

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

RESILIENCY ADVISORY BOARD

CALENDAR YEAR 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Draft reflecting meetings and materials available through July 16, 2026



Climate Resilience | Biodiversity | Equity | Community preparedness

Prepared for the Mayor, Environment Committee, City Council, City departments, and the public

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Introduction to the Resiliency Advisory Board

The Resiliency Advisory Board advises the Mayor, City Council, and relevant City departments on policies and strategies that strengthen San Diego's resilience to climate-related hazards. Its work supports implementation of Climate Resilient SD, Biodiverse SD, Climate Action Plan Strategy 5, the Multiple Species Conservation Program, and related conservation and open-space initiatives.

Purpose of this report

The 2026 Annual Report documents the Board's work, summarizes presentations and public engagement, and organizes recommendations for City leadership. It is intended to support accountability, timely policy advice, and public understanding of the City's resilience priorities. This report is a Calendar year report that covers 2026 activities. The first report covered Fiscal Year and covered the period since the Board Establishment in September 2024 to June 2025.

2026 emphasis

The Board's principal substantive focus was stormwater management and response. The work plan also emphasized more efficient Board process and continued attention to biodiversity, urban forestry, extreme heat, coastal and wetland restoration, and resilient public infrastructure.

Board Membership

Membership and officer information below reflects the July 16, 2026 meeting minutes. District designations are included only where documented in the 2026 work plan materials.

Member	2026 Role / Designation
Eric Lardy	Chair; District 6
Andrew Meyer	Vice Chair; General Member
Jamie Garrett	Secretary; General Member
Ian Clampett	District 1
Cynthia Rose Harris	Board Member
Erika Morgan	District 3
A-bel Gong	District 7
Grace Jones	Board Member
Armon Harvey	Board Member
Julia Chase	Staff Liaison; Chief Resilience Officer

Summary of the 2026 Work Plan

The 2026 Work Plan organized the Board's activities around its standing mandate and two priority goals.

Primary Goal

Advise the Mayor, City Council and relevant City departments on climate resiliency and adaptation, wetlands, habitat preservation, and biodiversity matters associated with various City plans, policies, regulations and initiatives

Priority Goal 1: Stormwater management and response

Examine changing storm patterns, flood response, stormwater operations and financing, community and industry readiness, impacts on people and ecosystems, funding challenges, and practices used by comparable municipalities.

Priority Goal 2: Improve Board process and accountability

Strengthen engagement with climate-vulnerable communities, hold community meetings, support recruitment for vacant seats, improve how matters come before the Board, and communicate more proactively with the Environment Committee.

2026 Achievements and Activities

Through July, the Board paired technical briefings with policy discussion, public engagement, and formal actions. The record shows a progression from work-plan adoption and topic framing to community listening, budget advocacy, stormwater funding analysis, and development of this annual report. [

[Committee Discussion, should we add September (Fire and BiodiverseSD), October (Inclusive Public engagement and CWA) and November (City Energy Programs) 2025. July there was not meeting.]

Month	Activity	Description	Goal
January	Governance / Action	Reviewed the draft 2026 Work Plan, identified speaker and meeting approaches, and elected 2026 officers.	Process & accountability
January	Information	Received the Mission Bay Park Improvements Program Implementation Framework and EIR presentation.	Primary mandate
February	Action / Information	Adopted the 2026 Work Plan, assigned members to lead resilience topics, and formed an ad hoc group for the April community meeting.	Primary mandate
March	Information	Received presentations on atmospheric rivers and the Los Penasquitos Lagoon Restoration Phase I project.	Stormwater / biodiversity
March	Action	Approved a framework for the April community meeting and listening session.	Community engagement
April	Community meeting	Held an evening meeting at the Malcolm X Library with a Board overview, Chollas blue-green infrastructure presentation, and community listening session.	Stormwater / accountability
May	Action / Information	Authorized correspondence concerning the Mission Gorge Rock Quarry; approved an amended FY2027 budget recommendation letter; and received briefings on stormwater, urban forestry, and regional energy resilience.	Primary mandate
June	Information	Received the SHADE SD extreme heat action planning presentation.	Extreme heat / equity
June	Action	Authorized the Chair to join a multi-board letter concerning teleconference provisions under SB 707.	Process & accountability
July	Information	Received two stormwater funding presentations and a natural resource management plan presentation for Crest and Gonzales Canyons.	Stormwater / biodiversity
July	Action	Established an ad hoc effort to develop the 2026 Annual Report and Recommendations.	Accountability

