CITY OF SAN DIEGO
RESILIENCY ADVISORY BOARD
FISCAL YEAR 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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Image Credit: Cynthia Rose Harris

Introduction to the Resiliency Advisory Board

Climate Resilient San Diego is the City of San Diego's comprehensive climate adaptation and resiliency plan, adopted on December 14, 2021.[1] *Resiliency*, as defined by the plan, is *the capacity to respond to and recover from climate change hazard events and trends and maintain essential services, while also providing new equitable opportunities for a thriving future.*[2]

The concept applies as much to the City of San Diego's (City) human residents and communities as to property and public infrastructure, our non-human relatives and their habitat, and the region's diversity of natural resources and cultural landscapes. The challenge lies in recognizing our greatest areas of exposure, identifying and addressing vulnerabilities, and fortifying our ability to adapt to a changing climate.

The San Diego City Council established the eleven-member Resiliency Advisory Board (Board) in 2023.[3] The Board's mandate is to *advise the Mayor, City Council, and relevant departments on policies and strategies that enhance San Diego's resilience to climate-related hazards. The Board supports initiatives such as the Climate Resilient SD Plan, Biodiverse SD, and the Climate Action Plan Strategy 5, focusing on resilient infrastructure and healthy ecosystems.* The Climate Advisory Board is its counterpart with jurisdiction over climate, environmental justice, climate equity, sustainability, and energy policy.[4]

The City Council appointed the inaugural board on August 1, 2024, and the Board held its first meeting on September 19, 2024. Its initial three meetings of 2024 centered on establishing a solid foundation for the Board's subsequent activities in 2025. This Annual Report aims to highlight the Board's accomplishments during the fiscal year in a clear and concise manner that holds the Board accountable, by City leadership and the broader public alike, for achieving both its mandate under the Municipal Code and its own adopted goals for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.).

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[1] https://www.sandiego.gov/climate-resilient-sd/plan; City of San Diego, Press Release, San Diego City Council Adopts First-Ever Comprehensive Climate Resiliency Plan (Dec. 14, 2021), https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12-14_climate_resilient_sd_adoption.pdf.

[2] City of San Diego, Climate Resilient San Diego, 2.

[3] City of San Diego, Ord. No. O-21625, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2, Article 6, Division 10 of the San Diego Municipal Code by Retitling Division 10, Amending Sections 26.1001 and 26.1002, and Adding New Section 26.1003, Relating to Establishing the Resiliency Advisory Board and Disbanding the Wetlands Advisory Board

[4] San Diego Muni Code §§ 26.1001–26.1003.

Board Membership

San Diego's inaugural Resiliency Advisory Board consists of eleven members, nine appointed by City Councilmembers to represent each of the nine council districts, and two appointed by the Mayor. It represents a cross-section of communities, professional experience, and subject-matter experience including biodiversity, carbon markets, environmental justice, environmental law, flood mitigation, Indigenous rights, marine biology, public infrastructure, renewable energy, sea level rise, sustainable development, urban planning, and water quantity and supply. The Board today encompasses six Council Districts and prioritizes appointing members from Council Districts Four, Eight, and Nine by mid-2026.



Cynthia Rose Harris
Chair, District 2 Member



Eric James Lardy
Vice Chair, District 6 Member



Jamie Garrett
Secretary, General Member



Andrew Meyer
General Member



Ian Clampett
District 1 Member



Erika Morgan
District 3 Member



Stan M Williams
District 5 Member



A-bel Yee Gong
District 7 Member

Summary of the Fiscal Year 2025 Work Plan

The Resiliency Advisory Board adopted its Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Work Plan on February 20, 2025.[5] Its key elements are:

- **One Primary Goal and two Priority Goals** to ensure the Board met its duties and functions under San Diego Municipal Code §26.1003. The ***Primary Goal***, anticipated to remain substantially the same in succeeding Work Plans, was to evaluate and advise the Mayor and City Council on proposed climate resilience- and biodiversity-related plans, regulations, and initiatives. ***Priority Goal 1*** was to establish a strong foundation for the Board itself, and ***Priority Goal 2*** focused on the substantive issue of improving community resiliency to wildfires. The full Work Plan holds the Board accountable to achieving these goals by outlining specific Objectives and Action Items.

