



City of Buena Park

MINUTES CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION MEETING FEBRUARY 3, 2026

1A. CALL TO ORDER

The Climate Action Commission met on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 6650 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, CA.

1B. ROLL CALL **PRESENT:** Schooner, Singhal, James, Bendinelli, Figueroa
 STAFF: Lotus Thai, Sustainability Manager
 Matt Foulkes, Director of Community & Economic Development
 Elizabeth Genera, Recording Secretary

1C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. COMMUNICATIONS

This is a portion of the meeting set aside to invite public comments regarding any matter within the jurisdiction of the Climate Action Commission. Public comments are limited to no more than 3 minutes for each speaker.

2A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

***M/S/P – Bendinelli/Singhal – Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2025*

4. OLD BUSINESS – No items.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5A. COMMISSION APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

To have fair and equitable representation, the chair and vice-chair positions shall rotate between commissioners/committee members in numerical order by districts in January of each calendar year, pursuant to the manner and process established in City Council Policy No. 22 (2023).

Sagil James (District 1) was appointed as Chair; Dominic Bendinelli (District 4) was appointed as Vice Chair for 2026 calendar year.

5B. DISCUSS FRONT YARD LANDSCAPING STANDARDS

Matt Foulkes, Director of Community & Economic Development presented information and the background of the City's municipal code Chapter 19.332.010 pertaining to front yard landscaping standards. In summary, the chapter states:

- In single-family residential zones, all required yards which abut streets shall be landscaped and a minimum of 50% of the required yard shall be maintained with "landscaping."
- All landscape installation or rehabilitation shall meet the requirements of the City's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.
- Artificial turf may be used in lieu of natural turf within the front, side, and rear yards but a minimum of 20% of the landscaped area shall contain living plant material.
- Landscaped areas shall be kept in a neat and clean condition; free of debris, dead, or dying vegetation.
- Vegetation in landscaped areas shall be mowed, groomed, trimmed, pruned, and watered to keep the landscaping in a healthy, growing condition.
- Irrigation systems shall be kept in working condition.
- New construction shall plant a minimum of (1) tree along each street frontage.
- Pavement or hardscape shall not exceed 50% percent of a front yard.
- No person shall damage or remove any tree from private property without first obtaining approval from the Community and Economic Development Department. The Department may approve the removal or relocation of a tree if the tree is:
 - To be relocated on the same property.
 - Posing an immediate threat to health, safety, or property.
 - Dead, diseased, and/or in severe decline as determined by a Certified Arborist.
 - Damaging public property or creating a public safety hazard.
 - Damaging improvements on private property.
 - Interfering with public utilities.
 - Removed to preserve the health of other nearby trees.
 - A non-native tree and is to be replaced by a healthy native tree.

Chapter 13.30.020 – Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

- Applies to new landscaped areas greater than 500 square feet.
- Rehabilitate/renovated landscaped areas greater than 2,500 square feet.
- Requires preparation by a licensed landscape professional.
- Requires preparation of calculations for water demand by plant species, water usage and irrigation system efficiency.
- Mostly applies to commercial and industrial development or new residential development.

In September 2025, City Council, with input from the Climate Action Commission, adopted its first Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). The CAAP has several actions that relate to landscaping:

Water and Wastewater W1c: Develop a community education program for drought-tolerant landscaping, including recommended native and low-water plant species and off-the-shelf water-efficient landscape designs.

Water and Wastewater W2c: Encourage use of rain barrels for use in irrigation of residential and commercial landscaping.

Natural and Urban Lands NU1b: Educate the community on developing and managing landscapes to increase carbon sequestration and drought tolerance.

Municipal M5c: Replace non-programmed turf at City-owned buildings and facilities with native, drought-tolerant landscaping.

Mr. Foulkes stated there are many resources and programs to encourage drought tolerant landscaping and rebates.

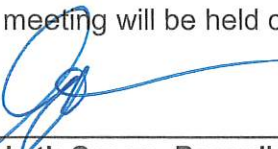
6. CITY/STAFF UPDATES, INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

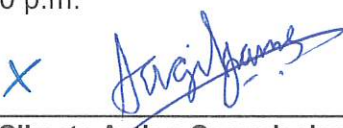
The Office of Sustainability will partner with SCE and the OC Power Authority to host *Lumipoolooza Energy Expo*. The event will be held during the summer concert series on July 22 at Boisseranc Park.

Staff is working on purchasing *Buena Park Sustainabuddies* merchandise give-a-ways for special events.

The City of Buena Park and the Noon Lions invite residents to join them for a free metro link train ride to San Juan Capistrano on February 28. Residents can register on line by February 22.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on March 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.



Elizabeth Genera, Recording Secretary

Climate Action Commission Chair