



RESILIENCY ADVISORY BOARD

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2025 Resiliency Advisory Board Work Plan

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Duties and Functions

The Resiliency Advisory Board (RAB) was established in 2023 to advise the Mayor and the Council and assist the City of San Diego (City) in attaining its goals in natural resource conservation, climate resiliency and adaptation, wetlands, habitat preservation, biodiversity, and the Climate Resilient SD Plan. Section 26.1003 of the San Diego Municipal Code specifies the duties and functions of the Board as follows:

- **Advise the Mayor, City Council and relevant City departments on resiliency-related policies**, including the City's Climate Resilient SD Plan, as amended from time to time, Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), Biodiverse SD, Climate Action Plan Strategy 5 Resilient Infrastructure and Healthy Ecosystems, and other conservation and open space programs.
- **Advise the Mayor, City Council and relevant City departments on issues related to climate mitigation and adaptation, natural space restoration, biodiversity, and conservation as they relate to the purposes of the Board**, and on the best approaches for implementing the City's resiliency, biodiversity, and other related goals.
- **Develop recommendations on how the City can engage residents, communities, and non-governmental organizations** to guide the implementation of the Climate Resilient SD Plan and other relevant plans or strategies, including providing input on plans, measures, budget priorities, and other community engagement initiatives.
- **Engage with regional businesses, political leaders, and public interest groups** in the areas of resiliency, climate, conservation, biodiversity, environmental justice, and wetlands, and hold public forums for such input.

- **Coordinate with other City advisory boards and City departments**, such as the Community Forest Advisory Board, Planning Commission, the Climate Advisory Board, and Open Space Community Advisory Committee as needed and as it relates to the purposes of the Board.
- **Provide periodic reports to the Environment Committee and make recommendations for the City to engage in regional resiliency and biodiversity issues** at the state and federal levels, including securing state and federal funding for resiliency-related issues.

The 2025 Resiliency Advisory Board Work Plan (Work Plan) sets out a program for the RAB to carry out its duties and functions during calendar year 2025. The Work Plan focuses the Board’s efforts on three distinct goals: a **Primary Goal** to advise the Mayor and City Council on climate resilience and biodiversity matters associated with various City plans, policies, regulations and initiatives; and **two Priority Goals** identified by the Board as of particular importance and timeliness. RAB meetings will center on these three Goals in addition to calling attention to selected “Resilience Topics” that the RAB will highlight and discuss in this public forum.

Goals

The combined Primary and Priority goals will ensure the RAB meets its duties and functions under San Diego Municipal Code §26.1003. **Each goal is feasible, actionable, and engages the expertise and experience of all RAB members.** Beginning with this inaugural Work Plan, each year at least one of the Priority Goals will reflect a cross-cutting, topical, and relevant theme. The RAB will, over the course of the year, arrange hearings and presentations, review related research and policies, and submit to the City Council and Mayor a set of recommendations as part of the Board’s annual report. The RAB may establish Ad Hoc Subcommittees as needed to oversee and ensure implementation of each Priority Goal.

Primary Goal: Evaluate and advise the Mayor and City Council on proposed climate resilience- and biodiversity-related plans, policies, regulations and initiatives

Advising City leadership is the core of the RAB’s mission. City staff identifies and brings to the RAB, for its review and recommendations, climate resilience and biodiversity related plans, policies, regulations, and initiatives. The review process includes informational presentations, public engagement activities, and adoption of final recommendations to the appropriate decision maker. The number of plans, policies, regulations, and initiatives that the RAB will review and provide recommendations on in a given calendar year is dependent upon individual department work programs and project schedules.

Objective	Action Item
Review and evaluate proposed plans, policies, regulations and initiatives	City staff identifies items falling within the RAB’s jurisdiction.
	Analyze the identified items.