Key milestones

- Moved stormwater from a broad concern to a focused examination of climate science, community impacts, funding mechanisms, and implementation options.
- Held a community-based evening meeting that combined orientation, an applied blue-green infrastructure case study, and resident listening.
- Connected resilience priorities to the City budget through a formal FY2027 recommendation letter.
- Integrated extreme heat, wetlands, urban forestry, natural resource management, and public infrastructure into the Board's broader resilience portfolio.

Presentations to the Board

Date	Presentation	Presenter / Organization	Purpose
Jan. 15	Mission Bay Park Improvements Program: Implementation Framework and EIR	Nancy Graham, Engineering & Capital Projects	Program framework, environmental review, project priorities, habitat restoration, shoreline resilience, and implementation considerations.
Feb. 19	Climate Change Implications for Homelessness	Jolly Noor, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health	Research on extreme-heat impacts experienced by people experiencing homelessness and applicability to the San Diego region.
Feb. 19	Stormwater 101	Patrick McDonough, San Diego Coastkeeper	Stormwater systems, aging infrastructure, climate impacts, reuse, regulatory constraints, outreach, and City funding choices.
Feb. 19	Office of Boards and Commissions Policy Recommendations Form	Julia Chase, City Planning	How the Board may provide recommendations to City Council throughout the year.
Mar. 19	Atmospheric Rivers, Flooding, and the Changing Climate in the San Diego Region	Deanna Nash and colleagues, Scripps / CW3E	How atmospheric rivers affect water supply and flood risk, how observations improve forecasts, and how precipitation extremes may change.
Mar. 19	Phase I Los Penasquitos Lagoon Restoration Project	Stormwater and Engineering & Capital Projects staff	Salt-marsh restoration, freshwater and sediment management, and habitat restoration. Follow up provided on before and after habitat totals in April.
Apr. 20	Resiliency Advisory Board Overview and 2026 Work Plan	Andrew Meyer, Vice Chair	Board purpose, 2026 priorities, and context for the community meeting.
Apr. 20	Chollas Blue-Green Collaborative and Vision	Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek	Community-informed blue-green infrastructure strategies including green streets, floodable parks, schoolyards, and stream restoration.
May 28	Stormwater Overview and Projects	Sumer Hasenin, Iman Hosseini Shakib, and Anthony Salvani, Stormwater Department	City stormwater system, capital planning, climate-adaptation design criteria, funding challenges, and resilience projects.
May 28	Urban Forestry Program	Brian Widener, City Forester	Tree-canopy goals, maintenance, urban greening, staffing, public safety, private-property contributions, and community resources.
May 28	Energy Resilience in the San Diego Region	Brenda Castruita and Yichao Gu	Regional energy literacy, flood and climate risks to electrical infrastructure, storage, renewable energy, and grid resilience.
Jun. 25	Solutions for Heat Adaptation and Equity in San Diego (SHADE SD)	A-bel Gong and Julia Chase	Regional heat-risk tools, community-led adaptation, communications, and the City's Extreme Heat Action Plan.
Jul. 16	The Big Picture: Statewide Political and Legal Solutions for Stormwater Funding	Karen Cowan, California Stormwater Quality Association	Statewide funding conditions, dedicated and supplemental revenue, public education, and political and legal pathways.
Jul. 16	Flood and Water Quality Resiliency: Current Challenges with Funding Stormwater Management	John W. Bliss, SCI Consulting Group	Revenue mechanisms, Proposition 218 constraints, fee studies, polling, outreach, and portfolio approaches.

