

City of San Diego Climate Advisory Board

Date: January 13, 2026

Chair: Tanisha-Jean Martin

Vice Chair: Kelly Lyndon

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

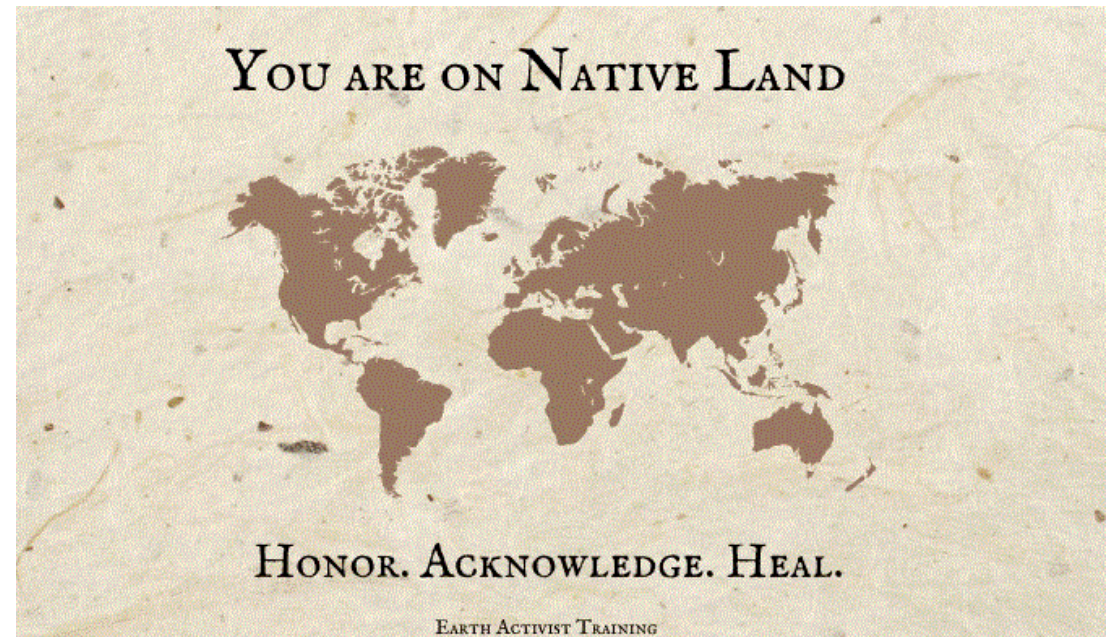
Item 2: Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the land on which the City of San Diego is built is the unceded territory of the Kumeyaay Nation.

The Kumeyaay people have lived on and cared for this land for over 10,000 years and have demonstrated resilience and adaptability in the face of colonization, land loss, and environmental change.

Today, the urgency of climate action compels us to confront these environmental crises with the same dedication to stewardship that has sustained this land for millennia.

In this acknowledgment, we recognize the importance of immediate and bold actions to protect the environment, honor the history of this land, and ensure a sustainable future for all.



Item 3: Adoption/Modification of
Agenda

Item 4: Approval of Minutes

Item 5: Announcements

Item 6:

Non-Agenda Public Comment

Instructions for the public:

- Raise your hand by either:
 - tapping the “Raise Your Hand” button on your computer, tablet, or Smartphone, or
 - dialing *9 on your phone.
- You will be taken in the order in which you raised your hand.
- When the Chair indicates it is your turn to speak, either:
 - click the unmute prompt that will appear on your computer, tablet or Smartphone, or
 - dial *6 on your phone.
- There is a two-minute limit per comment

Item 7:

2025 Status Update of the Climate Action Implementation Plan

Draft: January 13, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the San Diego City Council

Subject: CAB Recommendations Informed by Public Input on the Draft 2025 Status Update for the **Climate Action Implementation Plan**

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

The **City of San Diego Climate Advisory Board (CAB)** submits this letter to share key recommendations informed by public input received during the [December 10, 2025 stakeholder workshop](#) on the [Draft 2025 Status Update for the Climate Action Implementation Plan \(CAIP\)](#).

