City of San Diego
Climate Advisory Board
FY26 Annual Report

Chair's Message

This past year, the Climate Advisory Board continued its role as a trusted advisor to the Mayor, City Council, and City staff on climate policy and implementation through engagement with City staff, technical experts, community organizations, and members of the public to better understand emerging issues and opportunities. Guided by our 2026 Work Plan, the Board remained focused on providing thoughtful, practical recommendations to help advance San Diego's Climate Action Plan while recognizing the City's fiscal realities and the importance of delivering equitable benefits to our communities.,

The first year of the board we made the conscious effort to travel to every district to make sure we immersed ourselves in every climate the city was experiencing to make sure we could offer the most accurate and equitable climate action recommendations to the current City of San Diego Council members and Mayor. In an effort to support the city staffs request to hold the Climate Advisory Meetings downtown while still connecting with each district, I am proud to say the Board unanimously supported the recommendation that we make a valiant effort to invite organizations from the various districts to our board meetings to be given a platform to present the great works they are doing and have direct access to request support letters from the board to strengthen their continued quests in supporting the City's Climate Action Plan, if needed. These discussions informed recommendations on Climate Action Plan implementation, building decarbonization, mobility, climate equity, and public transparency.

The previous year we heard about San Diego Climate Week and several board members decided this year we would be involved. The Climate Advisory Board showed up in several amazing ways. Besides bringing continued awareness to the community through the monthly agenda discussions, we showed up in person at Balboa Park Pavilion during San Diego Climate Week to engage with the community and offer space to listen and absorb feedback about the Climate Action Plan from the community itself. There was a high level of interest with nearly 200 submitted registrations for our specific event. This was an amazing opportunity to acknowledge the community members and collect data to ensure the community's voice is advocated through our board and I want to personally thank all of the community members that showed up in-person to offer direct feedback, concerns and ask questions in regard to the Climate Action Plan (Data to be presented at the December 2026 CAB meeting).

Being an Afro-Latina native of San Diego's District 4-Southeastern San Diego neighborhood, it has been an honor to serve as the First Chairperson for the City of San Diego's Climate Advisory Board (CAB) for 2 terms. As a purpose driven ambassador for climate change and environmental justice in Communities of Concern, this was an opportunity to advocate for climate equity and be a voice for those that have historically been systemically disregarded when it comes to discussions that impact their communities. My personal recommendation is to increase partnerships with our Underrepresented Communities and invest in these communities' leadership and local workforce development to increase equity and true resiliency.

I extend a heartfelt appreciation to my Climate Advisory Board Team. While important to note the dissatisfaction of having 2 vacant seats for over a year, the board made a quorum every month thus far in 2026 and strongly advocated for City Council to supportSB 707 provisions to allow teleconferencing when needed, which can ensure other boards have increased support to make quorum, as well. This report highlights the Board's activities and reflects the Board's continued commitment to collaboration, transparency, and practical solutions that support San Diego's climate goals. On behalf of the Climate Advisory Board, I thank City staff, presenters, and members of the public for their time, expertise, and commitment throughout the year. We look forward to continuing this work together in the year ahead.

Tanisha-Jean Martin
Climate Advisory Board, Chair

Overview

At a Glance

Reporting period: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, with some initial FY27 information

Regular meetings: 15

Recommendation letters adopted: 13

Presentations received: 20

Board membership: 13 members (2 vacancies)

- JD Weidman resigned in Oct 2026, bringing the total to 3 vacancies



Notes:

1. A Mayoral seat has been vacant since October 2025
2. Council District 5 seat has been vacant since September 2025

Work Plan Objectives

This Annual Report is aligned with the 2026 Work Plan which has the following Objectives:

Objective	Focus	What is currently included
1. **Governance**	Strengthen CAB Governance, Effectiveness, and Accountability	Tracks attendance and quorum expectations, agenda planning, workplan and annual report processes, coordination with related boards, stakeholder engagement, and educational briefings.
2. **Building Decarbonization**	Advance Equitable Building Decarbonization	Covers building benchmarking, Building Performance Standards, reach codes, HEART program learnings, alignment with CAP targets, SB 1221 neighborhood decarbonization pilots, and equity implications.
3. **Mobility**	Elevate Equitable Mobility and Mode Shift	Covers coordination with the Mobility Board and mobility organizations, the Bicycle Master Plan, Street Design Manual, parking-demand management, CAP mode-shift strategies, CIP prioritization, and the Bike Share Feasibility Study.
4. **Additional CAP Strategies**	Support Additional CAP Strategies	Designed to capture opportunistic CAB engagement outside its highest-priority areas.
5. **Climate Equity Fund**	Elevate the Climate Equity Fund	Tracks CAB advocacy for restoring CEF funding, a requested staff presentation on the fund's history and expenditures, alignment with the Climate Equity Working Group, and recommendations concerning community benefits and accountability.
6. **CAP Transparency**	Improve CAP Transparency and Public Understanding	Tracks dashboard usability, public communication of CAP progress and tradeoffs, documentation of implementation risks and gaps, and future consultation on the CAP update.

