assignment of board members to coordinate resilience topics	Primary
		for monthly meetings.	Goal
	Action	Adoption of amended Work Plan; creation of ad hoc	Priority
		subcommittee for Priority Goal 1.	Goal 1
	Info	Presentation on and discussion of brush management and	
		wildfire resilience.	Goal 2
	Action	Presentation on native plants and biodiversity by California Native Plant Society and Parks and Recreation Department	
	Info		
		(Resilience Topic).	
Mar 2025	Action	Selection of CAP Strategy 5 and Biodiverse SD as focus areas	Primary
		for Primary Goal.	Goal
Action		Ad hoc subcommittee report on outreach and vacancies; flyer	Priority
Action		creation and general outreach.	Goal 1
	Action	Discussion of Board's draft wildfire work program;	Priority
		coordination with SDFD and City Planning Department.	Goal 2
Action		Adoption of recommendations on the Coastal Resilience Master	
		Plan and PEIR.	Goal
Apr 2025	Info	Presentation on Hazard Mitigation and Safety Planning (SB99,	Primary
•		AB747) by City Planning Department.	Goal
	Action	Recommendation to prioritize fire hazard mapping and	Priority
		community outreach.	Goal 2
	Info	Presentation on Climate Action Plan Strategy 5 by City	Primary
		Planning Department.	Goal

May 2025 Info		Presentation on SoCal Heat Hub and extreme heat research by Scripps Institution of Oceanography (<i>Resilience Topic</i>).	
	Action Discussion on aligning City initiatives with State requirements related to wildfire resilience and preparedness; accessibility of		Goal Priority Goal 2
		resources.	
	Info	Presentation on Natural Resource Management Plans (MSCP)	Primary
		from Parks and Recreation Department.	Goal
June 2025	Info	Presentation on wildfire resilience through building codes	Primary Goal
		(AB306, AB368, Title 24).	
	Info	Presentation on San Diego Food Systems Working Group and	Primary
		Food Vision 2030 by San Diego Food System Alliance	Goal
		(Resilience Topic).	
	Action	Selection of wildfire resilience focus areas, including	Priority
		homeowner support and pilot programs, for Annual Report.	Goal 2



Issues and Recommendations

he Resiliency Advisory Board, in its first full year of work, engaged deeply on the topics of wildfire resilience, energy resilience, and coastal adaptation. The Board reviewed presentations from City staff, regional partners, and subject-matter experts; established ad hoc subcommittees to focus on wildfire resilience and outreach; and developed a structured set of recommendations aligned with City and State requirements. Through its discussions, the Board emphasized the importance of making information accessible to residents, aligning local initiatives with state and federal mandates, and ensuring that equity considerations guide implementation. These collective efforts provide the foundation for the recommendations presented below. The City Actions Taken reflect information that was shared with the Board and is not reflective of all City actions taken for each of the identified topics.

Summary Table of Topics and Recommendations

Topics	City Actions Taken (2025)	Recommendations for Council
		Action
1. Fire Hazard	Ordinance O-21992 adopted	Request annual written report and
Mapping	(July 2025); General Plan	presentation to Resiliency Advisory
	Safety Element updated	Board and Council on fire hazard
	(2024); maps published on	mapping progress and overlays of
	wildfire portal.	single-egress communities.
2. Outreach to High-	Wildfire portal launched;	Prioritize outreach campaigns in
Risk Communities	Genasys Protect app and	newly added high-risk, single-egress
	AlertSanDiego promoted;	neighborhoods with aggressive door-
	Fire-Rescue expanded brush	to-door and multilingual efforts.
	inspections and outreach.	
3. Public	Wildfire portal expanded	Expand portal with interactive
Communication	with Ready-Set-Go	evacuation maps, multilingual fact
Improvements	materials; City and Fire-	sheets, and quarterly reporting on
	Rescue began public-facing	usage metrics.
	campaigns with media	
	partners.	
4. Coastal Resilience	Final PEIR and Draft Plan	Adopt Coastal Resilience Master Plan
Master Plan	released (June 2025);	by end of 2025 and fund priority
,	advanced by Environment	projects (Perched Beach, Dog Beach
	Committee; slated for full	relocation, other nature-based
	Council vote late 2025.	solutions).
5. Natural Resource	Parks and Recreation Dept.	Provide resources to expedite
Management Plans	presented update on MSCP	completion and implementation of
	and Natural Resource Mgmt.	Natural Resource Management Plans.
	Plans (June 2025).	
6. Integrating	City staff incorporated	Direct City departments to embed
Resiliency into City	resilience considerations into	resiliency considerations explicitly in

Design &	updated Safety Element	infrastructure design standards and
Maintenance	(2024) and ongoing plan	maintenance programs.
	reviews.	

