

**DRAFT MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

CHAIR STEGURA called the meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting of the City of Rolling Hills Estates at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Committee Members Present: Stegura, Repp-Loadsman, Bain, Frias, McBurney, Mondkar, Rein

Committee Members Absent: Uppal

City Staff Present: Jeannie Naughton, Community Dev/Public Works Director  
Denise Jaramillo, Administrative Assistant

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, MAY 21, 2025.**

COMMISSIONER BAIN made a motion, seconded by COMMITTEE MEMBER MONDKAR TO APPROVE AS FOLLOWS:

APPROVE THE CORRECTED ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2025.

There being no objection, CHAIR STEGURA so ordered.

**4. AUDIENCE ITEMS**

NONE

**5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. CPA POWER READY PROGRAM: EQUIPMENT LOCATION ON CITY HALL PROPERTY**

Director Naughton presented an overview of the City's participation in the Clean Power Alliance (CPA) Power Ready Program in 2025, which provides solar generation and battery storage for critical facilities at no upfront cost to the city. City Hall qualifies as a critical facility due to its role as an emergency operations center. The proposed system includes a 13-kilowatt DC solar array on the south-facing roof of City Hall and a battery system capable of supporting critical loads, including HVAC, servers, and kitchen equipment, for up to eight hours during an outage. Annual electricity costs are guaranteed to be equal to or less than current costs. The battery unit equipment area measures approximately 10 feet by 12 feet and would be similar in appearance to existing electrical infrastructure on site. ARUP, CPA's technical consultant, identified several viable battery locations within landscaped areas near City Hall and recommended locating the unit closest to the electrical switch for efficiency.

Staff recommends that the Environmental Advisory Committee discuss the potential battery placement locations and provide a recommended location to the City Council.

CHAIR STEGURA asked whether the proposed equipment would be similar to the existing electric vehicle charging equipment. Director Naughton confirmed it would be similar. The Committee agreed to conduct a site walk to review potential locations.

The Committee discussed multiple potential locations for the battery system throughout the City Hall property. CHAIR STEGURA and Committee Members raised concerns related to visual impacts, proximity to City Hall, noise, landscaping, tree impacts, trenching

requirements, safety, and vandalism. Locations near primary entrances and office areas were generally viewed as less desirable.

COMMISSIONER REPP-LOADSMAN supported locations that could be effectively landscaped and would limit visual and operational impacts. COMMITTEE MEMBER MONDKAR favored the red-marked location due to its proximity to existing infrastructure and ability to be screened by landscaping. COMMISSIONER BAIN expressed concerns regarding tree impacts and potential noise effects on wildlife. COMMITTEE MEMBER REIN and FRIAS supported the Crenshaw Boulevard location, noting that it was farther from the building and would minimize impacts to City Hall operations.

Director Naughton clarified that Clean Power Alliance would be responsible for all installation, equipment, and maintenance costs, that the battery would provide approximately eight hours of power to critical City Hall functions, and that the City's existing generator could provide additional backup power if needed.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend the Crenshaw Boulevard location as the first preference, with the location recommended by CPA and identified as Number Four as the second preference. The Committee also agreed that staff should continue to coordinate with the contractor and that a site walk should be conducted to further evaluate the proposed locations.

COMMISSIONER REPP-LOADSMAN made a motion, seconded by COMMISSIONER BAIN TO APPROVE AS FOLLOWS BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:

RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL SELECT LOCATION NO. 1 AS THE PREFERRED LOCATION, WITH LOCATION NO. 4 AS THE ALTERNATIVE, BOTH SUBJECT TO SCREENING, EVALUATION OF TREE CLEARANCE, INCLUSION OF TRENCHING, AND FULL PROJECT COSTS COVERED BY THE PROVIDER EXCEPT LANDSCAPING.

Ayes: Stegura, Repp-Loadsman, Bain, Frias, McBurney, Mondkar, Rein  
Noes: None  
Absent: Uppal  
Abstain: None

**B. CPA GREEN LEADER PROGRAM; SBCCOG GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM**

Director Naughton presented a staff report on the Clean Power Alliance Green Leader Program and the South Bay City's Council of Government Green Business Assist Program, two free, voluntary programs that recognize environmental leadership among local businesses. She noted that the programs provide promotional recognition, education, and technical assistance, support participation in sustainability practices, fulfill General Plan IM Energy 9.1.5, and offer recognition pathways for businesses both enrolled and not enrolled in 100% clean energy.

Staff is seeking a recommendation from the Environmental Advisory Committee to move forward with participation in these respective programs and partnering with the Chamber to promote these programs through the City's social media platforms, e-newsletters, and business license communication.

CHAIR STEGURA explained that the sustainability element is part of the City's 2040 General Plan, funded through a state grant, and that the current item is consistent with that effort. She asked about the marketing plan, noting staff's intent to work with the Chamber, and invited additional questions.

