



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

2175 Cherry Avenue • Signal Hill, California 90755-3799

THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL
WELCOMES YOU TO A REGULAR
SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 03, 2026

The City of Signal Hill appreciates your attendance. Public interest provides the Sustainable City Committee with valuable information regarding issues of the community. Meetings are held quarterly. Meetings commence at 6:00 p.m. There is a public comment period at the beginning of the regular meeting, as well as the opportunity to comment on each agenda item as it arises. Any meeting may be adjourned to a time and place stated in the order of adjournment.

The agenda is posted 72 hours prior to each meeting on the City's website and outside of City Hall and is available at each meeting. The agenda and related reports are available for review online at www.cityofsignalhill.org. You may also contact the Community Development Department at commdev@cityofsignalhill.org or by calling (562) 989-7340.

During the meeting, the Chair presents agenda items for Committee consideration. The public is allowed to address the Committee on all agenda items. The Chair may take agenda items out of order and will announce when the period for public comment is open on each agenda item. The public may speak to the Committee on items that are not listed on the agenda. This public comment period will be held at the beginning of the public portion of the meeting. Please direct your comments or questions to the Chair.

The City of Signal Hill Sustainable City Committee is committed to striking a balance between economic growth, social responsibility, and environmental well-being by partnering with our neighbors, businesses, and the community to provide a healthy and enduring environment for future generations. The purpose of the Committee is to develop and recommend a sustainability framework to the City of Signal Hill City Council that promotes environmentally sound and financially practical objectives.

To participate:

- In-person Participation: Signal Hill Public Library Learning Center, 1800 East Hill Street, Signal Hill, California.
- To make a general public comment or comment on a specific agenda item, you may also submit your comment, limited to 250 words or less, to

commdev@cityofsignalhill.org not later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2026. Written comments will be provided electronically to the Sustainable City Committee and attached to the meeting minutes. Written comments will not be read into the record.

Sustainable City Committee Members receive no compensation.

(1) CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 P.M.

(2) ROLL CALL

Commission Representatives:

LINDA EDWARDS
MARIA GENGENBACHER
SONIA SAVOULIAN – CHAIR

Commission Alternates:

JENNIFER ARZATE
PERICA BELL
PAMELA DUTCH HUGHES

Council Representatives:

ROBERT COPELAND
LORI WOODS

City Staff Representatives:

CARLOS LUIS
SUSANA MARTINEZ
JESUS SALDAÑA

(3) PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THIS AGENDA

(6) STAFF NEW BUSINESS

a. STAFF NEW BUSINESS

Summary:

- A. COMMITTEE POLICY UPDATE - Staff will provide an update recently adopted City's Committee Policy. The policy established guidelines for the creation of three committee types: standing, ad hoc, and blue ribbon. The Committee Policy is attached for review.
- B. FARMER'S MARKET UPDATE - Staff will provide an update on City Council's direction for the establishment of a farmer's market in the City.

Recommendation:

- A. Receive and file
- B. Receive and file

(8) PUBLIC OUTREACH

a. PUBLIC OUTREACH

Summary:

- A. MAYOR'S CLEAN-UP: The spring clean-up event will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026, in the Civic Center Neighborhood. Base camp will be located at Signal Hill Park, Youth Center Playground, 1800 East Hill Street.

Recommendation:

- A. Sign-up to volunteer for the Mayor's Clean-Up outreach team, set-up shift, or take-down shift.

(9) CONSENT CALENDAR

The following Consent Calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. Items will be acted upon by the Committee at one time without discussion. Any item may be removed by a Committee or member of the audience for discussion.

a. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Summary:

Regular Meeting of August 7, 2025.

Recommendation:

Approve.

b. IN THE NEWS

Summary:

Articles compiled by staff that may be of interest to the Committee.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

(10) COMMITTEE NEW BUSINESS**(11) ADJOURNMENT**

Tonight's meeting will be adjourned to the next scheduled meeting of the Sustainable City Committee to be held on May 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90755.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

If you need special assistance beyond what is normally provided to participate in meetings, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner.

Please call the City Clerk's office at (562) 989-7305 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs to determine if accommodation is feasible.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I, Phyllis Thorne, Management Assistant for the Community Development Department, do hereby certify that the foregoing agenda was posted at City Hall, at the Library, at Discovery Well Park, and at Reservoir Park 72 hours in advance of this meeting.



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STAFF REPORT

2/3/2026

AGENDA ITEM

TO:

**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:

**CARLOS LUIS
ACTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:

STAFF NEW BUSINESS

Summary:

- A. COMMITTEE POLICY UPDATE - Staff will provide an update recently adopted City's Committee Policy. The policy established guidelines for the creation of three committee types: standing, ad hoc, and blue ribbon. The Committee Policy is attached for review.
- B. FARMER'S MARKET UPDATE - Staff will provide an update on City Council's direction for the establishment of a farmer's market in the City.

