

3. 25-54437 Recommendation to review the Climate Resilient and Sustainable City Commission 2024 Annual Report, provide input to staff, and direct staff to forward to City Council.

Suggested Action: Approve recommendation.



CITY OF
LONG BEACH

CLIMATE RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMISSION

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



LONG BEACH
Office of Climate Action
& Sustainability

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COMMISSION PURPOSE

The purpose of the Climate Resilient & Sustainable City Commission (Commission) is to make advisory policy recommendations to the City Council on issues relating to the environment; a sustainable city plan; efforts or programs to address environmental issues such as air quality, water quality, and resource conservation relating to the protection and integrity of the natural environment; programs to increase education and awareness of the environment; to serve as a forum for community discussion of these environmental issues; and to encourage input and participation from all sectors of the community on issues of sustainability and the environment.

OVERVIEW

The Commission was created by the City Council as an advisory body in 2008 and was originally named the Sustainable City Commission. After the Long Beach Climate Action Plan (LB CAP) was adopted in 2022, the Commission was tasked with overseeing and supporting staff's implementation of the policy document. In 2023, the Commission name was revised to the Climate Resilient and Sustainable City Commission to reflect its expanded role.

The Commission had seven meetings scheduled in 2024. The June meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. The officer elections were moved from June to the August meeting. In January, the Commission confirmed the 2024 meeting structure that aligns with the sectors of the LB CAP, which is as follows:

Month	Topics	Administrative Actions
January	Year in Review, Commission Retreat	Work Plan Presentation, Commission Training
February	Sea Level Rise & Flooding	Work Plan Review
April	Earth Month Celebration	
June	Drought	
August	Extreme Heat, Air Quality	Chair/Vice Chair Elections
October	Building & Energy	
December	Waste, Transportation	

The Commission looks forward to working with the City and its representatives over the coming years and hopes to continue actively engaging the public through outreach efforts relating to the Office's work plan.

COMMISSIONERS & ATTENDANCE

The Commission is comprised of eleven members, one to represent each of the nine council districts and two members appointed at-large. Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The Chair and Vice Chair were elected in August and will serve a one-year term. There was a meeting that was cancelled on June 27, 2024, due to lack of quorum. The 2024 attendance for the Commission is as follows:

	1/25	2/22	4/25	6/27	8/22	10/17	12/12
Kirk Kunihiro Council District 1	A	P	P		A	P	A
Coby Skye Council District 2	P	P	P				
Pete Marsh Council District 2					P	P	P
Sona Coffee Council District 3	P	A	P		P	P	
Pearl Hanks Council District 3							P
Keisha Gaines Council District 4	P	P	P		P	P	P

P = Present **A** = Absent = Chair = Vice Chair = Not Serving

	1/25	2/22	4/25	6/27	8/22	10/17	12/12
Carla Dillon Council District 5	P	P	A				
Evette Ellis Council District 5						A	P
Alan Tolkoff Council District 6	P	P	P		P	P	A
Rey Gonzales Council District 7	A	A	P		P	P	A
Donna Bergeron-Birge Council District 8	A	P	A		P	A	A
Hilda Gaytan Council District 9	P	P	P		P	P	P
Clayton Heard At Large						P	P
Morgan Wheeler At Large	P	A	A		P	A	P

P = Present **A** = Absent = Chair = Vice Chair = Not Serving



COMMISSION ACTIONS, EXPENSES, & RECOMMENDATIONS

Actions

January 25, 2024

- A motion was made by Commissioner Coffee, seconded by Commissioner Gaines, to approve recommendation to discuss various topics presented by City Staff for the 2024 Climate Resilient and Sustainable City Commission Retreat. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous

February 22, 2024

- A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon, seconded by Commissioner Kunihiro, to approve recommendation to receive and file a presentation from City staff on Sea Level Rise & Flooding and the Climate Action Plan. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous
- A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon, seconded by Commissioner Bergeron-Birge, to approve recommendation to review the 2024 Office of Climate Action and Sustainability Work Plan, provide input to staff and forward to the City Council for approval. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous

April 25, 2024

- A motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner Gaines, to approve recommendation, as amended, to request City staff send a statement to Mayor and City Council, of the Commission's support for: [1] providing additional consideration for Certified Green Businesses that respond to public contracting bids; and [2] more enforcement, outreach, and engagement on the City's polystyrene Ordinance. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Gonzalez, seconded by Commissioner Tolkoff, to approve recommendation to receive and file a presentation from Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles on Advancing Resilience through Distributed Stormwater Capture and Conservation. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