Public comments reflected strong engagement and consistent concern about whether the Draft Update provides sufficient clarity, accountability, and direction to ensure **timely and equitable implementation** of the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP).

Based on that input, the Climate Advisory Board offers the following **recommendations** to support Council's upcoming discussion of the update.

1. Restore Cost Information to Support Budget Alignment

- Restore **estimated costs and staffing needs** for CAIP actions.
- Update and republish the **Implementation Cost Analysis (ICA)**, or identify a replacement tool that fulfills the same budgeting and prioritization function.

2. Strengthen Accountability by Improving CAP Action Status Tracking

- Support "In Progress" and "On Time" designations with **interim milestones and task-level tracking**, using the CAP Dashboard task mechanism to show whether actions are actually advancing toward completion.
- Ensure actions are not marked "On Time" when CAP Dashboard task deadlines have been missed or when required funding has not been secured.

3. Prioritize Actions the City Can Actually Deliver

- Clearly identify which CAP actions can realistically be advanced **with existing staffing and funding** prior to the next CAP update.
Identify which actions must be **accelerated in the near term** to stay aligned with CAP goals, rather than deferring course correction to the next CAP update.

4. Accelerate High-Impact Actions in Buildings and Transportation

- Identify and advance a short list of **high-impact, low-cost actions** in the building and transportation sectors, which are the City's largest emissions sources.
- **Buildings:**

- Adopt alteration-based reach codes, including cost-effective **AC-to-Heat-Pump replacements**.
- Begin assessing and collecting **non-compliance fees** under the City's 2019 **Building Energy Benchmarking** ordinance, to improve compliance and **generate revenue**.
- Support **SB 1221 Neighborhood Decarbonization Pilots** by collaborating with SDG&E, SDCP and community partners to advocate for San Diego-area participation. This includes developing **community outreach strategies** so **Communities of Concern** in San Diego are well positioned for inclusion in SB 1221 pilots.
- **Transportation:**
 - Emphasize and accelerate **actions already underway**, including Transportation Demand Management (TDM) requirements, Complete Streets and active transportation projects, quick-build safety and mobility improvements, and EV charging infrastructure deployment.

5. Improve Equity and Community Engagement in Implementation

- Establish clearer pathways for **community-based organizations, nonprofits, and small businesses** to participate in CAP implementation.
- Identify how **blue carbon** and other nature-based solutions are incorporated into CAP implementation, including opportunities for community participation. Blue Carbon is a critical way for reducing carbon emissions in our region. We recommend that the City work with existing partners in the region to fully establish a **Blue Carbon Economy**.
- Track and report **equity outcomes** alongside implementation status, particularly for high-impact actions and pilot programs.

In conclusion, the Climate Advisory Board finds the Draft 2025 Status Update of the CAIP **largely reflects existing reporting without providing the additional clarity needed to guide implementation**. The CAB offers the recommendations above to support accountability, prioritization, and effective near-term action.

Respectfully,

City of San Diego Climate Advisory Board

cc:

Randy Wilde, Mayoral Senior Policy Advisor
Brian Elliott, D1 Deputy Chief of Staff
Molly Weber, D9 Chief of Staff
Rosa Olascoaga, D9 Deputy Chief of Strategic Initiatives
Heidi Vonblum, City Planning Director
Kelley Stanco, City Planning Deputy Director
Andrew Martin, Chief Sustainability Officer

Item 8:
Energy Savings Performance
Contracts

Draft: January 13, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the San Diego City Council

Subject: Climate Advisory Board Recommendations on **ESPC Portfolio 1**

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

The **City of San Diego Climate Advisory Board (CAB)** appreciates the opportunity to provide advisory input on **Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) Portfolio 1**, as presented to the CAB's CRIB Committee on December 12, 2025.

