



**Resiliency Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, Oct 16, 2025 at 1:00-3:00 pm

Location: Civic Center Plaza, 1200 3rd Ave, 4th Floor, San Diego, CA 92101

The public is encouraged to subscribe to receive meeting agendas.

Please click the link below to join the meeting: <https://sandiego.zoomgov.com/j/1615253690>

Chair: Cynthia Rose Harris | Vice Chair: Eric Lardy | Secretary: Jamie Garrett

Seated Board members: Ian Clampett, Cynthia Rose Harris, Erika Morgan, Stan Williams, Eric Lardy, A-bel Yee Gong, Jamie Garrett, Andrew Meyer

Staff Liaison: Julia Chase, Chief Resilience Officer, City Planning Department

KEY

Motions

Notes for inclusion in RAB Annual Report

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call (1:02)

Board Member	Attendance
Ian Clampett	Absent
Cynthia Rose Harris	Present
Erika Morgan	Present
Stan Williams	Present
Eric Lardy	Present
A-bel Gong	Present
Jamie Garrett	Present
Andrew Meyer	Present

Item 2: Land Acknowledgement (1:03)

Item 3: Adoption/Modification of Agenda Order

Board Chair Harris proposed to move Item 9 prior to Item 8

Board Member Williams Motions

Board Member Morgan Seconds

Board approves Unanimously

Item 4: Announcements and Board Member Comments (1:05)

- Announcement from Kelley Stanco, Deputy Director City Planning: Climate Preservation and Public Spaces is a new division within City Planning Department.
- Board Member Meyer: [Scavenger Hunt](#) by California Native Plant Society
- Board Member Gong: [San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative](#) – Nominations close next week. Third Annual Regional Climate Recap will be held December 4 at 3:30pm at the Maritime Museum.
- [San Diego Public Library CERT](#), public workshops coming up

Item 5: Approval of Minutes (1:09)

- September 18, 2025

Motion to approve: Board Member Meyer

Second: Board Member Gong

Abstain: Board Member Morgan and Board Member Lardy

Item 6: Non-Agenda Public Comment (1:10)

- Anne Fege: Urban greening- tree removal in Belmont Park. Wondering reason for fences and tree removal. (District 2)

Item 7: Unfinished Business None pending (1:13)**Item 9: Information Items (1:14)**

- a) Presentation on [Inclusive Public Engagement Guide](#), Kevin Borja, Senior Planner and Vanessa Tang, Associate Planner, City Planning Department
 - a. The Inclusive Public Engagement Guide is now at the public review stage (as of November 2025) and aims to support all City departments in improving how they engage with the public. Its key purposes are to increase operational efficiency, ensure decisions reflect community needs and desires, build public trust, and increase participation among underrepresented groups. The Guide emphasizes engagement principles such as building community relationships, clear communication, inclusion, commitment to engagement, and transparency. It also distinguishes between public outreach and engagement, focusing on the latter as a more participatory process. The document is available for public review through October 19, and a PDF version will soon be released to aid in public commentary.
 - b. During board discussion, several questions were raised about implementation and resources. The Guide is primarily advisory and currently has no dedicated funding or resource allocation. All staff are encouraged to use its engagement steps and will receive related training. The Guide also addresses coordination with legally required processes and includes metrics to track engagement outcomes like reach and participant experience. The City is exploring how to integrate the Guide into customer service training and will follow up on questions related to its impact on boards and committees, as well as the potential for an annual report.

b) Resilience Topic: Presentation on Grid Resilience by Dr. Lorenzo Kristov, Independent Consultant

- a. Board Member Morgan introduced Dr. Kristov for a presentation on electric service resilience, highlighting that the City has contracted to build eight microgrids—four at resiliency centers and four at fire stations, with half already completed. The presentation emphasized the community’s dependence on reliable energy resources and the importance of both islanding (operating independently from the grid) and grid hardening. Dr. Kristov underscored the need for energy justice—ensuring communities can share in ownership and operation of local energy assets—and recommended expanding solar generation where practical. He also proposed compensating customers who install larger solar and battery systems to share surplus energy with nearby residents, creating benefits for both participants and the broader community.
- b. Dr. Kristov’s broader vision included building community microgrids to ensure uninterrupted essential services, retrofitting neighborhood resilience centers, and fostering local energy planning capacity. He advocated for bottom-up energy planning—designing community-level systems first, then developing regional transmission for remaining needs. Current regulations, however, hinder multi-property and community microgrid viability. Near-term actions include advancing local projects, engaging communities around energy justice, collaborating with city and county planners, and creating better business and financial models. The discussion also covered how to prioritize projects in high-risk or fire-prone areas and opportunities to establish microgrids in new developments before utility connections are built.

c) Resilience Topic: Presentation on Water Supply Resilience by Meena Westford, Director of Imported Water, San Diego County Water Authority (CWA).