Evaluate progress on existing plans and projects	Identify up to three major resiliency- and/or biodiversity-related City plans and projects (e.g., Climate Resilient SD).
	Determine to what extent the City tracks implementation and makes that information publicly available and easily accessible.
	Identify any climate resilience and biodiversity related plans/projects where implementation not regularly tracked.
	Analyze extent to which the City is on-track with implementing plans/projects.
	Produce a brief progress report that incorporates a set of recommendations.
Presentations	Invite presentations from City programs and other governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, Tribal Nations, impacted communities, and other key stakeholders. City entities may include: Office of Emergency Services, Parks & Recreation Department, City grant writers, Stormwater Department, and Public Utilities Department. Staff will work to accommodate requested informational presentations on proposed plans, policies, regulations. and initiatives, as resources allow (the RAB may alternatively provide City staff with relevant questions).
Outreach to potentially affected communities	Identify communities and stakeholders most directly impacted by the proposed policies/plans selected for evaluation and provide the information to City staff to assist with outreach and engagement.
	Contact (via the RAB chair) organizations representative of identified communities and stakeholders and request their input. This may involve attending and presenting at organization meetings. Outreach will be in coordination with RAB staff liaison.
Advise City leadership	Adopt and present to the Mayor and City Council a set of recommendations regarding each policy and plan reviewed.
Track implementation of recommendations	Incorporate into the 2026 Annual Work Plan systematic monitoring of whether and how City leadership adopts the RAB's recommendations. Metrics may include: policy adoption, funding allocation, and integration of recommendations into existing or new City plans and programs.

Priority Goal 1: Establish a strong foundation

The City Council and Mayor established the RAB in 2023. The RAB's long-term success as the City's preeminent advisory body on climate adaptation, biodiversity, and conservation will be supported by maintaining a fully seated and engaged board, developing a supportive structure of subcommittees and task forces, adopting clear rules and procedures, and introducing the RAB to San Diego community members and key stakeholders.

Objective	Action Item
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Adopt bylaws	Develop and adopt a set of guidelines establishing the rules and procedures governing how the RAB operates.
Address vacancies	Identify and recruit qualified candidates to fill vacant seats.
Establish ad-hoc or standing subcommittees	Determine areas of greatest need of ongoing work and oversight, limited to three. These may directly support the Primary and Priority Goals.
	Establish ad-hoc or standing subcommittees and select members.
	Establish and implement meeting schedules and scopes of work.
Build the community's awareness of the RAB	Identify realistic goals and associated metrics.
	Develop strategy to meet the goals, including timeline, target audiences, outreach tactics, and Board member assignments.
	Implement the strategy.
	Evaluate effectiveness of the strategy.
	Identify stakeholders that should be included in the RAB's Constant Contact email blasts and provide that information (including email addresses) to City staff.

Priority Goal 2: Improve community resilience to wildfires

Wildfire resilience is crucial for San Diego due to the escalating threat posed by extreme dry conditions, increasing vegetation, and frequent Santa Ana winds. Climate change is further intensifying wildfire risks, resulting in longer and increasingly unpredictable fire seasons.

The RAB selected wildfire resilience to align with its mission of enhancing public safety and protecting vulnerable communities. Wildfires impact multiple sectors—housing, energy, public health, air, water, and infrastructure—requiring cross-sector collaboration. By addressing this urgent issue, the RAB positions itself as a key convener for solutions that strengthen community resilience in the face of increasing wildfire risks.

Objective	Action Item
Identify and prioritize cross-cutting topics relevant to understanding the immediate, near-, and long-term risk of wildfire to San Diego's residents, businesses, natural resources,	Topic areas may encompass: public outreach, emergency response, cultural burning, environmental justice considerations, brush management, air quality and public health impacts, wildland-urban interface, (planning to protect vulnerable populations) and risk to the electric grid and built infrastructure.
	Invite presentations from City departments and other governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, Tribal Nations, impacted communities, and other key stakeholders. City entities may include: Fire-Rescue Department, Office of Emergency Services, Parks & Recreation Department,

Objective	Action Item
biodiversity, and infrastructure	Economic Development Department, and Public Utilities Department. The RAB will incorporate these presentations into its regular meeting agenda.
Evaluate existing policies, programs, plans, resources, and research	Identify and review City and non-City research, plans, and policies most relevant to determining the scope of, and addressing, wildfire risk and impacts.
	Pinpoint key strengths, resources, gaps, redundancies, and weaknesses in existing City and inter-agency policies, plans, programs, and outreach strategies.
	Determine feasible solutions to identified gaps and weaknesses, and options for leveraging existing strengths and resources.
Advise City leadership on needed improvements	Adopt and present to the Mayor and City Council a report and set of recommendations to improve San Diego's resiliency to wildfires.

