



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE COMMISSION DRAFT MINUTES January 28, 2026

OPENING ITEMS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Sarah Ranney, *District 1*, Councilmember Kesarwani

Alison LaBonte (Vice Chair), *District 2*, Councilmember Taplin

Brianna McGuire (Chair), *District 3*, Councilmember Bartlett

Daniel Tahara, *District 4*, Councilmember Tregub

Yasmin Mahmoudian, *District 5*, Councilmember O'Keefe

Les Guliasi, *District 6*, Councilmember Blackaby

Misha Kesselman, *District 7*, Councilmember Lunaparra

Kera Binns, *District 8*, Councilmember Humbert

Gwendy Brown, *Mayor*, Mayor Ishii

Mabel Athanasiou, *Youth Commissioner*

Shanza Syed, *Youth Commissioner*

The meeting was called to order at 6:02

Commissioners Present: Ranney, McGuire, Tahara, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Binns, Brown

Commissioner Leave of Absence: LaBonte

Commissioner Absent: Guliasi, Athanasiou, Syed

Staff: Sarah Moore, Rebecca Milliken

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Public comment (Non-Agenda Items):

2 member(s) of the Public

1 comment

4. Approval of Minutes: Approval of Minutes from last meeting (December 3, 2025)

Motion/second to approve the December 3, 2025 Minutes (Mahmoudian, Kesselman). The motion carried: 5-0-2-4; **Ayes:** Tahara, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Binns, Brown. **Noes:**

None. **Abstain:** Ranney, McGuire. **Absent:** LaBonte, Guliasi, Athanasiou, Syed.

5. Update from Chair (Brianna McGuire)

6. Update from Staff (Sarah Moore, Rebecca Milliken)

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- 7. Discussion & Action:** Open Nominations for annual election of officers to be held at the February 25, 2026 meeting [Public Comments: 0]

Motion/second to nominate Alison LaBonte for Chair (McGuire, Ranney). The motion carried: 7-0-0-4; **Ayes:** Ranney, McGuire, Tahara, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Binns, Brown. **Noes:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** LaBonte, Guliasi, Athanasiou, Syed.

- 8. Discussion:** 2026 Environment & Climate Commission Workplan [Public Comments: 0]

COMMITTEE UPDATES & REPORTS

- 9. Workplan Ad Hoc Committee Updates** [Public Comments: 0]

- a. Building Decarbonization (Ranney, McGuire, Tahara, Binns)
- b. Justice (LaBonte, McGuire, Syed)
- c. Community Outreach (Ranney, Binns, Athanasiou)
- d. Climate Emergency Preparedness (Ranney, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Syed)
- e. Data (LaBonte, McGuire, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Syed)

Motion/second to dissolve the Justice committee (Tahara, Binns). The motion carried: 7-0-0-4; **Ayes:** Ranney, McGuire, Tahara, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Binns, Brown. **Noes:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** LaBonte, Guliasi, Athanasiou, Syed.

Motion/second to add Commissioner Brown to the Climate Emergency Preparedness committee (Ranney, Mahmoudian). The motion carried: 7-0-0-4; **Ayes:** Ranney, McGuire, Tahara, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Binns, Brown. **Noes:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** LaBonte, Guliasi, Athanasiou, Syed.

- 10. Commission Liaison Reports** [Public Comments: 1]

- a. Planning Commission (Alison LaBonte)
- b. Transportation and Infrastructure Commission (Yasmin Mahmoudian)
- c. Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission (Gwendy Brown)
- d. Zero Waste Commission (Mabel Athanasiou)
- e. Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (Les Guliasi)
- f. Housing Advisory Commission (Kera Binns)
- g. Council Policy Subcommittees (Brianna McGuire)
- h. Measure FF (Misha Kesselman)

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- 11. Potential Items for Future Agenda** [Public Comments: 0]

- a. \$300M General Obligation Bond for November 2026 Ballot (February)
- b. Officer elections (February)
- c. 2026 Workplan (February)

- d. General Plan: Disaster Preparedness & Safety Element, Environmental Justice Element, and climate metrics update (Spring 2026)
- e. Vision 2050+
- f. Cesar Chavez Landfill
- g. City efforts to develop and support relationships with Indigenous community
- h. Bicycle Boulevards
- i. Sun Day 2026 planning

COMMUNICATIONS

12. Public Communications

13. Commissioner Announcements

ADJOURNMENT

Motion/second to adjourn at 7:07 pm (Binns, Mahmoudian). The motion carried: 7-0-0-4;
Ayes: Ranney, McGuire, Tahara, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Binns, Brown. **Noes:** None.
Abstain: None. **Absent:** LaBonte, Guliasi, Athanasiou, Syed.

Minutes Approved:

Sarah Moore, Berkeley Environment & Climate Commission Secretary