ESPC Portfolio 1 proposes a performance-based financing model that allows the City to **implement energy retrofits at 40 existing City facilities with no upfront capital cost**, with project financing repaid over time through guaranteed energy and operational cost savings. As proposed, the portfolio would **fully electrify more than half of these facilities**.

The CAB supports the City's use of ESPCs as an effective and fiscally responsible mechanism to advance municipal decarbonization, improve facility performance, and implement the City's Climate Action Plan and Zero Emissions Municipal Buildings & Operations Policy.

The Climate Advisory Board respectfully **recommends** that the City Council:

1. **Approve ESPC Portfolio 1 as proposed**, recognizing that timely approval is necessary to preserve eligibility for federal Investment Tax Credit incentives and that further revisions could jeopardize those benefits.
2. **Provide project selection transparency to support equity and public trust**, by requesting information on which ESPC Portfolio 1 facilities are located within Communities of Concern and how project selection criteria affected equity outcomes at a high level. This should include a brief explanation of how the portfolio was narrowed from the initially identified \$154 million in viable projects to the \$111 million Portfolio 1 scope, and how equity considerations were reflected in those prioritization decisions.
3. **Request an accounting of the remaining energy retrofits needed at existing City facilities** to meet ZEMBOP and Climate Action Plan targets, including how those remaining needs are expected to be addressed over time.

The CAB commends City staff for advancing this portfolio and encourages continued, transparent use of ESPCs to accelerate progress toward the City's long-term climate commitments.

Respectfully,

City of San Diego Climate Advisory Board

cc:

Randy Wilde, Mayoral Senior Policy Advisor

Brian Elliott, D1 Deputy Chief of Staff

Molly Weber, D9 Chief of Staff

Rosa Olascoaga, D9 Deputy Chief of Strategic Initiatives

Heidi Vonblum, City Planning Director

Kelley Stanco, City Planning Deputy Director

Andrew Martin, Chief Sustainability Officer

Heather Werner, Energy Division Deputy Director

Lindsey Hawes, Energy Division Municipal Energy Program Manager

Item 9:
Climate Advisory Board 2026
Workplan

Climate Advisory Board

Item 9: draft CAB 2026 Work Plan (Discussion)

Full Draft distributed with agenda

- Purpose
- 7 Design Principles
- 6 Objectives
- Summary and Action Pathways

Timeline

- Shift to FY alignment (July-June)
- This doc covers FY26 as well as FY27 (approx 18 months)

CAB 2026 Work Plan Survey #2 to Board

- 10 Responses, thank you!
- Themes
 - Design Principles: Very/Mostly Clear
 - Objectives: Yes appropriate, with a concern that there are too many
 - Participation: Multiple members interested in contributing to each Objective

City of San Diego

Climate Advisory Board (CAB)

2026 Work Plan

1. Strategic Framing & Design Principles

Purpose

The 2026 Climate Advisory Board (CAB) Work Plan is designed to maximize **climate and equity impact considering current fiscal and staffing constraints**, while reinforcing the CAB's role as a **credible, solutions-oriented advisory body**.

San Diego's Climate Action Plan¹ (CAP) sets **legally-binding** and ambitious emissions-reduction targets across buildings, energy, mobility, land use, and waste. However, FY2026 budget² actions materially constrain execution capacity:

- Elimination of dedicated Sustainability & Mobility department and transfer of responsibilities into City Planning, General Services, Transportation, and Engineering and Capital Projects
- Elimination of multiple positions supporting the CAP
- Reduced non-personnel funding for decarbonization, mobility planning, and outreach

At the same time, **meaningful funded capacity remains** within:

- City Planning (e.g., Climate, Preservation and Public Spaces Division Policy, Community & Mobility Planning Division)
- General Services Energy Division (Municipal Energy and Zero-Emission Vehicles)
- The Climate Equity Fund (capital and prior-year appropriations)
- Grant-funded activities

In addition, there are opportunities to raise funds and implement low-cost actions that the city can pursue, however these will require **political will and community support**.