Date	Presentation	Presenter / Organization	Purpose
Jul. 16	Natural Resource Management Plans: Crest and Gonzales Canyons	Mark Berninger, Parks and Recreation	How site-level natural resource management plans support habitat conservation and implementation of the Multiple Species Conservation Program.
Sept. 24			

Actions Taken by the Board

The table below summarizes recorded Board actions.

Date	Subject	Action	Disposition
May 28	Mission Gorge Rock Quarry	Authorized correspondence to the Planning Commission Chair and Planning Director summarizing concerns presented to the Board and referring the matter for further review.	Approved unanimously, sent to the Planning Commission and reported at the July 9, 2026 meeting.
May 28	FY2027 budget letter	Authorized the Vice Chair to transmit a budget recommendation letter incorporating relevant prior recommendations and maintaining funding for the Neil Good Center.	Letter sent to City Council prior to budget approval
Jun. 25	SB 707 joint letter	Authorized the Chair to sign a joint recommendation letter with other City advisory-board chairs.	Approved unanimously
Jun. 25	Stormwater follow-up	The Board liaison agreed to request information on City preparation and response related to the NOAA El Nino advisory, with a fall target.	Staff follow-up recorded and sent to Committee members based on Environment Committee and City Council preparations of El Nino

Issues and Recommendations

The recommendations below consolidate the attached 2026 recommendation summary, the Board's FY2027 budget letter, and recurring issues documented in meeting minutes. Items should be reviewed and formally adopted by the Board before external transmittal. Where the source memo includes observations from late 2025, they are treated as carry-forward context rather than new 2026 actions.

No.	Topic	Board Recommendation
1	Urban forestry and cooling	Update the Urban Forestry Program plan, verify canopy conditions, fund planting and maintenance at a level aligned with the Climate Action Plan canopy goal, assess Zone Zero implications, evaluate existing programs, and strengthen private-property and HOA resources.
2	Cooling-center accessibility and learning	Survey cooling-center users and improve access by safely accommodating pets and avoiding ID requirements.
3	Stormwater planning and finance	Define the storm conditions for which the City is planning through 2100, communicate implications for preparedness, and evaluate funding, development, and investment options.
4	Impervious-surface funding strategy	Pursue a three-part strategy: a balloted parcel tax tied to impervious area, broader permitting and fees for hardscape projects, and incentives to reduce hardscape.
5	Wetlands and habitat accountability	Provide clear before-and-after habitat totals for Los Penasquitos Lagoon Restoration Phase I and sustain resources for natural resource management planning and implementation.
6	Energy Implementation	Retain key recreation, asset-management, ranger, brush-management, and frontline service capacity, while enabling staff to pursue grants for Climate Action Plan resilience goals.
7	Water Supply and Storage	[HOLD FOR SEPTEMBER PRESENTATION, REVIEW CWA Presentation]

Topic 1 - Urban Forestry, Street Trees, and Cooling

Recommended follow-up actions: The Climate Action Plan Goal is 35 percent coverage, the current trajectory is not on pace based on the latest information. Commission updated canopy data, including a new aerial assessment; prepare and fund an updated Urban Forestry Program plan; establish an implementation trajectory toward the 35 percent canopy goal; evaluate Zone Zero effects; examine the effectiveness and cost efficiency of Grow a Green San Diego; quantify tree material removed and produced; and improve the pruning cycle for shade trees.

Public engagement and equity: Create clear HOA and resident resources; strengthen support for private tree planting; connect SHADE SD materials to the Climate Action Plan; and focus outreach and investment where heat and canopy burdens are greatest.

