



City of Santa Barbara

PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES

JANUARY 15, 2026

1:00 P.M.
City Hall, Council Chambers
735 Anacapa Street
SantaBarbaraCA.gov

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Lucille Boss, *Chair*
Donald DeLuccio, *Vice Chair*
Brian Barnwell
John M. Baucke
Donald DeLuccio
Benjamin Peterson
Devon Wardlow
Lesley Wiscomb

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON:

Mike Jordan

STAFF:

Tava Ostrenger, Chief Assistant City Attorney
Megan Arciniega, Senior Planner
Jasper Carman, Commission Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Boss called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Lucille Boss, Vice Chair Donald DeLuccio, Commissioners Brian Barnwell, Benjamin Peterson, Devon Wardlow, and Lesley Wiscomb

Absent: Commissioner John M. Baucke

STAFF PRESENT

Tava Ostrenger, Chief Assistant City Attorney
Megan Arciniega, Senior Planner
Melissa Hetrick, Adaptation & Resilience Manager
Thomas Welche, Wastewater System Manager
Bradley Rahrer, Principal Project Manager
Timmy Bolton, Climate Adaptation Analyst
Christopher Bell, City TV Production Supervisor
Janet Ahern, City TV Production Specialist
Jasper Carman, Commission Secretary

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Requests for continuances, withdrawals, postponements, or addition of ex-agenda items:

No requests.

B. Announcements and appeals:

Ms. Arciniega announced that an emergency Coastal Development Permit was issued for dredging at Firestone ditch in Los Carneros Creek near the airport in response to flooding.

C. Review, consideration, and action on the following draft Planning Commission minutes and resolutions:

1. December 18, 2025 Planning Commission Minutes
2. Planning Commission Resolution No. 014-25
3139 Sea Cliff Staff Hearing Officer Appeal
3. Planning Commission Resolution No. 015-25
3139 Sea Cliff Single Family Design Board Appeal

MOTION: Wardlow / DeLuccio

Approve the minutes and resolutions as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 2 (Barnwell and Wiscomb) Absent: 1 (Baucke)

D. Comments from members of the public pertaining to items not on this agenda:

Public comment opened at 1:04 p.m., and as no one wished to speak, it closed.

III. DISCUSSION ITEM

ACTUAL TIME: 1:04 P.M.

WASTEWATER AND WATER SYSTEMS CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN

Application Number: CITY2026-00002

Applicant: Melissa Hetrick / Sustainability and Resilience Department

The Planning Commission is to receive a presentation and make comments on the Draft Wastewater and Water Systems Climate Adaptation Plan.

Melissa Hetrick, Adaptation & Resilience Manager gave the Staff presentation. Thomas Welche, Wastewater System Manager; Bradley Rahrer, Principal Project Manager; and Timmy Bolton, Climate Adaptation Analyst, were available to answer questions.

Public comment opened at 1:34 p.m., and as no one wished to speak, it closed.

Commissioner comments:

Commissioner Barnwell:

- Thanks staff for the report, finds it both exciting to plan for but scary when realizing that the timeline is not far away and the next generations will witness this ocean level rise.
- Suggests requesting a blanket approval from the Coastal Commission for the areas from Leadbetter Beach to the Andree Clark Bird Refuge instead of piecemealing each approval in an attempt to make it easier to complete the variety of large and small projects that are proposed in that area, if that is possible to request from them.

Commissioner Peterson:

- Thanks staff for their presentation and for keeping the community safe for years to come.
- Understands that the planning for all of this includes figuring out how not to foot the residents who need to pressurize their connections with a huge bill but instead how to include everyone in the process, create incentives, and make this doable for the community.

Commissioner Wiscomb:

- Thanks staff for an excellent report, found it to be technical but clear and easy to understand for laymen because it was logical and went through steps.
- Appreciates the slide in the presentation regarding the Adaptation Program approach, suggests continuing to show that because it is very important.
- Commends staff for getting a five million dollar grant from the Coastal Conservancy and Coastal Commission already.
- Looks forward to the Waterfront Adaptation Plan and launching the first storm water model at the Laguna Watershed.
- Thinks it is important that all of these divisions are working together as it will help solve problems and deal with sea level rise effectively.
- Feels that the public event where residents got to taste the water and get an overview of the program and the diversity of the water portfolio was a success for public education and thinks it should be done again.

Commissioner Wardlow:

- Thanks staff for all of their work on this project and is happy to see the City being proactive in how we are planning for the future around climate change.

Vice Chair DeLuccio:

- Thanks staff for all of the work they have done so far and continue to do on this as it makes us proud as a City for all you have done to keep us safe.
- Loves the presentation especially, found the executive summary to be rather technical but the presentation itself was easy to follow and suggests putting it on the website.
- Happy to hear that staff is already looking for funding sources as local residents won't be able to afford what it is proposed to cost.
- Likes the idea of a low pressure system.
- Likes the regional approach as anything to help with the cost and implementation of the whole project will be helpful.

Chair Boss:

- Glad to hear that staff is considering our unhoused and lower income senior population as they are vulnerable in this situation.
- Appreciates the distinction between sea level rise and rainfall events that was made during the presentation and encourages staff to continue making that distinction, even though it was called out in the staff report, as it was helpful.
- Finds the outline on the webpage to be really helpful, appreciates the acronyms that were right at the beginning of the plan.
- Regarding the timeline on page 45 in the staff report, believes it would be helpful to call out anything else that would be especially important as drafts go out to City Council and other stakeholders.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

ACTUAL TIME: 2:33 P.M.

A. Committee and Liaison Reports:

1. Staff Hearing Officer Liaison Report

No report.

2. Other Committee and Liaison Reports

- a. Vice Chair DeLuccio reported on the January 14, 2026 meeting of the Historic Landmarks Commission.

B. Discussion on Subcommittees and Workshops

Discussion held.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Boss adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Submitted by,



Jasper Carman, Commission Secretary