¹ <https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/work/working-on/cap>

² https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/fy26ab_full.pdf

Consistent with its advisory role, CAB may recommend actions that exceed current funding or staffing levels where necessary to achieve the City's adopted climate and equity goals.

Given the volunteer nature of the Board, CAB will prioritize depth over breadth and may defer or narrow activities to maintain effectiveness and sustainability.

This Work Plan is calibrated to this perspective.

Design Principles

The 2026 Work Plan is guided by the following core principles:

1. Impact-Aligned

All CAB work must demonstrate a defensible pathway to Climate Action Plan (CAP) progress, including emissions reductions, accelerated implementation, improved compliance, or removal of structural barriers.

2. Budget-Aware

CAB priorities reflect awareness of City funding and staffing capacity, while considering recommendations needed to achieve adopted climate goals.

3. Credibility Through Pragmatic Ambition

CAB will be ambitious—but disciplined—by advancing recommendations that balance urgency with feasibility in order to build long-term trust and influence.

4. Equity Embedded Across All Work

Equity is treated as a core success criterion across all CAB recommendations, with explicit attention to distributional impacts, such as those within Communities of Concern and Environmental Justice Communities. CAB will explicitly note when equity goals are constrained by funding or authority, ensuring honesty with the public and policymakers.

5. Public, Stakeholder, and Cross-Board Engagement

CAB will function as a two-way channel between the City and residents, communities, stakeholders, and related advisory boards—seeking participation and coordination, and incorporating public input into recommendations.

6. Consistency with CAB Capacity

CAB will carefully prioritize its work and identify where it will Lead (regular agenda time, recommendations), Monitor (receive updates, flag issues if needed) or be Opportunistic (as capacity allows).

7. Measurable and Reportable

Each objective includes tracking metrics that show progress and inform the 2026 CAB Annual Report.

Definition of Success (End of 2026):

CAB can credibly demonstrate that its work influenced real policy or implementation decisions, advanced CAP progress within fiscal constraints, and measurably elevated equity outcomes.

2. 2026 CAB Work Plan Objectives

The CAB plans to shift the timeline for the work plan to match the city's fiscal year rather than the calendar year. To facilitate this transition, the 2026 Work Plan will cover the remainder of FY26 as well as FY27 (approx 18 months).

Objective 1: Strengthen CAB Governance, Effectiveness, and Accountability

Rationale: In its second full year, the CAB can strengthen its operations to increase its impact.

CAB Engagement Level: Lead.

Key Initiatives

- Formalize board member attendance, preparation, and quorum expectations
- Align board meeting agendas with planned staff and council activities
- Mature the workplan, meeting planning and annual reporting
- Establish coordination with related City boards (e.g., Mobility Board, Resiliency Advisory Board)
- Encourage residents, communities, and stakeholders across all council districts to engage with the CAB through existing public meetings and agenda processes
- Increase board member awareness of relevant topics through staff briefings, agenda presentations, and shared reference materials

Tracking Metrics

- Number of board meetings cancelled due to lack of quorum
- Number of unexcused absences for each board member
- Number of public speakers (non-agenda, agenda, presentation)
- Number of related board coordination touch-points
- Number of formal CAB recommendations and % adopted or incorporated

Funding Alignment: No incremental funding required (board-led).

Objective 2: Advance Equitable Building Decarbonization

Rationale: Buildings remain one of the City's largest emissions reduction opportunities, but consultant support has been significantly reduced.

CAB Engagement Level: Lead. CAB will focus on a limited number of policies at a time, emphasizing those with high emissions impact, strong equity implications, and near-term decision points.