- **Resilience Topics**, discrete, climate resilience- or conservation-related topics to which the Board dedicates a portion of each meeting. Each reflects a concern critical to the City and is guided by both current events and public interest. Resilience Topics are selected and identified by individual Board members on a rotating basis. The following section summarizes the Resilience Topics covered.

- **Meeting dates and deliverables**, or a calendar of upcoming meetings holding the Resiliency Advisory Board accountable for achieving specific actions and activities.

- **Accountability**, listing a set of measures by which Board members can ensure, individually and collectively, that they fulfilled their duties and responsibilities.

[5] City of San Diego 2025 Resiliency Advisory Board Work Plan, https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/rab-annual-work-plan-final-adopted.pdf (Feb. 20, 2025). *See also* Appendix.

Board Achievements in Its First Year

The Resiliency Advisory Board held regular meetings and made meaningful progress toward its three strategic goals outlined in its adopted Fiscal Year 2025 Work Plan. As City leadership created the Board to support the City in evaluating and connecting climate-related initiatives, identifying tradeoffs, and advising on plans and policies through a resilience lens, these meetings provided a collaborative space for stakeholder engagement and recommendations that promote a more resilient and equitable city.

Primary Goal

Evaluate and advise on climate resilience and biodiversity-related plans, policies, and initiatives.

Priority Goal 1

Establish a Strong Foundation: Adopt bylaws, fill vacancies, create subcommittees, and launch community outreach.

Priority Goal 2

Improve Community Resilience to Wildfires: Identify and evaluate wildfire-related risks, invite presentations, analyze policies, and advise leadership.

Key Milestones

- **Formal adoption of bylaws and establishment of standing meetings** (Priority Goal 1). *Bylaws provide the Board with a clear governance framework and reliable schedule for meetings, improving participation, accountability, and public trust.*
- **Launch of community engagement efforts, including recruitment of new board members to fill vacancies and broaden representation** (Priority Goal 1). *Expanded awareness of Resiliency Advisory Board with focused outreach to Communities of Concern to strengthen equity in decision-making and advice to City leadership. Created a replicable structure for engagement while raising public awareness of resilience issues.*
- **Meetings that provided opportunities for public participation both in-person and via Zoom to enhance accessibility** (Priority Goal 1). *Increased transparency and inclusion, giving residents more opportunities to participate who otherwise could not attend in person.*
- **Coverage of diverse Resilience Topics with invited speakers, including climate action, biodiversity, wildfire resilience, and food systems** (Primary Goal). *Brought expert knowledge into Board discussions and deliberations, ensuring that Board recommendations to City leadership reflect current best practices and research.*
- **Review of major proposed and existing city plans such as the Coastal Resilience Master Plan, Climate Action Plan Strategy 5, and Natural Resource Management Plans** (Primary Goal). *Enabled the Board to evaluate cross-departmental initiatives through a resiliency lens and provide early recommendations, helping align City policies with state mandates and community resilience needs.*

The Resiliency Advisory Board in its first year not only built the organizational foundation required for effective operation, but also established itself as a credible, accessible, and forward-looking advisory body. By pairing structure with active community engagement, bringing in expert perspectives, and reviewing critical City plans, the Board has begun to shape actionable, equity-centered recommendations. These achievements position the Board to play a stronger role in ensuring San Diego's climate resilience strategies are coordinated, transparent, and responsive to both City leadership and community needs.

