

The City of
SAN DIEGO
RESILIENCY ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 16, 2026
1:00-3:00 pm
Location: Civic Center Plaza, 1200 3rd Ave, 4th Floor,
San Diego, CA 92101

Chair: Eric Lardy | **Vice Chair:** Andrew Meyer | **Secretary:** Jamie Garrett

Seated Board members: Ian Clampett, A-bel Gong, Cynthia Rose Harris, Grace Jones, Erika Morgan, Armon Harvey.

Staff Liaison: Julia Chase, City Planning Department

THURSDAY, July 16, 2026 at 1:00 P.M.

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Call to order at 1:01 p.m.

Board Member	Attendance
Ian Clampett	Absent
Cynthia Rose Harris	Present
Erika Morgan	Absent
Eric Lardy	Present
Grace Jones	Present
A-bel Gong	Present
Jamie Garrett	Present
Andrew Meyer	Absent
Armon Harvey	Present

Item 2: Land Acknowledgement

Item 3: Adoption/Modification of Agenda Order

Item 4: Announcements and Board Member Comments

Board Members provided introductions to welcome new member.

Item 5: Approval of Minutes: June 25, 2026

Motion: Approve minutes as presented.

Moved by: Board Member Garrett

Seconded by: Board Member Gong

Vote: Passed: 4 in favor, 2 abstentions

Abstentions: Board members Harvey and Harris.

Item 6: Non-Agenda Public Comment

None.

Item 7: Unfinished Business

None.

Item 8: Information Items**Item 8a: The Big Picture: Statewide Political and Legal Solutions for Stormwater Funding, Karen Cowan, Executive Director, California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA)**

Karen Cowan provided an overview of CASQA's statewide efforts to advance sustainable stormwater management and highlighted the large scale of regulated communities represented statewide. The presentation explained major funding challenges, emphasizing the lack of dedicated rate-payer-based revenue for stormwater compared with drinking water and wastewater systems. The presentation also described recent statewide progress, including recognition of stormwater capture in the Governor's Water Supply Strategy and new climate-bond allocations that dedicate funds directly to stormwater. She underscored the need for long-term dedicated funding, readiness to pursue local measures, and broad public education such as CASQA's "Rain Ready California" campaign.

Item 8b: Flood and Water Quality Resiliency: Current Challenges with Funding Stormwater Management, John W. Bliss, P.E., President of SCI Consulting Group

John Bliss discussed the structural funding barriers facing stormwater programs, including restrictions imposed by Proposition 218 and the requirement for mailed property-owner balloting for new stormwater fees. He contrasted this with other utilities such as water, sewer, and refuse, which can raise rates without ballots, creating a significant funding disadvantage. The presentation described how cities statewide are beginning to pursue dedicated funding measures, including property-related fees and special taxes, and shared examples of successful campaigns and messaging strategies. He noted that San Diego's beach culture and flood-control concerns may support future ballot efforts but emphasized the importance of tailored community messaging and readiness to act when opportunities arise.

Item 8c: Natural Resource Management Plans: Crest and Gonzales Canyon, Mark Berninger, Natural Resource Manager, Parks and Recreation Department

City staff presented an overview of the City's natural resource management work under the MSCP and described the forthcoming Crest and Gonzales Canyon Natural Resource Management Plan. The presentation explained that extensive surveys revealed high biological diversity across both canyons, with roughly 600 plant species documented and several rare or previously unrecorded species rediscovered. Staff

outlined the major management challenges, including invasive species, erosion from stormwater infrastructure, urban encroachment, and habitat fragmentation. The presentation noted that the plan is nearing completion and will undergo internal, agency, and public review before adoption, and he described additional Natural Resource Management Plan's in development, including Tecolote Canyon.

Public comment:

Kevin Sullivan thanked staff for their ongoing work and asked whether a Natural Resource Management Plan exists for Navajo Canyon.

Item 9: Action Items:

Item 9a: Ad-Hoc Committee for Annual Report

Action: Board to vote on members for ad-hoc committee to develop 2026 Annual Report and Recommendations for Resiliency Advisory Board.

Chair Lardy and Board Member Jones volunteered to join Ad-Hoc Committee. City staff noted that the recommendation form would be circulated to all members, including those absent, to gather input for the committee's work. Ad-hoc subcommittee selected by the Chair. No vote needed.

Item 10: Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings

No Items

Item 11: Adjournment

Board was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.