Key Initiatives

- Advise on the Benchmarking, Building Performance Standards, and Reach Codes, including exceptions and non-compliance pathways
- Review outcomes and learnings of the HEART program
- Review alignment between Building Decarbonization Plan and CAP targets
- Advise on City participation in SB 1221 Neighborhood Decarbonization Zone Pilots
- Elevate equity impacts of policies, incentives and enforcement by highlighting distributional effects, implementation barriers, and community-level outcomes

Tracking Metrics

- Number of formal CAB recommendations and % adopted or incorporated
- Number of CAB recommendations or agenda items identifying gaps between current policies/resources and CAP targets
- Whether CAB identified and elevated equity implications, gaps, or tradeoffs in building decarbonization policies

Funding Alignment:

✓ City Planning – Climate Policy Team

✗ Additional enforcement or program expansion **cannot be mapped without staff guidance**

Objective 3: Elevate Equitable Mobility & Mode Shift

Rationale: While consultant support declined, the City Planning Department and the Transportation Department retained grant-funded mobility planning capacity and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding.

CAB Engagement Level: Monitor. CAB will focus on elevating equity and CAP-alignment considerations in select mobility/parking initiatives, leveraging recommendations from organizations that are focused on technical review.

Key Initiatives

- Integrate and elevate community feedback and recommendations from the Mobility Board and relevant community mobility-oriented organizations to inform CAB recommendations. Potential areas include:
 - Bicycle Master Plan Update (BMPU)
 - Street Design Manual update
 - Implementation and further exploration from the [Parking Demand Management Study](#)
 - New programs and Strategy 6 ideas with CAP mode-shift targets (if SANDAG funding is secured to update the CAP)
 - Infrastructure prioritization (e.g. scoring process for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) from the [Mobility Master Plan](#))
 - Bike Share Feasibility Study (led by SDSU / City of La Mesa)

Tracking Metrics

- Number of touchpoints with Mobility Board
- Number of touchpoints with community mobility-oriented organizations
- Number of formal CAB recommendations and % adopted or incorporated
- Whether CAB elevated equity and CAP-alignment considerations

Funding Alignment:

- ✓ Active Transportation Program (ATP) grants
- ✓ City Planning General Fund

Objective 4: Support Additional CAP Strategies

Rationale: While all CAP strategies contribute to long-term success, limited capacity requires the CAB to engage selectively beyond priority focus areas, emphasizing issues where timely advisory input can add the greatest value.

CAB Engagement Level: Opportunistic. CAB will engage selectively on additional CAP strategies based on member capacity, urgency, and relevance to adopted goals.

Key Initiatives

- Monitor and selectively engage on additional CAP strategies, elevating significant gaps, risks, or opportunities as capacity allows

- Review and uplift recommendations from related boards and community organizations
- Engage with SDCP and its Community Advisory Committee to assess opportunities to support local renewable energy generation, including non-residential projects

Tracking Metrics

- Whether CAB engaged on or escalated issues related to additional CAP strategies during 2026
- Number of touchpoints with related boards, community organizations, and SDCP

Funding Alignment:

TBD depending on topics

Objective 5: Elevate the Climate Equity Fund

Rationale: The Climate Equity Fund³ (CEF) remains one of the City's most powerful climate equity tools. While the CEF has identified funding each fiscal year, it may be waived by council action.

CAB Engagement Level: Monitor. CAB will focus on policy-level guidance and transparency

Key Initiatives

- Request a staff presentation on CEF activities since inception in 2021, including program overview, budget allocations, project selection and expenditure status
- Assess and elevate alignment with Climate Equity Working Group priorities
- Recommend improvements that elevate community-level benefits and accountability

Tracking Metrics

- Whether CAB agendized items addressing CEF transparency, alignment, or impact

Funding Alignment:

- ✓ Climate Equity Fund (capital and prior-year funds)

³ https://docs.sandiego.gov/council_reso_ordinance/rao2021/R-313454.pdf

Objective 6: Suggest Improvements to CAP Transparency and Public Understanding

Rationale: With limited execution capacity, transparency and public understanding become even more critical to maintaining momentum and trust.

CAB Engagement Level: Lead. CAB will prioritize a small number of discrete improvements to CAP transparency.

