



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025
7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER:

a. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wood at 7:01 PM.

2. ROLL CALL:

a. Present: Davis, Kahlon, Wood, Martinez, Palma, Rufino

b. Absent: Shergill

c. Staff Present: Anush Nejad, Public Works Director
Stephanie Reyna-Hiestand, Assistant Director of Utilities
Kamalpreet Gill, Deputy City Attorney
Even Marcelo, City Engineer
Carla Sorich, Executive Assistant

d. Recorded by: Carla Sorich, Executive Assistant

Stephanie Reyna-Hiestand introduced the new Commissioners: Orlando Davis, Rubi Martinez, Nayah Palma and Melvin Rufino.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Chairperson Wood.

4. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

5. ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

ACTION: Motion was made by Chairperson Wood to nominate Commissioner Kahlon as the new Chairperson. Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion. All in favor; passed and so ordered. (6,0,0)

Approve: Wood, Martinez, Davis, Kahlon, Palma, Rufino

Oppose: None

Abstain: None

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez to nominate herself for Vice-Chairperson. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood. All in favor; passed and so ordered. (6,0,0)

Approve: Martinez, Wood, Davis, Kahlon, Palma, Rufino

Oppose: None

Abstain: None

6. CONSENT ITEMS

6.A APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 27, 2025

ACTION: Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Chair Kahlon. All in favor; passed and so ordered. (6,0,0)

Approve – Wood, Kahlon, Davis, Martinez, Palma, Rufino
Oppose - None
Abstain - None

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Anush Nejad, Public Works Director, addressed the Commission regarding sustainability items and requested the Commission consider the following items and provide feedback:

- 1) Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Plan
- 2) Equipment upgrades to reduce energy consumption
- 3) Urban Forestry and Tree Canopy Program
- 4) Reduction of Vehicle Miles Travelled

ACTION: Chair Kahlon requested the items be added to the workplan for a future presentation and Vice Chair Martinez provided a second.

8. ACTIONABLE ITEMS

8.A APPOINT COMMISSION VOLUNTEERS TO A SPECIFIC TOPIC WITHIN THE SAP TO MAKE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Stephanie Reyna-Hiestand read the staff report. Commissioners discussed and requested the following topic choices:

Davis – Agriculture and Open Space
Kahlon – Air Quality, Transportation and Land Use
Martinez – Energy, Economic Development
Shergill – Public Health
Palma – Biological Resources, Outreach and Education
Rufino – Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Wood – Solid Waste, Water

ACTION: Motion was made by Chair Kahlon to assign the above topic choices voluntarily chosen by the commissioners and was seconded by Commissioner Wood. All in favor; passed and so ordered. (6,0,0).

Approve: Wood, Kahlon, Davis, Martinez, Palma, Rufino
Oppose: None
Abstain: None

8.B REVIEW AND APPROVE THE ESC ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025

The staff report was read by Stephanie Reyna-Hiestand. Commissioners reviewed the Power Point presentation with comments and questions following.

ACTION: Motion was made by Chair Kahlon to approve the annual report presentation with changes recommended by Commissioner Wood and submitted to staff for the presentation at City Council on November 4, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rufino. All in favor, passed and so ordered. (6,0,0).

Approve - Kahlon, Rufino, Davis, Wood, Martinez, Palma
Oppose - None
Abstain - None

8.C REVIEW AND APPROVE AN UPDATE TO THE ESC 2025 WORKPLAN

The staff report was read by Stephanie Reyna-Hiestand. Commissioner comments and questions followed.

ACTION: Motion was made by Commissioner Wood to approve an update to the ESC 2025 Work Plan to include new items requested through action during this meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Palma. All in favor, passed and so ordered. (6,0,0).

Approve - Wood, Palma, Davis, Kahlon, Martinez, Rufino
Oppose - None
Abstain - None

9. STAFF ITEMS

Stephanie Reyna-Hiestand informed the Commission of the City's recognition as 2024 Tree City USA.

ACTION: Chair Kahlon requested staff to obtain more information on the Tree City USA nomination process and the request was seconded by Commissioner Davis. Commissioner Wood requested more information on the budget and how much goes toward the urban forest to meet the requirement for Tree City status and was seconded by Commissioner Palma.

Kamalpreet Gill, Deputy City Attorney, notified that training on the Brown Act and Commission Policy and Procedure would be conducted at the next meeting.

ACTION: Chair Kahlon requested that the item be added to the workplan, and the request was seconded by Commissioner Wood.

10. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Chair Kahlon would like information regarding SB253 – Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act and added to the Work Plan.

ACTION: Chair Kahlon requested to add an informational item for SB253 to the ESC Work Plan and it was seconded by Commissioner Wood.

Chair Kahlon requested information on upcoming Innovative Clean Transit requirements. Kamal Gill, Deputy City Attorney, stated it would be included in the Green Fleet Policy already requested.

Commissioner Wood asked if the new Commissioners were made aware of the review of cities. Stephanie Reyna-Hiestand confirmed that the information had already been emailed to the new commissioners.

Commissioner Wood asked if it were possible to make changes to the Bylaws and the process to do so. Kamal Gill, Deputy City Attorney, advised that an amendment in written draft may be submitted to the staff liaison to be agendized for a future ESC meeting. After action by the Commission, staff would then agendize the item for Council approval at a future Council meeting.

ACTION: Commissioner Wood requested that an item to propose, review and approve an amendment to existing Bylaws be added to the October 23, 2025, ESC meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Rufino.

Commissioner Wood inquired about a tree preservation ordinance. Kamal Gill stated it will be presented at the next ESC meeting on October 23, 2025.

Chair Kahlon inquired about the Cap and Invest Program and requested information on the Urban Greening Program. Information on the Low Carbon Transit Operation Program (LCTOP) was also requested and would like to know if grants are available. Anush Nejad, Public Works Director, commented that information regarding these two topics will be covered by the Public Works Operations presentation.

11. ADJOURNMENT – Time: 8:19 PM.

ACTION: Motion was made by Chair Kahlon and seconded by Commissioner Wood to adjourn. Roll call found all in favor; passed and so ordered. (6,0,0)

Approve - Kahlon, Wood, Davis, Martinez, Palma, Rufino
Oppose - None
Abstain - None