Summary of Meeting Minutes

Month	Activity	Description	Goal
Sept 2024	Action	Election of Chair and Vice Chair; creation of bylaws subcommittee.	*Priority Goal 1*
Oct 2024	Action	Amendments to bylaws; election of Secretary.	*Priority Goal 1*
Nov 2024	Action	Adoption of bylaws; creation of ad hoc subcommittee for 2025 Work Plan.	*Priority Goal 1*
	Action	Consideration of forming standing outreach subcommittee.	*Priority Goal 1*
Jan 2025	Action	Discussion of 2025 Annual Work Plan.	*Priority Goal 1*
	Action	Re-election of board officers; discussion of Work Plan and Resilience Topics.	*Priority Goal 1*
Feb 2025	Action	Assignment of board members to coordinate resilience topics for monthly meetings.	*Primary Goal*
	Action	Adoption of amended Work Plan; creation of ad hoc subcommittee for Priority Goal 1.	*Priority Goal 1*
	Info	Presentation from ad-hoc subcommittee on brush management and wildfire resilience. Discussion on topic.	*Priority Goal 2*
Mar 2025	Action	Selection of CAP Strategy 5 and Biodiverse SD as focus areas for Primary Goal.	*Primary Goal*
	Info	Presentation on Community Preparedness for Wildfire	*Priority Goal 2*
	Info	Presentation on native plants and biodiversity by California Native Plant Society and Parks and Recreation Department (*Resilience Topic*).	*Primary Goal*
	Action	Ad hoc subcommittee report on outreach and vacancies; flyer creation and general outreach.	*Priority Goal 1*
	Action	Discussion of Board's draft wildfire work program; coordination with SDFD and City Planning Department.	*Priority Goal 2*
Apr 2025	Info	Presentation on Hazard Mitigation and Safety Planning (SB99, AB747) by City Planning Department.	*Primary Goal*
	Action	Adoption of recommendations on the Coastal Resilience Master Plan and PEIR.	*Primary Goal*
	Action	Recommendation to prioritize fire hazard mapping and community outreach.	*Priority Goal 2*
May 2025	Info	Presentation on Climate Action Plan Strategy 5 by City Planning Department.	*Primary Goal*

	Info	Presentation on SoCal Heat Hub and extreme heat research by Scripps Institution of Oceanography (*Resilience Topic*).	*Primary Goal*
	Action	Discussion on aligning City initiatives with State requirements related to wildfire resilience and preparedness; accessibility of resources.	*Priority Goal 2*
June 2025	Info	Presentation on wildfire resilience through building codes (AB306, AB368, Title 24).	*Primary Goal*
	Info	Presentation on Natural Resource Management Plans from Parks and Recreation Department.	*Primary Goal*
	Info	Presentation on San Diego Food Systems Working Group and Food Vision 2030 by San Diego Food System Alliance (*Resilience Topic*).	*Primary Goal*
	Action	Selection of wildfire resilience focus areas, including homeowner support and pilot programs, for Annual Report.	*Priority Goal 2*

Issues and Recommendations

The Resiliency Advisory Board, in its first full year of work, engaged deeply on the topics of wildfire resilience, energy resilience, and coastal adaptation. The Board reviewed presentations from City staff, regional partners, and subject-matter experts; established ad hoc subcommittees to focus on wildfire resilience and outreach; and developed a structured set of recommendations aligned with City and State requirements. Through its discussions, the Board emphasized the importance of making information accessible to residents, aligning local initiatives with state and federal mandates, and ensuring that equity considerations guide implementation. These collective efforts provide the foundation for the recommendations presented below. The City Actions Taken reflect information that was shared with the Board and is not reflective of all City actions taken for each of the identified topics.

