



## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION 2020 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2021 WORK PLAN

### 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The current members of the Sustainability Commission are:<sup>1</sup>

Howdy Goudey, At-Large, Community Group, Chair	Charles Davidson, Member, District 5
Wes Sullens, Member, District 4, Vice Chair	Renee Fernandez-Lipp, Alternate, District 5
Nick Despota, Member, District 1	Harry Thurston, At-Large, Community Group
Shoshana Wechsler, Alternate, District 1	Russell Driver, At-Large, Business
Victoria Smith, Member, District 2	Vacant, At-Large, Business
Ryan Buckley, Alternate, District 2	Vacant, Environmental Justice
John Sierra, Member, District 3	Sarah Foster, At-Large, Environmental Justice
Mike Moore, Alternate, District 3	Kim Hazard, At-Large, Education
Travis Curran, Alternate, District 4	

The Commission meets the fourth Monday in February, April, June, August, October, and December.<sup>2</sup> The Commission did not meet in April as the County moved to online meetings necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, is lead staff. All members have completed the mandatory training. The Sustainability Commission has been asked to provide a representative to the County’s Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee; Kim Hazard is filling that role.

The Chair and other members of the Commission participate in meetings of the Board of Supervisors’ Sustainability Committee. The Commission receives briefings from County staff and representatives of other agencies and groups on a range of issues related to the Climate Action Plan. Below is a summary of the Commission’s 2020 accomplishments.

Activity	Accomplishments
Building Electrification	The Commission received an update at its February meeting on staff efforts to develop a building ordinance that would require new buildings to be all-electric or electric-preferred. Adoption of a building electrification ordinance was included as an action in the Climate Emergency Resolution adopted by the Board in September. Staff provided another update in December.
General Plan Update	The Commission reviewed and provided input on environmental justice policies being developed for the General Plan.
Climate Emergency Resolution	At its February and June meetings, the Commission made recommendations for a declaration of a climate emergency by the Board of Supervisors. Commission members participated in Sustainability Committee meetings at which the draft

<sup>1</sup>Two members of the Sustainability Commission resigned during 2020. The Commission thanks Nicholas Snyder (At-Large Business) and Doria Robinson (At-Large, Environmental Justice) for their service. The Sustainability Committee interviewed applicants for those seats on November 9, 2020; on November 8, the Board appointed Marisha Farnsworth (At-Large, Business) and Isabella Zizi (At-Large, Environmental Justice).

<sup>2</sup> The December meeting is earlier in the month.

Activity	Accomplishments
	Resolution was discussed, and at the September 22 meeting at which the Board of Supervisors adopted the Climate Emergency Resolution. The Commission has asked for a status report on implementation of the Climate Emergency Resolution as a standing item at every meeting.
Climate Action Plan Update	The Commission received reports on the ongoing update of the County’s Climate Action Plan. This project was put on hold during 2019.
Tree Ordinance	The Commission received a briefing at its February meeting on work to update the County’s Tree Ordinance, and provided input, particularly ideas for how to use the mitigation fund.
Transportation Planning Priorities	The Commission received an update at its October meeting from the County’s lead Transportation Planner on transportation priorities in the County, particularly accessible transit and bicycle facilities.
County Policy on Oil Drilling	At its June meeting, the Commission discussed a proposal for the Board of Supervisors to modify the policy regarding oil drilling in Contra Costa County. The Commission sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting the Board enact a moratorium on oil and gas drilling while the General Plan and Climate Action Plan are being updated, and consider revisions to the conservation element of the General Plan.
Communication and Engagement	The Commission received an update at its October meeting on the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge. Some members agreed to participate in the Challenge and encourage their networks to do the same.

**2021 WORK PLAN**

The Commission will continue to report to the Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability, as well as to the full Board. Projects and initiatives related to the *Climate Action Plan* on which the Commission anticipates it may advise the Board of Supervisors and staff include:

- General Plan Update, particularly integrating equity and environmental justice
- *Climate Action Plan* update
- Implementation of the Climate Emergency Resolution, particularly planning for a Just Transition to a clean energy economy
- Identifying and pursuing opportunities to develop green benefits districts throughout the County
- Electric Vehicle Readiness Blueprint implementation
- Advocacy on issues related to the *Climate Action Plan*
- Potential health impacts of climate change
- Building electrification
- Carbon-neutral building materials
- Increasing resilience to climate-related disasters and incidents, including the Adapting to Rising Tides studies for Eastern Contra Costa County and the Bay Area region and Public Safety Power Shutoffs
- Outreach and education on sustainability to Contra Costa County residents and businesses
- Other issues in the *Climate Action Plan*, including water conservation and drought; land use and public transportation, including pedestrian and bicycle access; energy efficiency and renewable energy; and recycling and composting.