Key Activities & Recommendations

This section discusses each Objective and provides a summary of key activities and recommendations.

Objective 1: Strengthen CAB Governance, Effectiveness, and Accountability

Focus on improving CAB operations to increase its impact.

Key Activities

- Adopted the 2026 Climate Advisory Board Work Plan to establish strategic priorities and guide the Board's work.
- Focused on reducing board meeting adjournments due to lack of quorum
    - Established Board Secretary position to improve board member attendance
- Established monthly planning meeting with Board officers and staff liaison
- Established coordination with related City boards
    - Identified liaisons who provide “Reports on Related Boards” as recurring board agenda item
    - Established quarterly meetings of Board leaders
    - Adopted several letters of support for relevant activities by other boards
- Established an expectation that Board members identify and recommend community speakers on topics relevant to the Board's work

Recommendations	**Status**
Appoint qualified candidates to fill the Board's two vacant seats	The two seats remain vacant
Implement SB 707 teleconferencing provisions for advisory bodies to support board member recruitment, retention, participation, and diversity.	Rules Committee passed Office of Boards & Commissions recommendation 9/16/26

Objective 2: Advance Equitable Building Decarbonization

Buildings remain one of the City’s largest emissions reduction opportunities, with significant equity implications. The Board focused on practical implementation strategies that could accelerate building decarbonization while maximizing community benefits and recognizing fiscal realities.

Key Activities

- Aligned with staff on relevant activities and timing for board engagement

- Urged the city to accelerate high-impact actions in buildings
- Monitored implementation of the City's building-related climate strategies and opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Invited the San Diego Regional Energy Network to present on their new programs, including those aligned with building decarbonization

Recommendations	**Status**
Begin assessing and collecting non-compliance fees under the City's 2019 Building Energy Benchmarking ordinance, to improve compliance and generate revenue.	Recommendation transmitted
Implement CAP Action BE-1.1b "Develop a Building Performance Standards (BPS) policy."	Recommendation transmitted
Develop cost-effective reach codes for Single-Family AC to Heat Pump Replacements	Recommendation transmitted
Support continued City participation in SB 1221 Neighborhood Decarbonization Pilot efforts and collaboration with regional partners	City's submitted supportive comments at the August 2025 CPUC Public Participation Hearing.
Support implementation of Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) Portfolio 1, while including questions regarding why the City's Project Labor Agreement was not applicable	Approved by City Council, PLA questions not addressed

Objective 3: Elevate Equitable Mobility & Mode Shift

The Board worked collaboratively with the Mobility Board and community partners to support initiatives that advance Climate Action Plan implementation while improving mobility options for San Diego residents.

Key Activities

- Received presentations on the CicloSDias Pilot Program and a Potential regional, docked e-bike share network
- Monitored implementation of the City's mobility-related climate strategies and opportunities to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.
- Coordinated with the Mobility Board on issues of shared interest

Recommendations	Status
Support a regional, docked e-bike share program through interagency collaboration and public-private partnership	Recommendation transmitted
Support the Mobility Board's FY2027 budget priorities to advance implementation of the Climate Action Plan's mobility goals.	Recommendation transmitted as part of the City's FY2027 budget process.
Support Circulate San Diego's Neighborhood Homes for All of Us initiative to encourage housing and land use patterns that support walking, bicycling, and transit use	Recommendation transmitted

Objective 4: Support Work on Additional Climate Strategies

The Board engaged selectively on additional CAP strategies based on member capacity and community interest.

Key Activities

- Received presentations on additional climate strategies
    - Plant-Based Climate Action Initiatives from SanDiego350
    - San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Sustainability Strategy and Alignment with the City Climate Action Plan
    - Public Power Feasibility Study, Phase 2
    - WILDCOAST, which addresses climate change through natural solutions
- Received staff & board announcements on regional activities aligned with the CAP strategies
- Maintained flexibility to address emerging climate issues as they arose during the reporting period.