Summary Table of Topics and Recommendations

Topics	Board Recommendations for Council Action
1. Fire Hazard Mapping	Request annual written report and presentation to Resiliency Advisory Board and Council on fire hazard mapping progress and overlays of single-egress communities.
2. Outreach to High-Risk Communities	Prioritize outreach campaigns in newly added high-risk, single-egress neighborhoods with aggressive door-to-door and multilingual efforts.
3. Public Communication Improvements	Expand portal with interactive evacuation maps, multilingual fact sheets, and quarterly reporting on usage metrics.
4. Coastal Resilience Master Plan	Adopt Coastal Resilience Master Plan by end of 2025 and fund priority projects (Perched Beach, Dog Beach relocation, other nature-based solutions).
5. Natural Resource Management Plans	Provide resources to expedite completion and implementation of Natural Resource Management Plans.
6. Integrating Resiliency into City Design & Maintenance	Direct City departments to embed resiliency considerations explicitly in infrastructure design standards and maintenance programs.

Topic 1 – Wildfire Resilience: Fire Hazard Mapping

Recommendations to City Council Regarding Follow-Up Actions

Complete GIS overlays of Fire Hazard Severity Zones with evacuation-route constraints, prioritizing single-egress neighborhoods. Additionally, the Resiliency Advisory Board recommends City leadership requests staff to provide annual updates and make maps accessible to the public through the wildfire portal, and further requests that staff make annual presentations to the Board on mapping progress.

- **Recommended Public Engagement & Education -** Neighborhood briefings and map walkthroughs; translation and plain-language materials; outreach via libraries and recreation centers.

- **Potential Stakeholders[6] -** City Departments: City Planning; Fire-Rescue; Police; Office of Emergency Services; Development Services; Communications. Other: CAL FIRE; SDG&E; and community groups.

- **Potential Funding & Grants -** FEMA BRIC; Cal OES Hazard Mitigation; CAL FIRE Fire Prevention; USDOT Safe Streets for evacuation corridors.

City Context
Adopted Ordinance O-21992, formally integrating the 2025 Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps (July 2025); made fire hazard maps accessible via wildfire resource hub (2025; ongoing public use); updated the General Plan Safety Element (Blueprint SD) to comply with SB 99 and AB 747 (2024).

Topic 2 – Wildfire Resilience: Outreach to High-Risk Communities

Recommendations to City Council Regarding Follow-Up Actions
Develop a targeted outreach campaign for residents in neighborhoods newly added to the 2025 State High Fire Threat District maps, especially those with only a single evacuation route. Prioritize outreach in single-egress neighborhoods newly added to State fire risk maps, including door-to-door visits, town halls, and app enrollment campaigns.

- **Recommended Public Engagement & Education -** Block-by-block canvassing; neighborhood evacuation drills; bilingual mailers; partnerships with PTAs and neighborhood councils.

- **Potential Stakeholders -** City Departments: Fire-Rescue; Office of Emergency Services; Communications; City Planning. Other: community-based organizations; SD County OES; local schools and faith groups.

- **Possible Funding & Grants -** FEMA Hazard Mitigation; CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention; State resilience grants; philanthropic partners.

City Context
Launched sandiego.gov/wildfire portal with evacuation planning, defensible space, and Ready-Set-Go materials (June 2025; live); promoted Genasys Protect app and AlertSanDiego for emergency

[6] The stakeholders listed in this section are those applicable as of FY 2025 and may change in the future.

alerts (Summer 2025; active campaign); expanded brush management and door-to-door inspections in high-risk neighborhoods (2025; ongoing).

Topic 3 – Wildfire Resilience: Public Communication Improvements

Recommendations to City Council Regarding Follow-Up Actions
Expand the City's wildfire portal to include interactive evacuation maps, plain-language and multi-language fact sheets, and short video tutorials. Establish regular public reporting on engagement and usage metrics.

- **Recommended Public Engagement & Education -** Webinars; how-to videos; social media toolkits; integration with libraries and community centers.

- **Potential Stakeholders –** City Departments: Communications; Fire-Rescue; Development Services; City Planning; Department of Information Technology.

- **Potential Funding & Grants** - Minimal: primarily content development; explore state communications grants and public-private partnerships.