COMMISSIONER REPP-LOADSMAN asked about the division of responsibilities between City staff and outside agencies. Director Naughton responded that Clean Power Alliance (CPA) and the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (COG) administer the programs and provide incentives, while City staff would focus on community outreach and information, in partnership with the Chamber.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MONDKAR highlighted the benefits of being a Certified Green Business, including rebates, energy and water conservation upgrades, educational resources, and advantages such as priority consideration for government contracts. In response to Commissioner Bain's question, she noted that customers, especially public agencies, do seek out certified green businesses, adding that sustainability certification is becoming increasingly important ahead of the LA28 Olympic Games.

COMMISSIONER BAIN made a motion, seconded by COMMITTEE MEMBER MONDKAR TO APPROVE AS FOLLOWS BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:

RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY MOVE FORWARD WITH PARTICIPATION IN THE CLEAN POWER ALLIANCE AND SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS PROGRAMS AND PARTNER WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR PROMOTION.

Ayes:	Stegura, Repp-Loadsmann, Bain, Frias, McBurney, Mondkar, Rein
Noes:	None
Absent:	Uppal
Abstain:	None

C. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT: ZERO WASTE EVENTS

Director Naughton stated that the item was prompted by a resident concern regarding streamer and Mylar balloon debris observed following a city parade. Staff proposed exploring a waste-reduction program for City-sponsored and permitted events to support the City's Sustainability Element (IMWSD-9.3.4), align with Assembly Bill 2176, and reduce landfill waste through reduce, reuse, and recycle practices. Director Naughton noted that the item was presented to seek initial direction from the Environmental Advisory Committee, as no formal program framework has been developed.

CHAIR STEGURA stated that the proposed waste-reduction approach would apply to City-sponsored events such as the Street Fair, the Mayor's Ride, and parades.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REIN questioned whether materials used at permitted events are truly recyclable and cautioned that the term "zero waste" may be misleading. Chair Stegura described a framework for larger events with separate waste streams and noted that compliance would be required through the permitting process.

COMMISSIONER REP-LOADSMAN supported reducing waste at the source by restricting allowable materials, including requiring compostable food service items and prohibiting Mylar balloons. COMMISSIONER BAIN recommended routing the matter to the Parks and Activities Commission, and the Committee agreed.

Members discussed Waste Management's role, potential impacts on City maintenance staff, the need to establish an event size threshold, and any necessary training for staff and event organizers to implement waste-reduction requirements.

CHAIR STEGURA clarified that the proposal would move from the Committee to the Parks and Activities Commission for review, with an education period prior to any future enforcement. Director Naughton explained that the program would apply not only to city park activities, but also to special event permits on private property, city-sponsored events, and events in the public right-of-way. She recommended that staff conduct further research and return to the EAC with a proposed framework prior to bringing the item to the Parks and Activities Commission.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MCBURNEY made a motion, seconded by COMMISSIONER REPP-LOADSMAN TO APPROVE AS FOLLOWS BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: DIRECT STAFF TO CONDUCT ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAM AND RETURN TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE WITH A PROPOSED FRAMEWORK PRIOR TO BRINGING THE ITEM TO THE PARKS AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION.

Ayes: Stegura, Repp-Loadsman, Bain, Frias, McBurney, Mondkar, Rein  
Noes: None  
Absent: Uppal  
Abstain: None

**6. DIRECTOR ITEMS**

Director Naughton provided an update on the upcoming Earth Day Event. She noted that the event will be held on Thursday, April 23, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and that this is the first year the event will be hosted at City Hall, rather than at the Promenade as in prior years.

Director Naughton announced a Fire Defensible Planting and Home Protection Workshop to be held on Thursday, May 14, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, covering home protection, defensible space, and fire-resistant landscaping.

**11. COMMITTEE ITEMS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

CHAIR STEGURA revisited a prior suggestion related to SB 1383 compliance and the possibility of offering free compost to residents, similar to the City’s sandbag program. She suggested exploring a partnership with Waste Management to provide compost at the Ernie Howlett utility yard for resident pickup to support home gardening.

COMMITTEE MEMBER MONDKAR inquired about the City’s participation in the Blue Zones program, noting its alignment with sustainability goals such as healthy food consumption, waste reduction, local food production, and reduced transportation impacts. She observed that several nearby beach cities participate and that many local restaurants are Blue Zone certified.

COMMITTEE MEMBER FRIAS proposed composting as a future agenda item and suggested a community composting workshop, potentially in conjunction with Earth Day or a future event. Commissioner Repp-Loadsman recommended partnering with the South Coast Botanic Garden for a composting demonstration.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

CHAIR STEGURA adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Approved,

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Denise Jaramillo, Administrative Assistant

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Debby Stegura, Chair