Recommendation:

- A. Receive and file
- B. Receive and file

DATE: December 9, 2025

City of Signal Hill Policy

City Council Committees

REVISION NO.: _____ 1 _____

APPROVED: _____

DEPARTMENT: ADMINISTRATION

I. PURPOSE

To provide a consistent and transparent framework for the formation, operation, and dissolution of City Council-created committees. This City Council Committee Policy ensures that committees operate with a clear focus, deliver measurable outcomes, and use staff and City resources efficiently.

A. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

- Committees formed by the City Council are generally envisioned as ad hoc in nature, created to explore specific topics or initiatives within a defined timeframe that fall outside the subject matter jurisdiction of the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Civil Service Commission.
- While standing committees are not prohibited, the City Council will identify a compelling and ongoing need to establish standing committees. Any proposed standing committee must include a defined scope of work, justification and identify any anticipated need for City resources.

B. COMMITTEE FORMATION PROCEDURE

When the City Council expresses interest in forming a committee, the following process will be followed:

1. Initial Direction:

The City Council identifies the policy issue or need at a public meeting.

2. Staff Action:

Staff returns with a report that includes:

- Committee purpose and focus
- Estimated number of meetings and term
- Expected level of staff support and estimated cost
- Proposed membership structure
- Anticipated deliverables and timeline

3. City Council Action:

The City Council may approve committee formation via resolution establishing its scope, term, and appointments

II. TERMS AND SUNSET PROVISIONS

- Committees will be formed with a maximum one-year term, unless otherwise determined by the City Council during the establishment of the committee.
- Reauthorization may occur by formal City Council action for an additional term.
- Committees not reauthorized by the end of their term shall sunset automatically.

III. WORK PLAN AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Within 30 days of formation and upon filling all seats, each committee shall:
 - Select a Chair and Vice-Chair
 - Develop a work plan identifying 1–2 focused goals or issues, outline meeting dates, key milestones, and expected deliverables.

IV. COMMITTEE DELIVERABLES

- At the end of the committee's term, a summary report/presentation shall be provided to the City Council.
- The report shall include:
 - Summary of accomplishments
 - Findings or recommendations
 - Suggestions for future efforts (if any)

V. STAFF SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

- Staff support must be scoped and approved at the time of formation.
- Estimated staff hours and program costs will be reviewed by the City Council during the formation process.
- Continued staff support is tied to the approved term and scope.

VI. MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS

- Membership shall be defined at formation and may include:
 - City Council Members
 - Community stakeholders
 - Commissioners or subject matter experts
- Appointments shall be made by the City Council, and will occur through an application process. Appointments will be made by a majority vote of the City Council.
- Each committee shall select its Chair and Vice-Chair within 30 days of formation

VII. OPERATIONS GUIDELINES

- All Committees will comply with the same procedural and transparency rules that apply to other governing bodies of the City (City Council and Commissions).

VIII. OVERSIGHT AND TRANSPARENCY

- The City Clerk will maintain a list of active committees.
- The City Manager will use their discretion and may assign a staff/department liaison, as appropriate.
- The City Manager will use their discretion to schedule periodic updates to the City Council summarizing committee activities and upcoming term expirations.



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AGENDA ITEM

TO:

**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:

**CARLOS LUIS
ACTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Summary:

A. **MAYOR'S CLEAN-UP:** The spring clean-up event will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026, in the Civic Center Neighborhood. Base camp will be located at Signal Hill Park, Youth Center Playground, 1800 East Hill Street.

Recommendation:

A. Sign-up to volunteer for the Mayor's Clean-Up outreach team, set-up shift, or take-down shift.



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STAFF REPORT

2/3/2026

AGENDA ITEM

TO:

**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:

**CARLOS LUIS
ACTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Summary:

Regular Meeting of August 7, 2025.

Recommendation:

Approve.



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

2175 Cherry Avenue • Signal Hill, California 90755-3799

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
SIGNAL HILL SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE
August 07, 2025

DRAFT

A Regular Meeting of the Signal Hill Sustainable City Committee was held in-person in the Signal Hill Library Community Room on Thursday, August 7, 2025.

(1) CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 P.M.

(2) ROLL CALL

PRESENT: ROBERT COPELAND
LINDA EDWARDS
SONIA SAVOULIAN
JENNIFER ARZATE

ABSENT: MARIA GENGENBACHER
PERICA BELL
PAM DUTCH HUGHES

LATE ARRIVAL: LORI WOODS

(3) PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THIS AGENDA

There was no public business from the floor.

EDUCATION

a. EDUCATION

Public Works staff provided an update on the Gundry Reservoir roof replacement project.

(4) STAFF NEW BUSINESS

a. **STAFF NEW BUSINESS**

A. Staff provided a brief overview of The Reflect Effect workshop.

B. Staff provided an update on the City's actions toward earning a Gold level award from the Gateway Cities COG for 2025.