Key Initiatives

- Recommend targeted improvements to CAP Dashboard clarity and usability
- Advise on improving public understanding of key tradeoffs, priorities and progress
- Document and publicly note risks, gaps, or unmet assumptions as appropriate.
- Consult on Climate Action Plan update, supporting public engagement and equity in the representation of community interests

Tracking Metrics

- Whether CAB documented risks, gaps, or unmet assumptions related to CAP implementation during 2026
- Number of formal CAB recommendations and % adopted or incorporated

Funding Alignment:

- ✓ City Planning – Climate Policy Team

Climate Advisory Board

Item 9: draft CAB 2026 Work Plan (Discussion)

Summary and Action Pathways

Objective	Engagement Level	Workplan Scope	Action Pathways
1: Strengthen CAB Governance, Effectiveness, and Accountability	Lead	Board operations, coordination, advisory output, and public engagement	Officers lead governance setup and ongoing maintenance
2: Advance Equitable Building Decarbonization	Lead	Advise on select high-impact building policies, elevate equity, and document gaps vs CAP targets	Ad-hoc committee plans and sequences engagement
3: Elevate Equitable Mobility & Mode Shift	Monitor	Integrate and elevate Mobility Board and community recommendations with an equity and CAP-alignment lens	Ad-hoc committee tracks and elevates priority initiatives
4: Support Additional CAP Strategies	Opportunistic	Monitor other CAP strategies and escalate significant gaps, risks, or opportunities	Individual members elevate issues to the Chair
5: Elevate the Climate Equity Fund	Monitor	Review transparency and alignment and elevate opportunities to strengthen community equity benefits	Request staff presentation and determine follow-up
6: Suggest Improvements to CAP Transparency and Public Understanding	Lead	Recommend targeted transparency improvements, support public understanding, and document key risks and gaps	Ad-hoc committee develops dashboard and reporting recommendations

Climate Advisory Board

Item 9: draft CAB 2026 Work Plan (Discussion)

Next Steps

- Incorporate feedback, bring for approval to Feb 3 CAB mtg
- Identify committees
- Setup tracker

Climate Advisory Board

District Representation

- Each District representative invite an organization, group or individual
- Can be from district or one you would like to recognize
- Equity Driven
- Be supportive
- Acknowledgements

Expectations:

- Relate to CAP Workplan
- Have requests in advance
- Open to Ad Hoc introductions