Recommendations	Status
Support for Parks and Recreation Coalition Response to Mayor’s Proposed FY27 Budget	Recommendation transmitted as part of the City's FY2027 budget process.

Objective 5: Monitor and Elevate the Climate Equity Fund

The Board sought to ensure that equity remained a guiding principle across Climate Action Plan implementation, in addition to monitoring the Climate Equity Fund.

Key Activities

- Encouraged continued transparency regarding Climate Equity Fund planning, funding, and implementation.
- Considered how climate programs can provide multiple benefits, including improved public health, lower energy costs, increased resilience, and expanded access to clean energy and transportation

Recommendations	**Status**
Protect and Implement the Climate Equity Fund	Recommendation transmitted as part of the City's FY2027 budget process.
Encourage continued investment in climate programs that prioritize communities of concern.	Recommendation transmitted in multiple Board letters and budget recommendations during the reporting period.

Objective 6: Improve CAP Transparency and Public Understanding

Key Activities

- Received regular updates from City staff on implementation of the Climate Action Plan.
- Received a presentation on the October 2026 San Diego Climate Week, with discussion for opportunities for the city and the board to engage with the public
- Developing recommendations for CAP Dashboard usability, transparency, accessibility, accountability, and public understanding

Recommendations	**Status**
Requested a six-month look-ahead of significant Climate Action Plan implementation activities	Staff incorporated a recurring agenda item highlighting these.
2022 CAP Implementation Plan Update recommendation identified opportunities to improve accountability, implementation tracking, dashboard transparency, milestone tracking, and status reporting.	Recommendation transmitted
CAP 2027 update recommendation to present major changes to the Net-Zero Target Dates and Strategies to the CAB and the Environment Committee well in advance of developing the measures and actions, to allow feedback to be incorporated	Recommendation transmitted

Recommendations	Status
Requested a six-month look-ahead of significant Climate Action Plan implementation activities	Staff incorporated a recurring agenda item highlighting these.
Recommendation for public-facing communication enhancements, visual summaries, contextual explanations, community engagement, and accessibility considerations intended to improve public understanding of CAP implementation.	Presented to staff

Key Priorities for City Action

The Climate Advisory Board's recommendations during the reporting period consistently emphasized several priorities that will help advance implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan and maximize benefits for San Diego residents.

- **Accelerate Climate Action Plan Implementation.** Prioritize implementation of adopted Climate Action Plan measures that deliver measurable greenhouse gas reductions and meaningful community benefits while recognizing the City's fiscal constraints.

- **Improve Transparency and Accountability.** Strengthen public reporting on Climate Action Plan implementation by clearly communicating implementation schedules, funding, and milestones toward adopted goals. Transparent reporting supports informed decision-making, builds public trust, and helps identify implementation challenges early.
    - Ensure CAP 2027 changes to the Net-Zero Target Dates and Strategies are publicly available well in advance of developing the measures and actions

- **Advance Practical, High-Impact Climate Solutions.** Focus on actions that are technically feasible, cost-effective, and capable of delivering multiple benefits, including improved public health, lower energy costs, greater resilience, cleaner air, high-quality local jobs and workforce development opportunities and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Recommendations include
    - Cost-effective reach codes for Single-Family AC to Heat Pump Replacements
    - City participation in SB 1221 Neighborhood Decarbonization Pilots, which redirects utility funds from aging gas pipeline replacements toward community-approved electrification projects
    - City development of a Building Performance Standards (BPS) policy
    - A regional, docked e-bike share program

- **Strengthen Climate Advisory Board Effectiveness.** Maintain a fully functioning advisory board by filling vacant Board seats in a timely manner and implementing SB 707 teleconferencing provisions to improve member recruitment, retention, participation, and

public accessibility. A strong and diverse advisory board is better positioned to provide informed, consistent advice that supports the City's climate goals.

The Board remains committed to providing practical, evidence-based recommendations that support implementation of the Climate Action Plan and help the City achieve its adopted climate goals while delivering meaningful benefits for San Diego's communities .

Appendix: Presentations & Recommendation Letters

All CAB meeting materials can be found on the Climate Advisory Board website. A list of the FY26 presentations and recommendation letters is provided in this Appendix, as well as early FY27 items.

