



## City of San José Climate Advisory Commission

Mani Bekele  
Bill DeVincenzi  
Glen Garfunkel  
Lucia Marquez  
Ruth Merino  
Karen Nelson

Victor Niemeyer  
Phillip Remaker  
Macwin Savio Dsouza  
Tracy Wang  
Ryo Wakabayashi

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### MEETING MINUTES July 17, 2025

6:00 PM

#### I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day

Chair Karen Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. Commissioner introductions were conducted, including new members Commissioner Macwin Savio Dsouza and Commissioner Ryo Wakabayashi.

#### Roll Call

##### Commissioners Present:

Mani Bekele, Bill DeVincenzi, Glen Garfunkel, Karen Nelson, Victor Niemeyer, Phillip Remaker, Macwin Savio Dsouza, Tracy Wang, and Ryo Wakabayashi.

##### Staff Present:

Deputy City Manager Manuel Pineda, Assistant Director of ED Zachary Struyk, Deputy Director of Power Resources Paul Innamorato, Legislative Affairs Division Manager Scott Green, Power Resources Specialist II Steven Jimenez, Principal Power Resources Specialist Jeanne Sole, ED Staff Specialist Daren Chittaphong, ESD Climate Smart Supervising Environmental Services Specialist Anne Balis, and Assistant Environmental Services Specialist Jasmine Jain

##### Public Present:

Ms. Charpontier, Jordan Moldave, Kayla Rising, Chris Samuelson, Lisa Shopping, Shruthi Minaj, Chris Bacon

##### Zoom Attendees:

Council Policy & Legislative Director Marlee Borges, Deputy Director Heather Dauler, PBCE Deputy Director Manira Sandhir, Lilian Koenig, Al Park

Action: Motion to accept Orders of the Day by Commissioner Bill DeVincenzi and seconded by Commissioner Mani Bekele, to accept Orders of the Day, motion approved unanimously. No public comment.

**II. Public Record**

None on file.

**III. Public Comment**

Kayla Rising (Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action), urged the San José Climate Advisory Commission support Senate Bill 684 (also known as Assembly Bill 1243), citing three main points:

1. Individuals directly impacted by climate disasters deserve adequate compensation. She noted that major oil companies, such as Exxon and Chevron, have earned substantial profits and should contribute to recovery efforts for those affected by greenhouse gas emissions.
2. The federal government has become increasingly unreliable in responding to disasters, particularly following cuts to FEMA.
3. Ms. Rising emphasized that Senate Bill 684 would direct 40% of collected funds to support disadvantaged communities impacted by climate events.

**IV. Consent Calendar**

May 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes were brought up for approval – There were no corrections from the commissioners. No public comment.

Action: Motion to approve the May 15, 2025, Climate Advisory Commission meeting minutes made by Commissioner Victor Niemeyer and seconded by Commissioner Glen Garfunkel. The vote to approve was unanimous.

**V. Reports and Information Only**

- a. **Climate Smart Six-Month Look Ahead**  
(discussion only)

The Commissioners discussed the T&E work plan and annual report to be brought to the Transportation and Environment Committee in August.

- b. **Commissioner Vacancy and Recruitment**  
(discussion only)

Two new Commissioners, Macwin Savio Dsouza and Ryo Wakabayashi were welcomed to the Commission board and asked to share their background that led to Commission appointment.

Staff member Anne Balis shared information about the upcoming 2025 term conclusions for Commissioners who will have completed two full four-year terms, noting that they will become ineligible for reappointment for at least four years. She also outlined the reappointment process for those eligible to reapply after serving one four-year term.

**VI. Old Business****a. Commission Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**  
(discussion only)

Commissioner Mani Bekele proposed adding language summarizing the Commission's actions at the May 15, 2025, meeting regarding Climate Smart funding. The following statement was added to the left column under "Objectives of Fiscal Year 2024–2025":

*Received briefing on Commissioner memo regarding Climate Smart 2025–26 budget and the status and accomplishments of the program. Approved memo drafted by Mani Bekele noting concern about reduction in non-personal funding to the Climate Smart program in its transition to the Energy Department and recommending that this funding be reinstated or increased to levels from previous years.*

With this amendment, a motion was made by Commissioner Phillip Remaker to approve the report as modified. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Glenn Garfunkel. The report was approved unanimously.

**VII. New Business****a. Legislative/Regulatory Outlook**  
(discussion only)

Scott Green, Senior Government Affairs Manager, San José Clean Energy; Steve Jimenez, Legislative Affairs Specialist, San José Clean Energy; Jasmine Jane, Assistant Environmental Services Specialist, Climate Smart San José.

Action: Chair Karen Nelson moved to revisit the legislative items at the September meeting, allowing commissioners time to review Attachment D and bring back a list of no more than six or seven bills to recommend for staff consideration and potential support. Commissioner Bill DeVincenzi seconded the motion. Upon discussion that revealed the time of San Jose's staff decisions regarding actions for the legislative bills would be finalized before the September Commission meeting, Chair Karen Nelson moved to rescind the previous motion that requested legislative action review at the September Commission meeting with a second by Commissioner Bill DeVincenzi. The motion was unanimously approved.

Public comment:

Jordan Muldave made a number of points. 1. Mr Muldave asked whether the city would be supporting **SB-71**, noting it appears the city is currently monitoring the bill. He explained SB-71 would extend CEQA exemptions related to building transit projects. 2. Mr. Muldave also brought attention to **SB-63**, which would enable a potential 2026 regional revenue measure to support transit operators like VTA and Caltrain, emphasizing its importance for continued transit service and climate benefits. 3. Finally, Mr. Muldave commented on **SB-381**, a bill from Senator Wahab that included a provision to ban unbundled parking for rentals. He expressed concern about this provision and urged staff to reach out to the Senator to request its removal, should the bill still be active.

b. **Recommendation to City Council on Resolution in Support of Polluters Pay Climate Superfund bill**  
(discussion only)

Public comment:

Jordan Muldave expressed support for the resolution based on the summary provided during the meeting. He also shared a personal perspective on the importance of addressing climate change and emphasized the need for action.

Manira Sandhir shared a generational perspective on the climate crisis, recalling memories from elementary school of orange skies caused by wildfire smoke. She emphasized that wildfires have been a constant presence throughout her life and acknowledged research showing they will worsen over time. Manira voiced strong support for the bill, highlighting its potential to generate sustainable revenue without increasing the budget deficit. She stressed the urgency of addressing rising climate costs and called for more publicity and a strong push to present the resolution to City Council.

Action: Commissioner Philip Remaker moved to accept the draft resolution letter and recommend it to City Council for adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bill DeVincenzi. The motion passed with 7 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention, the motion was approved.

c. **San José Clean Energy (SJCE) Integrated Resource Plan**  
(discussion only)

Jeanne Solé, Principal Power Resources Specialist, San José Clean Energy; Paul Innamorato, Deputy Director of Power Resources, San José Clean Energy.

d. **Meeting schedule and potential agenda items for the next meeting**  
(discussion only)

*The next regular meeting will be September 18, 2025, at 6pm in San José City Hall, Tower Room 1753*

### VIII. Adjournment

Chair Karen Nelson adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:32 p.m.



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KAREN NELSON, CHAIR

ATTEST:  
CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMISSION SECRETARY

*Daren Chittaphong*

DAREN CHITTAPHONG, COMMISSION SECRETARY