Topic 1 – Wildfire Resilience: Fire Hazard Mapping

City Actions Taken (2024-2025)

Adopted Ordinance O-21992, formally integrating the 2025 Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps (July 2025); made fire hazard maps accessible via wildfire resource hub (2025; ongoing public use); updated the General Plan Safety Element (Blueprint SD) to comply with SB 99 and AB 747 (2024).

Recommendations to City Council Regarding Follow-Up Actions

Complete GIS overlays of Fire Hazard Severity Zones with evacuation-route constraints, prioritizing single-egress neighborhoods. Additionally, the Resiliency Advisory Board recommends City leadership requests staff to provide annual updates and make maps accessible to the public through the wildfire portal, and further requests that staff make annual presentations to the Board on mapping progress.

Stakeholders & Coordination⁶

City Planning; Fire-Rescue; Police; Office of Emergency Services; Development Services; Communications; CAL FIRE; SDG&E; and community groups.

Recommended Public Engagement & Education

Neighborhood briefings and map walkthroughs; translation and plain-language materials; outreach via libraries and recreation centers.

Possible Funding & Grants

FEMA BRIC; Cal OES Hazard Mitigation; CAL FIRE Fire Prevention; USDOT Safe Streets for evacuation corridors.

Topic 2 – Wildfire Resilience: Outreach to High-Risk Communities

City Actions Taken (2025)

Launched sandiego.gov/wildfire portal with evacuation planning, defensible space, and Ready-Set-Go materials (June 2025; live); promoted Genasys Protect app and AlertSanDiego for emergency alerts (Summer 2025; active campaign); expanded brush management and door-to-door inspections in high-risk neighborhoods (2025; ongoing).

Recommendations to City Council Regarding Follow-Up Actions

⁶ The stakeholders listed in this section are those applicable as of FY 2025 and may change in the future.

Develop a targeted outreach campaign for residents in neighborhoods newly added to the 2025 State High Fire Threat District maps, especially those with only a single evacuation route. Prioritize outreach in single-egress neighborhoods newly added to State fire risk maps, including door-to-door visits, town halls, and app enrollment campaigns.

Stakeholders & Coordination

Fire-Rescue; Office of Emergency Services; Communications; City Planning; community-based organizations; SD County OES; local schools and faith groups.

Recommended Public Engagement & Education

Block-by-block canvassing; neighborhood evacuation drills; bilingual mailers; partnerships with PTAs and neighborhood councils.

Possible Funding & Grants

FEMA Hazard Mitigation; CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention; State resilience grants; philanthropic partners.

Topic 3 – Wildfire Resilience: Public Communication Improvements

City Actions Taken (2025)

Launched wildfire portal with evacuation planning and defensible space resources (June 2025; live); integrated Ready, Set, Go! campaign into City outreach (Summer 2025; ongoing); initiated public-facing campaigns with Fire-Rescue and media partners (2025; continuing).

Recommendations to City Council Regarding Follow-Up Actions

Expand the City's wildfire portal to include interactive evacuation maps, plain-language and multi-language fact sheets, and short video tutorials. Establish regular public reporting on engagement and usage metrics.

Stakeholders & Coordination

Communications; Fire-Rescue; Development Services; City Planning; Department of Information Technology.

Recommended Public Engagement & Education

Webinars; how-to videos; social media toolkits; integration with libraries and community centers.

Possible Funding & Grants

Minimal: primarily content development; explore state communications grants and public-private partnerships.

Topic 4 – Coastal Resilience: Coastal Resilience Master Plan

City Actions Taken (2025)

Draft Master Plan and Final PEIR released; Environment Committee advanced the plan (June 2025). Full City Council adoption and certification (September 2025)

Recommendations to City Council Regarding Follow-Up Actions

Prioritize implementation of three Resiliency Advisory Board endorsed projects: Perched Beach (Mission Beach), Resilient Relocation (Dog Beach), and Resilient Cliff Design Options (Sunset Cliffs), as well as additional shoreline nature-based projects in the near-term.

Stakeholders & Coordination

City Planning; Parks & Recreation; Engineering & Capital Projects; Stormwater; Transportation, Coastal Commission; Regional Water Quality Control Board U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife; community groups.

Recommended Public Engagement & Education

Project charrettes; coastal access and equity workshops; regular updates to the Community Planning Groups of the relevant coastal communities.

Possible Funding & Grants

State Coastal Conservancy; NOAA coastal resilience; FEMA BRIC; USACE planning support; philanthropic coastal funds.

Topic 5 – Infrastructure: Integrating Resiliency into Design & Maintenance

City Actions Taken (2025)

Climate Resilient SD implementation piloted resiliency design criteria in select capital projects (2025).

