



**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
February 25, 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
vacant, *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 6:00

Commissioners Present: Ranney, LaBonte, Tahara, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Binns, Brown, Athanasiou

Commissioner Leave of Absence: McGuire

Commissioner Absent: Syed (arrived 6:45 pm)

Staff: Sarah Moore, Rebecca Milliken, Scott Ferris, Roger Miller, Evelyn Chan, Nelson Lam, Terrance Davis

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Public comment (Non-Agenda Items):

3 member(s) of the Public
0 comment

4. Approval of Minutes: Approval of Minutes from last meeting (January 28, 2026)

Motion/second to approve the January 28, 2026 Minutes (Binns, Mahmoudian). The motion carried: 6-0-2-2; **Ayes:** Ranney, Tahara, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Binns, Brown. **Noes:** None. **Abstain:** LaBonte, Athanasiou. **Absent:** McGuire, Syed.

5. Update from Vice Chair (Alison LaBonte)

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

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- 7. Discussion:** Hear a presentation on the potential City of Berkeley \$300M General Obligation Bond for the November 2026 Ballot (Staff). [Public Comments: 0]

Commissioner Syed joined the meeting at 6:45 pm

- 8. Discussion & Action:** Nomination and election of officers [Public Comments: 0]

Motion/second to receive nomination of Yasmin Mahmoudian for Vice Chair (LaBonte, Ranney). The motion carried: 9-0-0-1; **Ayes:** Ranney, LaBonte, Tahara, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Binns, Brown, Athanasiou, Syed. **Noes:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** McGuire

Motion/second to approve the election of Alison LaBonte for Chair (Binns, Ranney). The motion carried: 9-0-0-1; **Ayes:** Ranney, LaBonte, Tahara, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Binns, Brown, Athanasiou, Syed. **Noes:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** McGuire

Motion/second to approve the election of Yasmin Mahmoudian for Vice Chair (Brown, Tahara). The motion carried: 9-0-0-1; **Ayes:** Ranney, LaBonte, Tahara, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Binns, Brown, Athanasiou, Syed. **Noes:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** McGuire

Commissioner Syed exited the meeting at 8:05 pm

- 9. Discussion & Action:** Review and approve the 2026 Environment & Climate Workplan, and dissolve and form new ad hoc committees as needed.

Motion/second to approve the 2026 Environment & Climate Workplan and dissolve and form new ad hoc committees (Kesselman, Ranney). The motion carried: 8-0-0-2; **Ayes:** Ranney, LaBonte, Tahara, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Binns, Brown, Athanasiou. **Noes:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** McGuire, Syed.

COMMITTEE UPDATES & REPORTS

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

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

Motion/second to dissolve the 2025 Workplan Ad Hoc Committees and reform committees to reflect the 2026 Workplan with committee members as listed above (Tahara, Binns). The motion carried: 8-0-0-2; **Ayes:** Ranney, LaBonte, Tahara, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Binns, Brown, Athanasiou. **Noes:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** McGuire, Syed.

11. Commission Liaison Reports [Public Comments: 0]

- 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 (vacant)
- f. Housing Advisory Commission (Kera Binns)
- g. Council Policy Subcommittees (Brianna McGuire)
- h. Measure FF (Misha Kesselman)

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

12. Potential Items for Future Agenda [Public Comments: 0]

- a. Reach Codes (Spring)
- b. [General Plan](#): Disaster Preparedness & Safety Element, Environmental Justice Element, and climate metrics update (Summer)
- c. Transfer Station
- d. Vision 2050+
- e. Cesar Chavez Landfill
- f. Efforts to develop and support relationships with Indigenous community
- g. Bicycle Boulevards
- h. Sun Day 2026 planning

COMMUNICATIONS

13. Public Communications

14. Commissioner Announcements

ADJOURNMENT

Motion/second to adjourn at 8:11 pm (Binns, Kesselman). The motion carried: 8-0-0-2;
Ayes: Ranney, LaBonte, Tahara, Mahmoudian, Kesselman, Binns, Brown, Athanasiou.
Noes: None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** McGuire, Syed.

Minutes Approved:

Sarah Moore, Berkeley Environment & Climate Commission Secretary