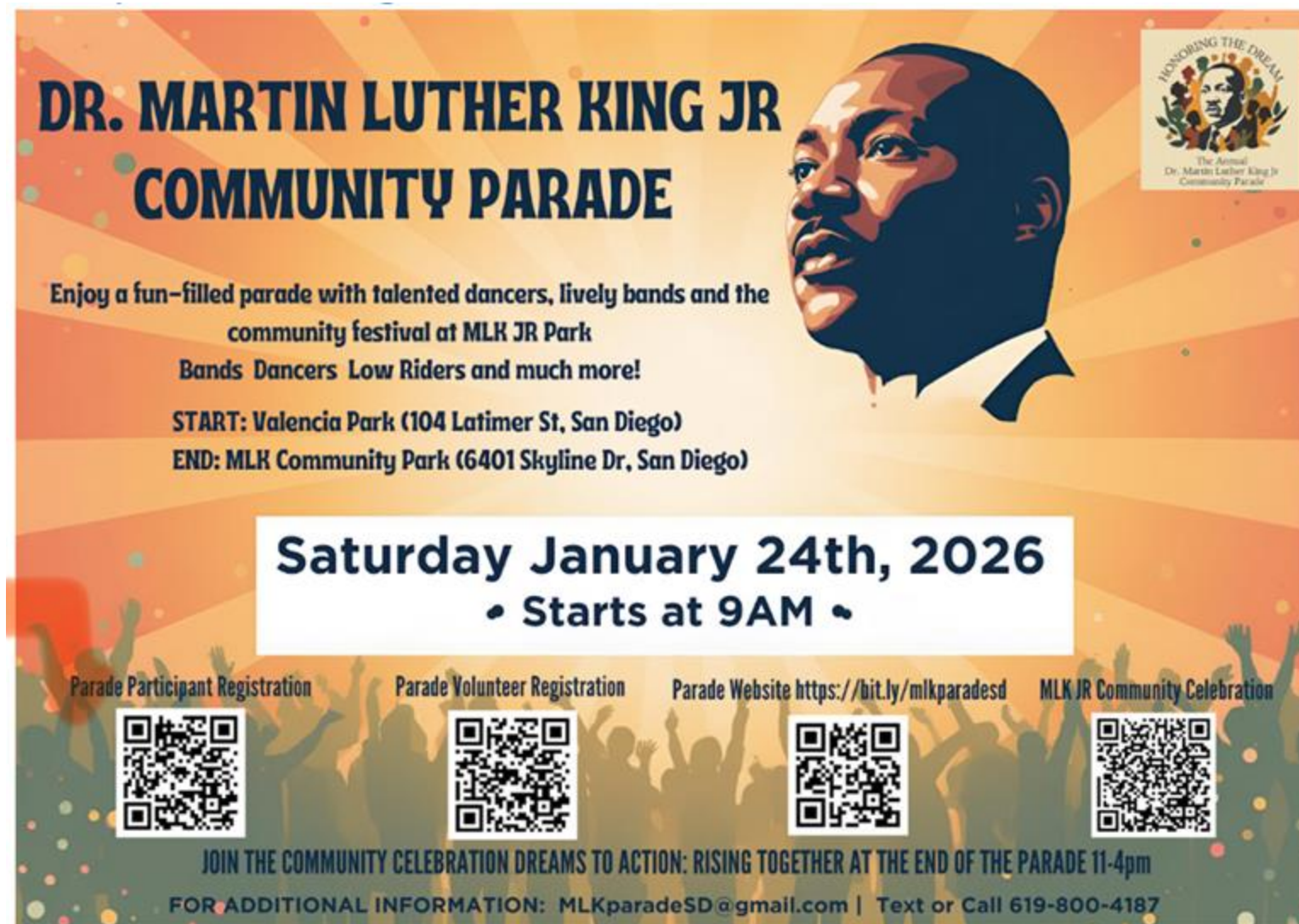
BE SEEN
BE HEARD
BE RECOGNIZED

Item 10:
2026 Climate Advisory Board
Meeting Dates

Climate Advisory Board

Climate Advisory Board Invited

- Booth:
 - Speak to community about CAP.





**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
COMMUNITY PARADE**


Enjoy a fun-filled parade with talented dancers, lively bands and the community festival at MLK JR Park
Bands Dancers Low Riders and much more!


START: Valencia Park (104 Latimer St, San Diego)
END: MLK Community Park (6401 Skyline Dr, San Diego)

Saturday January 24th, 2026
• Starts at 9AM •

Parade Participant Registration 

Parade Volunteer Registration 

Parade Website <https://bit.ly/mlkparadesd> 

MLK JR Community Celebration 

JOIN THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION DREAMS TO ACTION: RISING TOGETHER AT THE END OF THE PARADE 11-4pm
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: MLKparadeSD@gmail.com | Text or Call 619-800-4187

HONORING THE DREAM
The Annual
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr
Community Parade

Climate Advisory Board

Proposed Meeting Dates - please RSVP via the calendar invite for quorum checks (ideally for all of the 2026 if possible).

- 2/3 – confirmed quorum
- 3/3 – scheduled
- 4/7 – scheduled
- 5/5 – scheduled
- 6/2 – scheduled
- 7/7 – **some folks will get the previous Friday 7/3 off**
- 8/4 – scheduled
- 9/1 – labor day is 9/7
- 10/5 – scheduled
- 11/10 – election day is 11/3 during normal time slot. Does this work for everyone? – thinking to move to 11/10.
- 12/1 – scheduled

Item 11:
Proposed Agenda Items for Future
Meetings

Item 12: Adjournment