Recommendations to City Council Regarding Follow-Up Actions

Direct staff to embed resiliency standards into design guidelines, construction, and maintenance protocols across City infrastructure programs.

Stakeholders & Coordination

Engineering & Capital Projects; Transportation; Stormwater; City Planning; Public Utilities; external design consultants.

Recommended Public Engagement & Education

Community forums for infrastructure planning; public dashboards showing resilience upgrades.

Possible Funding & Grants

Federal infrastructure funds; FEMA BRIC; state resilience bonds; public-private partnerships.

Topic 5 – Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMP)

City Actions Taken (2025)

Draft NRMP components presented to Resiliency Advisory Board (June 2025). Coordination initiated with California Department of Fish & Wildlife (2025).

Recommendations to City Council Regarding Follow-Up Actions

Increase the funding for staff at the Parks and Recreation Department's Natural Resource Division to tackle the backlog of Natural Resource Management Plans needed to manage and guide City land to meet with Climate Action Plan, Multiple Species Conservation Program, accessibility, and other commitments.

Stakeholders & Coordination

City Planning; Parks & Recreation; California Department of Fish & Wildlife; U.S. Forest Service; conservation non-governmental organizations.

Recommended Public Engagement & Education

Workshops with community groups, environmental organizations, and planning committees.

Possible Funding & Grants

California Wildlife Conservation Board; State Habitat Conservation Fund; philanthropic conservation funds.

Collectively, the Resiliency Advisory Board's recommendations highlight areas where the City has already taken important steps—such as adopting updated fire hazard maps, launching the wildfire portal, and advancing the Coastal Resilience Master Plan—while also identifying where additional focus is needed. The Board's recommendations demonstrate the value of combining technical expertise, community input, and interdepartmental coordination to strengthen San Diego's ability to prepare for and respond to climate risks.

Looking ahead, the Board emphasizes that resilience is not achieved through one-time actions but requires ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and community engagement. By embedding equity into implementation, ensuring transparency through public reporting, and prioritizing proactive outreach in vulnerable communities, San Diego can continue to serve as a model for climate resilience in California, and beyond. These recommendations are intended not only to guide City Council actions and Mayoral priorities, but also to provide residents with a clear understanding of how the City is building a safer, more resilient future.

The Board recognizes the importance of ensuring City leadership considers our recommendations during its Fiscal Year budgetary process, as per the timeline below. As an advisory body entrusted to provide the Mayor and City Council with actionable input, recommendations will be provided to City leadership at key

points to better harmonize with the City's budget decision-making process and maximize the relevance and consideration of our recommendations.



Opportunities for RAB to advise

October / November Board presents Annual Report and recommendations to Environment

Committee

April Board reviews Proposed Budget and IBA Review of Proposed Budget.

Agrees upon updated Board recommendations for Budget Review Committee

Committe

May

Board chair attends Budget Review Committee hearings to speak to
Board recommendations; Board members follow Council deliberations

Looking Ahead to Fiscal Year 2026

he Resiliency Advisory Board concludes its first year reflecting on how to carry forward and improve upon its accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2026.

Internally, the Board intends in Fiscal Year 2026 to intensify recruitment efforts for the three still-vacant seats, review its own Bylaws, enhance transparency, collaborate with other advisory boards, and expand its community outreach activities. We advise the Mayor's and City Council to streamline the Board appointment process and direct City staff to proactively provide the Board with status updates on its efforts and progress. We also encourage City Councilmembers to take a more active role in identifying potential candidates for this Board and for other City advisory bodies.

Programmatically, the Board will adopt new Priority Goals for the upcoming year and invite presentation on and discussion of additional Resilience Topics (e.g., water, agriculture, human health and open space, ecological recreation and trails master planning, and Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and costewardship). The Board is considering including energy resilience as a Priority Goal in the 2026 Work Plan, continuing and expanding expert presentations on battery storage, microgrids, vehicle-to-grid systems, and affordability solutions. Crucially, the Board will monitor how City leadership and staff consider and implement the Board's recommendations.

The Board, for its part, approaches its second year aware of its responsibility to advise the Mayor and City Council for and on behalf of all San Diegans, and is deeply committed to advancing a more resilient community for generations to come.

⁷ Specifically, the Climate Advisory Board, the Community Forest Advisory Board, and the Mobility Board.

The Resiliency Advisory Board typically meets monthly on the third Thursday at 1 p.m., at the Civic Center Plaza 1200 3rd Ave, 4th Floor, San Diego, CA 92101

For more information on the City of San Diego Resiliency Advisory Board, please visit us at our <u>website</u> or email <u>ResiliencyBoard@sandiego.gov</u> to request more information



Appendix

[Insert Annual Work Plan]