City Context
Launched wildfire portal with evacuation planning and defensible space resources (June 2025; live); integrated Ready, Set, Go! campaign into City outreach (Summer 2025; ongoing); initiated public-facing campaigns with Fire-Rescue and media partners (2025; continuing).

Topic 4 – Coastal Resilience: Coastal Resilience Master Plan

Recommendations to City Council Regarding Follow-Up Actions
Prioritize implementation of three Resiliency Advisory Board endorsed projects: Perched Beach (Mission Beach), Resilient Relocation (Dog Beach), and Resilient Cliff Design Options (Sunset Cliffs), as well as additional shoreline nature-based projects in the near-term.

- **Recommended Public Engagement & Education -** Project charrettes; coastal access and equity workshops; regular updates to the Community Planning Groups of the relevant coastal communities.

- **Potential Stakeholders** – City Departments: City Planning; Parks & Recreation; Engineering & Capital Projects; Stormwater; Transportation. Other: Coastal Commission; Regional Water Quality Control Board U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife; community groups.

- **Potential Funding & Grants** - State Coastal Conservancy; NOAA coastal resilience; FEMA BRIC; USACE planning support; philanthropic coastal funds.

City Context
Draft Master Plan and Final PEIR released; Environment Committee advanced the plan (June 2025). Full City Council adoption and certification (September 2025).

Topic 5 – Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMP)

Recommendations to City Council Regarding Follow-Up Actions
Increase the funding for staff at the Parks and Recreation Department's Natural Resource Division to tackle the backlog of Natural Resource Management Plans needed to manage and guide City land to meet with Climate Action Plan, Multiple Species Conservation Program, accessibility, and other commitments.

- **Recommended Public Engagement & Education -** Workshops with community groups, environmental organizations, and planning committees.

- **Potential Stakeholders** – City Departments: City Planning; Parks & Recreation. Other: California Department of Fish & Wildlife; U.S. Forest Service; conservation non-governmental organizations.

- **Potential Funding & Grants** - California Wildlife Conservation Board; State Habitat Conservation Fund; philanthropic conservation funds.

City Context
Draft NRMP components presented to Resiliency Advisory Board (June 2025). Coordination initiated with California Department of Fish & Wildlife (2025).

Topic 6 – Infrastructure: Integrating Resiliency into Design & Maintenance

Recommendations to City Council Regarding Follow-Up Actions
Direct staff to embed resiliency standards into design guidelines, construction, and maintenance protocols across City infrastructure programs.

- **Recommended Public Engagement & Education -** Community forums for infrastructure planning; public dashboards showing resilience upgrades.

- **Potential Stakeholders –** City Departments: Engineering & Capital Projects; Transportation; Stormwater; City Planning; Public Utilities. Other: external design consultants.

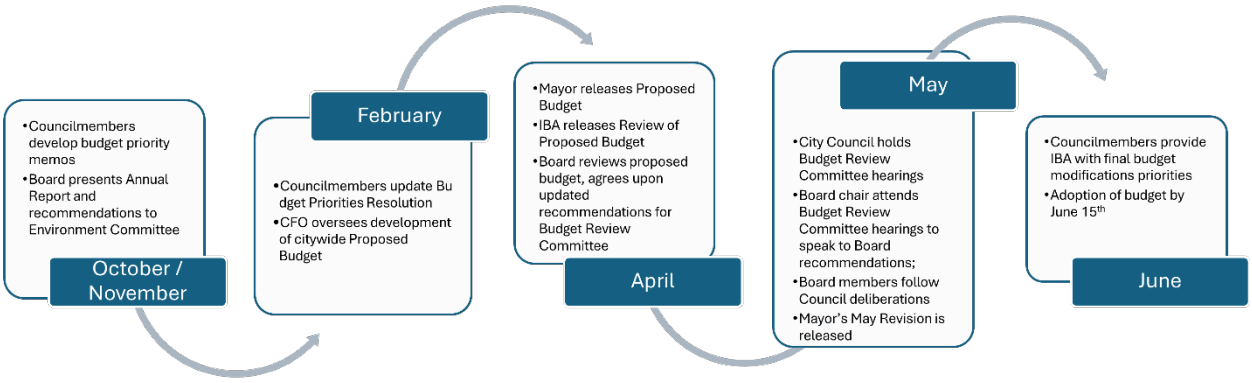
- **Potential Funding & Grants -** Federal infrastructure funds; FEMA BRIC; state resilience bonds; public-private partnerships.

