



# City of San José Climate Advisory Commission

Mani Bekele  
Bill DeVincenzi  
Glen Garfunkel  
Macwin Savio Dsouza  
Lucia Marquez  
Ruth Merino

Karen Nelson  
Victor Niemeyer  
Phillip Remaker  
Vacant  
Ryo Wakabayashi

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## MEETING MINUTES November 6, 2025

6:00 PM

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

Chair Karen Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. Commissioner introductions were conducted. Phillip Remaker arrived late at 6:10 p.m.

#### **Roll Call**

Commissioners Present:

Mani Bekele, Glen Garfunkel, Macwin Savio Dsouza, Lucia Marquez, Ruth Merino, Karen Nelson, Victor Niemeyer, Phillip Remaker, Ryo Wakabayashi.

Staff Present

Assistant Director of ED Zachary Struyk, ED Climate Smart Environmental Services Specialist Jenna Neustaetter, ED Climate Smart Supervising Environmental Services Specialist Anne Balis, ED Senior Power Resources Specialist Ross DaSilva, PBCE Sanhita Ghosal Planner IV, Graduate Student Intern Mitchell Riggs and ED Staff Specialist Daren Chittaphong.

Public Present:

Lisa Charponiter

Zoom Attendees:

ED Climate Smart Supervising Environmental Services Specialist Seena Eghtedar-Shenas and Albert Park

Action: Chair Karen Nelson minutes stand as approved as there were no changes

### **II. Public Record**

None on file.

### III. Open Forum

Lisa Charpontier provided two comments

1. Lisa thanked San Jose Clean Energy (SJCE) for partnering with Haven Energy to help income-qualified households install solar panels and batteries through a state program. Shared concerns from Haven Energy about high-pressure sales tactics, unclear contract terms, and potential risks to participants including issues related to system ownership, costs, and maintenance responsibilities from Haven Energy. She expressed interest in participating in the program but emphasized the need to ensure the contract does not put customers at risk
2. Described delays in the City's permitting process for home charger installations under the Clean Cars for All program. Her contractor applied for a permit on October 28, 2025, but has not received confirmation or communication from the city. She noted that her installation deadline is December 15, 2025, and cautioned that such delays could discourage residents from pursuing electrification.

### IV. Consent Calendar

Action: Motion to approve the minutes from September 18, 2025, by Victor Niemeyer and seconded by Commissioner Glen Garfunkel. Minutes were approved. No public comment was received. Ruth Merino abstains from vote due to absence at September meeting.

Action: Motion to approve the October 7th, Climate Advisory Commission Special Meeting Minutes made by Glen Garfunkel and seconded by Commissioner Victor Niemeyer. The vote to approve was unanimous.

### V. Reports and Information Only

- a. **ULI Grant for Climate Adaptation and Resilience Implementation Planning** (discussion only)

Seena Eghtedar-Shenas, Climate Smart Supervising Environmental Services Specialist from the Energy Department, spoke with the Commission about the ULI Grant and the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CARP). At the time of the meeting, staff had planned to include a ULI grant workshop on the March 2026 meeting agenda through an amended work plan. Commissioners were also invited to participate in related interviews expected to take place in spring 2026. Commissioners interested in participating or finding out the interview dates should contact Seena Eghtedar-Shenas ([Seena.Eghtedar-Shenas@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Seena.Eghtedar-Shenas@sanjoseca.gov)), with a courtesy copy to Anne Balis ([Anne.Balis@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Anne.Balis@sanjoseca.gov)).

*Note: Although this item was discussed for inclusion on the work plan, staff have since begun reviewing the work plan and determined that the ULI Grant item cannot be included due to*

*limited agenda capacity and competing priority items for Commission review. Next steps are to be determined.*

b. **Climate Smart Six-month Look Ahead** (discussion only)

Staff member Anne Balis shared upcoming San José Clean Energy dates, including Planning Commission and City Council Setback Adjustment items scheduled for December. She also announced that the Zero Waste Innovations Grant is now live and accepting applications. Additionally, submissions for the Silicon Valley Youth Video Contest have closed and encouraged commissioners to attend the January screening held in council chambers, the screening will be open to the public.

Assistant Director Zach Struyk shared that the San José Clean Energy Integrated Resource Plan due date is now officially May 6, 2026.

**VI. Old Business**

a. **Follow-Up on Legislative Priorities and Advocacy** (discussion only)

Chair Karen Nelson requested to add a discussion to create an ad hoc Committee for legislative priorities and advocacy added to the January 2026 meeting agenda.

**VII. New Business**

a. **Introduction to the Building Performance Ordinance** (discussion only)

Presentation to introduce Commissioners to the Building Performance Ordinance. A follow-up presentation and request for Commission recommendation will be scheduled for March 2026 and added to an amended Commission work plan.

b. **San José Clean Energy Bill Credits** (*See action taken under item VII.C. Ad Hoc Committee Report on San José Clean Energy Bill Credits*)

c. **Ad Hoc Committee Report on San José Clean Energy rates and financial reserves**

Action: Commissioner Glen Garfunkel moved, and Commissioner Phillip Remaker seconded, to accept draft recommendation language with revisions. All in favor, motion passes unanimously. No public comment.

Language approved as follows:

*The Climate Advisory Commission recommends that San José Clean Energy:*

- *Pursue a plan to reduce customer electricity costs in 2026 (vs 2025), beginning with a*

*across all customer classes, including a \$40 credit for a typical GreenSource residential customer.*

- *For 2026, consider increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) energy content of GreenSource to 64%, for an estimated \$1.7 million incremental cost.*
- *Allocate a minimum of \$14 million toward decarbonization programs.*

*SJCE's strong reserve position enables this plan to proceed without compromising its financial integrity. In recognition of the urgent need to utilize all resources at our disposal to meet San José's climate goals, we also set the intention for SJCE to use financial reserves to expand decarbonization programs in the coming years. The Commission's ad hoc Committee will continue to review SJCE reserve policy as well as the relative GHG reduction efficiency of various decarbonization programs and then may propose recommendations for guidelines on programs spending into future years.*

*The Commission appreciates SJCE staff's collaboration with the Commission's ad hoc committee, which has deepened our understanding of the factors driving this proposal and provided opportunities for meaningful CAC input, and looks forward to continuing this dialogue to explore ways to further expand SJCE's GHG reduction investments while maintaining SJCE financial stability.*

d. Election of Chair and Vice  
Chair (discussion and action)

Action: Commissioner Victor Niemeyer made a motion to nominate Commissioner Phillip Remaker as Chair of the Commission for 2026, seconded by Commissioner Glen Garfunkel. The vote was unanimous nominating Commissioner Phillip Remaker as Chair for 2026.

Commissioner Glen Garfunkel departs meeting early at 8:40 p.m.

Action: Commissioner Victor Niemeyer made a motion to nominate Commissioner Macwin Savio Dsouza as Vice Chair for 2026 which was seconded by Commissioner Macwin Savio Dsouza.

Commissioner Phillip Remaker then made a second motion for Commissioner Ryo Wakabayashi to serve as Vice Chair for 2026, citing Ryo's experience and background.

Written ballots were used to vote, counted by Anne Balis. Commissioner Ryo Wakabayashi was elected Vice Chair 5–3; Commissioner Glen Garfunkel did not vote due to early departure.

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

The next regular meeting will be January 15, 2026, at 6pm in San José City Hall, Tower Room 1753.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Chair Karen Nelson adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:46 p.m.



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KAREN NELSON, CHAIR

ATTEST:  
CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMISSION SECRETARY

*Daren Chittaphong*

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DAREN CHITTAPHONG, COMMISSION SECRETARY