August 22, 2024

- A motion was made by Commissioner Wheeler, seconded by Commissioner Marsh, to approve recommendation to receive and file a presentation from City staff on Extreme Heat and Air Quality and the Climate Action Plan. No vote was taken on the motion.
- A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Coffee, seconded by Commissioner Gonzales, to receive and file a presentation from City staff on Extreme Heat and Air Quality and the Climate Action Plan, and request Office of Climate Action & Sustainability staff to write a letter from the Climate Resilient and Sustainable City Commission to City Manager, Mayor and City Council, to include the following elements discussed in the presentation: work with Energy Resources, Long Beach Transit and Harbor Department to direct grant funding resources for additional assessments and mapping; community outreach and instruction to cooling centers; consider rebates for residents that purchase energy efficient air conditioning equipment; and provide a results dashboard on other air quality and extreme heat measures to track progress on the City's website. The motion carried by the following vote: 7 yes votes and 1 no vote
 - A [memorandum](#) [1] was sent to the Mayor and City Council on December 30, 2024, regarding recommendation from the Commission regarding extreme heat and air quality.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner Tolkoff, to approve recommendation to review the Climate Resilient and Sustainable City Commission 2023 Annual Report, provide input to staff, and forward to the City Council for approval. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous
- A motion was made by Commissioner Wheeler, seconded by Commissioner Tolkoff, to approve recommendation to receive and file announcements and resources from the Office of Climate Action and Sustainability. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Coffee, to elect Chair Gaytan for Chair of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable City Commission. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous
- A motion was made by Commissioner Coffee, to elect Commissioner Gaines for Vice Chair of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable City Commission. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous

[1] Recommendation from the Climate Resilient and Sustainable City Commission Regarding Extreme Heat and Air Quality. December 30, 2024. Available from: <https://www.longbeach.gov/citymanager/memos-to-the-mayor-and-council/>.

October 17, 2024

- A motion was made by Commissioner Heard, seconded by Commissioner Kunihiro, to approve recommendation to receive and file a presentation from City staff on Building and Energy and the Climate Action Plan. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Heard, seconded by Commissioner Kunihiro, to approve recommendation to receive and file a presentation from the Building Decarbonization Coalition on nationwide and statewide initiatives to decarbonize both new construction and existing building stock. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous
- A motion was made by Commissioner Heard, seconded by Commissioner Kunihiro, to approve recommendation to receive and file announcements and resources from the Office of Climate Action and Sustainability. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous

December 12, 2024

- A motion was made by Commissioner Heard, seconded by Commissioner Marsh, to approve the recommendation to receive and file a presentation from City staff on Waste, Transportation, and the Climate Action Plan. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Commissioner Wheeler, to approve the recommendation to receive and file announcements and resources from the Office of Climate Action and Sustainability. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

Expenses

Support for the Commission's work is included in the Office of Climate Action and Sustainability budget within the City Manager's Department. Payments to Commissioners were budgeted for \$4,400; however, several of the commissioners declined payments and served as volunteers. Additional costs covered by the Office of Climate Action & Sustainability fund for Commission support are typically limited to expenses for refreshments. In 2024, these expenses totaled \$91.69.

To support the Commission, a core team of eight staff from the Office of Climate Action & Sustainability, Office of the City Clerk, and Office of the City Attorney provide support functions, including agenda development, commission coordination, presentation development and speaker coordination, and facilitation of recommendations to City Council. Additionally, staff from several other departments dedicate substantial time for each meeting to prepare and present information on relevant topics.

Recommendations

Staff recommend that the Climate Resilient & Sustainable City Commission continue as established by Ordinance No. ORD-07-0024. There are two issues to note that affect the Commission's ability to successfully conduct business:

1.) Commissioner Makeup: The Commission has 11 members - 9 appointed by Council District and two at-large members. The Commission has not had all 11 positions appointed and this number of Commissioners does not physically fit in the number of seats available on the City Council dais, which is the location for Commission meetings.

2.) Commission Vacancies: The Commission continues to have vacancies that impact the ability to retain a consistent quorum for meetings. One meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. At such time there are vacancies, it will be important to quickly fill those vacancies to ensure quorum can be maintained.



STAFF SUPPORT

A special thanks to the following City staff for assisting the Commission in 2024:

Core Commission Staff:

Alyssa Campos, City Clerk Specialist (City Clerk)
Andre Balanji, Climate Analyst (City Manager)
Atoy Wilson, Deputy City Manager (City Attorney)
Fern Nueno, Climate Manager (City Manager)
Jasmine Roashan, Program Specialist (City Manager)
Jason Gallup, Program Specialist (City Manager)
Larry Rich, Sustainability Manager (City Manager)
Laura Russell, Administrative Coordinator (City Manager)
Meredith Reynolds, Deputy City Manager (City Manager)
Tamela Austin, City Clerk Analyst (City Clerk)

Commission Presenters:

Adrian Pavon, Program Manager (Public Works)
Alexa Reasoner, Environmental Specialist Associate (Public Works)
Carline Hua, Planner (Community Development)
Cecilia Salazar, Environmental Specialist Associate (Public Works)
Cory Forester, Superintendent (Parks Recreation & Marine)
Dean Wang, Manager (LB Utilities)
Dillon O'Donohue, Civil Engineer (Public Works)
Erin Rowland, General Superintendent (Public Works)
Jane Hermsen, Bureau Manager (Energy Resources)
Justin Luedy, Environmental Specialist (Harbor)
Keith Hoey, City Engineer (Public Works)
Nick Lefranc, Operations Supervisor (Health and Human Services)
Raul Martinez Jr., Superintendent (Parks, Recreation & Marine)
Tammy Takigawa, Senior Civil Engineer (Public Works)
Todd Leland, Manager (Parks Recreation & Marine)
Wataru Kumagai, Environmental Specialist Associate (Public Works)