City Context
Climate Resilient SD implementation piloted resiliency design criteria in select capital projects (2025).

Collectively, the Resiliency Advisory Board's recommendations highlight areas where the City has already taken important steps—such as adopting updated fire hazard maps, launching the wildfire portal, and advancing the Coastal Resilience Master Plan—while also identifying where additional focus is needed. The Board's recommendations demonstrate the value of combining technical expertise, community input, and interdepartmental coordination to strengthen San Diego's ability to prepare for and respond to climate risks.

Looking ahead, the Board emphasizes that resilience is not achieved through one-time actions but requires ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and community engagement. By embedding equity into implementation, ensuring transparency through public reporting, and prioritizing proactive outreach in vulnerable communities, San Diego can continue to serve as a model for climate resilience in California, and beyond. These recommendations are intended not only to guide City Council actions and Mayoral priorities, but also to provide residents with a clear understanding of how the City is building a safer, more resilient future.

The Board recognizes the importance of ensuring City leadership considers our recommendations during its Fiscal Year budgetary process, as per the timeline below. As an advisory body entrusted to provide the Mayor and City Council with actionable input, recommendations will be provided to City leadership at key points to better harmonize with the City's budget decision-making process and maximize the relevance and consideration of our recommendations.



Opportunities for RAB to advise

October / November	Board presents Annual Report and recommendations to Environment Committee
April	Board reviews Proposed Budget and IBA Review of Proposed Budget. Agrees upon updated Board recommendations for Budget Review Committee
May	Board chair attends Budget Review Committee hearings to speak to Board recommendations; Board members follow Council deliberations

Looking Ahead to Fiscal Year 2026

The Resiliency Advisory Board concludes its first year reflecting on how to carry forward and improve upon its accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2026.

Internally, the Board intends in Fiscal Year 2026 to intensify recruitment efforts for the three still-vacant seats, review its own Bylaws, enhance transparency, collaborate with other advisory boards,[7] and expand its community outreach activities. We advise the Mayor's Office and City Council to streamline the Board appointment process and direct City staff to proactively provide the Board with status updates on its efforts and progress. We also encourage City Councilmembers to take a more active role in identifying potential candidates for this Board and for other City advisory bodies.

Programmatically, the Board will adopt new Priority Goals for the upcoming year and invite presentation on and discussion of additional Resilience Topics (e.g., water, agriculture, human health and open space, ecological recreation and trails master planning, and Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and co-stewardship). The Board is considering including energy resilience as a Priority Goal in the 2026 Work Plan, continuing and expanding expert presentations on battery storage, microgrids, vehicle-to-grid systems, and affordability solutions. Crucially, the Board will monitor how City leadership and staff consider and implement the Board's recommendations.

The Board, for its part, approaches its second year aware of its responsibility to advise the Mayor and City Council for and on behalf of all San Diegans, and is deeply committed to advancing a more resilient community for generations to come.

[7] Specifically, the Climate Advisory Board, the Community Forest Advisory Board, and the Mobility Board.

The Resiliency Advisory Board typically meets monthly on the third Thursday at 1 p.m., at the Civic Center Plaza
1200 3rd Ave, 4th Floor, San Diego, CA 92101

For more information on the City of San Diego Resiliency Advisory Board, please visit us at our website or email ResiliencyBoard@sandiego.gov to request more information

Appendix A: Resiliency Advisory Board 2025 Workplan