- a. Ms. Westford emphasized the critical importance of water and the interconnected nature of the regional water system, which depends heavily on imported sources and aging infrastructure. She noted that developing new water supplies is extremely costly, and efforts are underway to augment water resources across the Southwest. Next-generation water solutions will rely on partnerships and improved accounting systems to better manage shared resources. Board members raised several points: interest in stormwater capture, concerns about growing demands in hotter regions like Arizona, and the need **to link physical, fiscal, and equity-based resiliency**. **Proposition 218** was mentioned as a key barrier to equitable project financing since it restricts cost-sharing across user groups.
- b. Ms. Westford also highlighted the importance of maximizing existing infrastructure before investing in new projects, both for cost efficiency and environmental protection. She provided an update on the concluded litigation between the Metropolitan Water District) and the County Water Authority, confirming continued water delivery through existing infrastructure. Board Member Morgan asked about installing solar panels over canals carrying water, such as the Turlock Canal, and Ms. Westford noted that they are monitoring those efforts closely. The meeting concluded with an official City statement expressing appreciation for the San Diego County Water Authority’s presentation while noting that the City has a different

perspective on certain aspects of water resiliency planning and plans to share more about its own climate-aligned approach at a future meeting.

Visit from Chida Warren-Darby, Director of the Office of Boards and Commission (1:37)

Ms. Warren-Darby addressed the Board's concerns about delays and lack of transparency in filling vacancies on boards and commissions, explaining that she is considering proposing a Municipal Code change to allow the Mayor's Office to directly recruit candidates when City Councilmembers have not acted on nominations for district-designated seats. She noted that her office sends monthly reminders to Councilmembers about vacant or expired seats and clarified how term expirations work—using the analogy of a chair with a running clock that continues regardless of whether the seat is filled. While appointments can take 30 to 60 days to process, she emphasized that members may continue serving in their roles even after their official term has expired, with the “expired” status being only a technical label on the website.

Item 8: Action Items (2:13)

- a) Revised 2025 Annual Report and Recommendations. Approval of 2025 Annual Report.
 - a. Board Members discussed the structure of the Board's report: **Board Member Morgan** emphasized that recommendations should reflect the Board's voice, appearing before any contextual background on city actions. **Board Member Meyer** agreed, noting that the remaining content can stay as context. **Board Member Garrett** suggested keeping the city's actions as contextual information, possibly under a revised title.
 - b. Board Member Gong Motions only include recommendation, and the City Actions Taken remain as context in the next section.
 - i. Board Member Meyer seconds
 - ii. The motion passes all Members voting in favor, and Board Member Morgan abstaining.
 - c. Board Members discussed ways to improve the report's clarity and accessibility: **Board Member Meyer** suggested adding more hyperlinks to meeting minutes, presentations, and other resources for public readers. **Board Member Gong** recommended integrating all recommendations into a single paragraph that includes context, stakeholders, and the engagement plan. **Board Member Garrett** proposed building more time for collaboration in next year's monthly meetings. The Board also edited the document live to enhance readability, including changing “City Action” to “City Context,” formatting recommendations to stand out, and adding relevant hyperlinks.
 - i. Motion to make above edits and adopt the plan post edits: Board Member Meyer
 - 1. Second: Board Member Lardy
 - 2. Passes Unanimously.
- b) Board Chair Outreach to Environmental Committee Member Offices. Determine approach and recommendations for outreach.

- a. Motion by Board Member Garrett to have Board Chair Harris coordinate with Environmental Committee before November meeting.
 - b. Second: Board Member Meyer.
 - c. Discussion: Before we meet, we should reference the committee's 2025 goals (from Jan 2025 Work Plan), and ask about goals for 2026.
 - d. Passes unanimously.
- c) Ad Hoc Task Force for ByLaws Review. Select Ad Hoc Task Force.
- a. Board Member Lardy suggests we make this a future agenda item.

Item 10: Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings (3:37)

- a) November:
 - a. Bylaws Review and Amendments.
 - b. Discussion on FY 2026 Work Plan, select an Ad Hoc Task Force.
 - i. List of presentations wanted
 - c. Debrief energy resiliency presentation from October.
 - d. Debrief environment committee presentation.
 - e. Presentation: Lindsey Hawes – City Energy Projects.
- b) 2026
 - a. Resiliency Topic: Climate Change Implications for Homelessness.
 - b. City Presentation from Public Utilities Department
 - c. General Board discussion: Discuss balance between physical reliability, fiscal sustainability, social equity for water resources.
 - d. City Presentation on urban forest from City Arborist, including resiliency and equity components.

Item 11: Adjournment

Next meeting November 20, 2025