Resilience Topics

A **Resilience Topic** is, for purposes of this Work Plan, **a discrete, climate resilience- or conservation-related topic** that reflects a concern critical to the City and is guided by both current events and public interest. A presentation or speaker will precede board member discussion and public comment on the issue, and the RAB may identify future review or action for the RAB to consider, related to the topic. The intention is to inform the RAB's recommendations for the Mayor and City Council, including identifying resources needed to strengthen the public's resilience to various climate-related hazards. Possible Resilience Topics, as pertaining specifically to resilience and/or biodiversity and targeted for 2025, could include the options below. Each Board member will facilitate a Resilience Topic.

- Energy Storage and Grid Resilience: explore the relationship between energy conservation, usage, grid reliability and resilience, and existing City initiatives and boards.
- Agriculture and Biodiversity: better understand opportunities for City initiatives to bolster habitat conservation, water quality and climate resilience for the agricultural sector.
- Human Health and Open Space: how open space/park value is impacted by environmental justice health related issues and how open space/parks can be made more accessible through existing City initiatives.
- Ecological Recreation and Trails Master Planning: assess opportunities and challenges related to habitat conservation and public access to open space areas as well as related requirements under the MSCP.
- Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Co-Stewardship of Public Lands: explore opportunities to better coordinate the implementation of Climate Resilient SD and other City initiatives with Tribal Nations and to pursue improvements to urban places (traditional lands) for Indigenous partners.
- Fishing Impacts, Regulation, and Access: focusing on the fishing component of recreation in City parks and open space and disseminating conservation- and resiliency-related information with relevant businesses and groups.

The precise number and nature of selected Resilience Topics will depend on docket, speaker, and resource availability and are subject to change in compliance with the Brown Act.

Meeting Dates and Deliverables

Each meeting of the RAB follows the agenda set out in the adopted Resiliency Advisory Board Bylaws. Every meeting should advance at least one of the RAB’s goals with time reserved for a Resilience Topic when practicable. The Resilience Topics and dates listed below are tentative and may be reordered, moved, or postponed.

The RAB will coordinate its annual reports to the Environment Committee with the RAB staff liaison.

Note: These dates and agenda items below are subject to change, in accordance with the Brown Act noticing requirements. Additional and joint meetings with other City advisory bodies may be added to the calendar in compliance with the Brown Act and will be coordinated with the respective board liaisons.

January 16, 2025, at 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elect officers • Introduce 2025 Work Plan
February 20, 2025, at 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize and adopt 2025 Work Plan • Resilience topic: TBD
March 20, 2025, at 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience topic: TBD
April 17, 2025, at 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt recommendations on the CRMP • Resilience topic: TBD
May 15, 2025, at 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Joint meeting</i> • Resilience topic: TBD
June 19, 2025, at 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience topic: TBD
July 17, 2025, at 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience topic: TBD
No meeting in August	
September 18, 2025, at 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Joint meeting</i>
October 9, 2025, at 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and adopt annual report • Resilience topic: TBD
October 16, 2025, at 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report to Environment Committee
November 20, 2025, at 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review bylaws • Adopt recommendations on Goal #2 • Adopt Annual Report

	● Resilience topic: TBD
<i>No meeting in December</i>	● <i>Submit Annual Report</i>

Accountability

The RAB will implement the following measures to ensure Board members individually and collectively fulfill the RAB's duties and responsibilities as implemented through the Work Plan:

- Assign responsibility by ad hoc subcommittee, where appropriate. Develop detailed implementation plans with clear deliverables, responsible parties, timelines and deadlines, measurable outcomes, and progress status.
- Provide annual reports to the Environment Committee.
- Deliver progress reports at every RAB meeting.
- Establish an ad hoc subcommittee for each Priority Goal.