Presentations to the CAB

- City of San Diego Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions, 2019-2023 (Aug 2025)
    - Presented by Andrew Martin (Staff Liaison)
- CicloSDias Pilot Program (Aug 2025)
    - Presented by Joe Whitaker (staff)
- Plant-Based Climate Action Initiatives (Nov 2025)
    - Presented by SanDiego350
- Supplemental Cost-Effective Energy Efficiency Requirements (page 25) (Nov 2025)
    - Presented by City Planning Department staff
- City Planning Department Fiscal Year 2026 Work Program (Dec 2025)
    - Presented by Andrew Martin (Staff Liaison)
- Energy Savings Performance Contracts (Jan 2026)
    - Presented by Lindsey Hawes (staff)
- General Services Department Initiatives Supporting Climate Action Plan Implementation (Feb 2026)
    - Presented by Lindsey Hawes and Anna Lowe (staff, General Services Department)
- San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Sustainability Strategy and Alignment with the City Climate Action Plan (Mar 2026)
    - Presented by Dustin DeMatteo (CAB member)
- Public Power Feasibility Study, Phase 2 (page 11) (Apr 2026)
    - Presented by Heather Werner (Deputy Director of Energy, Department of General Services)
- WILDCOAST (May 2026)
    - Angela Kemsley and David Boehme (WILDCOAST)
- Potential regional, docked e-bike share network (May 2026)
    - Presented by JD Weidman (CAB member)
- San Diego Climate Week (Jun 2026)
    - Presented by Meg Ferrigno, Charles Rilli, Katrina Oprisko and Whitman Baker
- San Diego Regional Energy Network (Jun 2026)
    - Presented by Collin Santulli and Lee Friedman (San Diego Community Power)
- Resolution Affirming the City of San Diego's Commitment to Limit Greenhouse Gas Emissions (July 2026)

    - Presented by Brian Elliott and Savannah Stallings (District 1 Council Staff)
- 2025 Annual Climate Action Plan Report (July 2026)
    - Presented by Andrew Martin (Staff Liaison)
- School District Electrification Resolutions (Aug 2026)
    - Presented by Cristina Marquez (CAB member) and Serena Pelka (Climate Action Campaign)
- Mission Trails Regional Park Sustainability Activities (Sept 2026)
    - Presented by Jennifer Morrissey, (Executive Director, Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation)
- El Nino Preparedness Information: Midway Sinking (Sept 2026)
    - Presented by Lori Saldana (Non Agenda Public Comment)
- San Diego Environmental Film Festival (Oct 2026)
    - Presented by Cindy J Lin (CAB member)
- Updates to the Climate Action Plan and Climate Resilient SD (Oct 2026)
    - Presented by Andrew Martin (Staff Liaison)

CAB Recommendation letters

- CAB Vacancies Request Letter (Jul 2025)
- Support SB 1221 Neighborhood Decarbonization Pilots (Jul 2025)
- Climate Advisory Board Recommendations (Oct 2025)
    1. 2022 CAP Implementation Plan Update
    2. SB1221 Neighborhood Decarbonization Pilots
    3. Reach Codes
    4. Benchmarking & Building Performance Standards (BPS)
    5. Potential CAP 2027 update
- CAB Recommendations Informed by Public Input on the Draft 2025 Status Update for the Climate Action Implementation Plan (Jan 2026)
    1. Restore Cost Information to Support Budget Alignment
    2. Strengthen Accountability by Improving CAP Action Status Tracking
    3. Prioritize Actions the City Can Actually Deliver
    4. Accelerate High-Impact Actions in Buildings and Transportation
    5. Improve Equity and Community Engagement in Implementation
- Climate Advisory Board Recommendations on ESPC Portfolio 1 (Jan 2026)
    1. Approve ESPC Portfolio 1 as proposed
    2. Provide project selection transparency to support equity and public trust
    3. Request an explanation for why this construction contract does not fall under the city's Project Labor Agreement
    4. Request an accounting of the remaining energy retrofits needed at existing City facilities
- Continued City Engagement on SB 1221 Neighborhood Decarbonization Pilots (Mar 2026)
- CAB Letter of Support for FY 2027 Draft Budget – San Diego Mobility Board Priorities (Apr 2026)
- CAB Letter of Support for Circulate San Diego's Neighborhood Homes for All of Us Program and Feasibility Study Priorities (Apr 2026)

- CAB Letter of Support for a Regional Docked, E-Bike Share System (May 2026)
- Climate Advisory Board Support for Parks and Recreation Coalition Response to Mayor's Proposed FY27 Budget (May 2026)
- Climate Advisory Board Support for Mobility Board's Response to Mayor's Proposed FY27 Budget (May 2026)
- FY27 Budget - Protect and Implement the Climate Equity Fund (May 2026)
- Request for Timely Implementation of SB 707 Teleconferencing Provisions for Advisory Bodies (Jun 2026)