Council action requested: Support and prioritize Urban Forestry plans for implementation and acceleration of program effectiveness. Direct staff to complete and return with a new canopy evaluation to inform a , a funded implementation plan, program performance measures, and a schedule for updating the Urban Forestry Program plan to meet Climate Action Plan coverage goals. Include evaluating tree types, quantity of material cut and produced, pruning trees on a regular maintenance schedule, and publishing outreach resources to help meet these goals with new Zone Zero fire standards. .

Topic 2 - Cooling Centers and Extreme Heat

Recommended follow-up actions: Survey cooling-center users to understand utilization, barriers, and unmet needs. Improve usefulness and access by safely allowing pets and avoiding an identification requirement.

Related 2026 work: Use lessons from SHADE SD, the Urban Heat Risk Explorer, and community-led adaptation work to inform heat communications and investment decisions.

Council action requested: Request a user-centered evaluation of cooling centers and an implementation response addressing access barriers identified by residents. Increase accessibility for residents by not requiring IDs and by allowing pets. Publish in easy

formats the locations of centers and include consideration of microgrid efficiencies in centers. Survey how residents are using cooling centers during heat events and reasons why they are using them.

Topic 3 - Stormwater Preparedness and Funding

Recommended follow-up actions: Describe the storm severity and climate assumptions the City is using through 2100, including changing atmospheric-river conditions; translate that information into preparedness standards; connect the analysis to El Nino and atmospheric weather pattern predictions. Relate to and current operations; and evaluate funding and investment opportunities.

Funding strategy: Test a tiered or parcel-based approach that reflects actual impervious surface and, where feasible, additional risk factors. Pair dedicated funding with permit-related fees for expanded hardscape and incentives for property owners to remove or reduce impervious surfaces.

Council action requested: Funding is critical for investment in stormwater resources. Develop a legally and administratively detailed funding package, including examples for residential, commercial, and industrial properties, and advance the required ordinances and voter process. Three-pronged approach is recommended.

1. Establish a balloted parcel tax, via the Prop 218 process, that clearly defines the structure and rate calculation method within the ballot measure itself. Test the method on several property categories (residential, commercial, industrial) of different areas to provide clear examples of how much property owners would likely pay based on their property's amount of impervious surface.
2. Expand the types of hardscape projects requiring a building permit and associated fee sufficient to disincentivize increasing the amount of impervious surface on existing developed properties.
3. Create incentive rewards program for property owners to reduce/remove hardscape, modeled on the most successive comparable water conservation programs.

Topic 4 - Wetlands, Habitat, and Natural Resource Management

Recommended follow-up actions: Provide before-and-after habitat totals for the Los Penasquitos Lagoon Restoration Phase I project. Continue and accelerate Natural Resource Management Plans, including adequate staffing, technical capacity, and long-term maintenance.

Council action requested: Require transparent ecological performance reporting for restoration projects and sustain the staffing and implementation resources needed for site-level management plans.

Topic 5 - Resilience Capacity in the City's Budget

Recommended follow-up actions: Preserve funding that supports recreation centers, community programming, parks and open space, capital projects, grant administration, brush management, and services for people experiencing homelessness.

Council action requested: Consider the Board's June 3, 2026 budget letter when adopting and amending departmental budgets in all future budgets, consider impact of service cuts on residents in all parts of the city. Authorize staff to pursue external funding that advances resilience priorities.

Topic 6 - Energy and Microgrids

Council action requested: RAB Recommends that the city research mechanisms whereby City authority can be used to expand microgrid operation under "bluesky" conditions, thereby enabling local microgrids to reach financial viability. Such expanded financial viability would enable these valuable energy resilience facilities to multiply within City boundaries without public grants but through private investment/local ownership.

The City should incentivize rooftop solar that can feed back into the grid, so that large roofs can produce more than they need and support communities.

Topic 7 - Water Supply and Storage [Working Title]

- **Council action requested:** All instances of water storage be design to account for the decreasing frequency of non-storm precipitation in the decades ahead. Review costs of utilities and living in this region, and retain water resources in this region to support a resilient population in the more mild San Diego Climate.
- Add from September meeting presentations