(5) LOCAL ACTIONS

a. **LOCAL ACTIONS**

A. Staff provided a brief review of the SCC's Summer Concerts booth.

B. Committee members signed up to volunteer for the Fall Mayor's Clean-Up Event.

C. Staff provided an update on the City Council discussion from July 8, 2025, on the topic of City committees.

D. Community and Business Member selections will be held at a future meeting date.

(6) CONSENT CALENDAR

a. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

It was moved by COPELAND and seconded by EDWARDS, to approve the Consent Calendar.

It was moved by COMMITTEE MEMBER COPELAND and seconded by COMMITTEE MEMBER EDWARDS to approve the Consent Calendar.

(7) COMMITTEE NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business from the committee.

(8) ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by COMMITTEE MEMBER WOODS and seconded by COMMITTEE MEMBER COPELAND to adjourn to the next regular meeting of the SCC to be held on Tuesday October 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room, 1800 E Hill Street, Signal Hill, CA, 90755.

CHAIR SAVOULIAN adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

SONIA SAVOULIAN
CHAIR

Attest:

CARLOS LUIS
ACTING COMMITTEE SECRETARY



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STAFF REPORT

2/3/2026

AGENDA ITEM

TO:

**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:

**CARLOS LUIS
ACTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:

IN THE NEWS

Summary:

Articles compiled by staff that may be of interest to the Committee.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

Background and Analysis:

Articles include:

- Faster EV Charging Could Win Over EV Skeptics - LA Times
- Heated Debate Over California Water Plan - LA Times

Why faster charging could finally win over America's EV skeptics



An electric vehicle at an EVgo fast-charging station in South San Francisco. (Bloomberg)

By **Kyle Stock**

Jan. 28, 2026 8:26 AM PT

- Ultra-fast EV chargers are proliferating, with networks adding 11,300 new high-speed stations last year — a 48% jump that addresses a key adoption barrier.
- New 250-kilowatt chargers can deliver 100 miles of range in under 10 minutes, elevating charging speed from a major consumer concern to an advantage.
- Automakers are upgrading vehicles to accept faster charging, creating a virtuous cycle that could finally accelerate EV adoption across the country.

The time it takes to fuel an electric vehicle, long a stumbling block to EV adoption, is shrinking in the U.S., as more capable cars and trucks plug into a rash of new, high-speed charging machines.

U.S. charging networks added about 11,300 ultra-fast cords last year, up 48% from 2024, according to Paren, a data platform focused on EV infrastructure. And the high-speed buildout is only accelerating: In the fourth quarter, nearly one in four new chargers were capable of pumping at rates of 250 kilowatts or more, which can typically add 100 miles of driving range in less than 10 minutes.

“Rising charge rates are a significant tailwind,” said Badar Khan, chief executive officer of EVgo Inc., one of America’s largest charging networks. “If the energy is going in faster, you don’t actually need higher utilization.”

In EVgo’s two most recent quarters, utilization — a measure of how much time its chargers are occupied — dropped for the first time since the company’s 2021 IPO, in part because its chargers were delivering more electricity per hour on average. The shift to speed should both delight drivers and bolster the business case for charging networks. Ultimately, faster charging may be the final nudge in converting another crowd of EV skeptics.

In a recent Deloitte survey of potential EV customers, charging time ranked second only to driving range among concerns; it was seen as a bigger barrier than relatively high prices.

Charging speed is a complicated equation that depends on a range of things, from the type of car being charged to the ambient temperature. But the charger itself is typically the most important factor. A 300-kilowatt charger, all else being equal, can theoretically juice a 100-kilowatt-hour battery from empty to full in about 20 minutes, whereas it would take a 100-kilowatt charger three times as long.

At EVgo, about 60% of the charging cords are ultra-fast — 350 kilowatts or better. That’s up from 15% four years ago.

“Pretty much everything we’ve been installing in the last two or three years is 350 [kilowatts],” Khan said. “If the driver is charging the same amount of kilowatt-hours, then the session times will go down.”

To date, charging networks have aimed for a narrow sweet spot when it comes to traffic, being busy enough to make money, but not so crowded as to put off drivers. With faster charging equipment —and cars capable of topping up more quickly — EV stations can pump more electrons in less time and help customers avoid lines.

While it's far more expensive to build a fast station than a slower one, the push for speed may mean networks eventually won't need quite as many stations, according to Krishna Esteva, head of product at Stable Auto, a startup that helps networks decide where to build chargers. "It's one of those things that's a win for everybody," he said. "It's good for the drivers ... and it's good for the station owners because each station you deploy is getting more profitable over time."

The cars, of course, are critical too. At Electrify America LLC, which operates about 1,100 public stations in North America, 350-kilowatt chargers have been the standard for seven years, in part because the company anticipated a rush of vehicles able to accept higher speed charging.

"Everybody called us crazy in 2018, but now, everyone is doing it, even Tesla," said Electrify America CEO Robert Barrosa.

Indeed, automakers have been steadily beefing up circuitry and software, allowing their machines to take on electrons more quickly. Five years ago, the Chevrolet Bolt, one of the most popular EVs, could charge at just 55 kilowatts. Today's Bolt has a maximum charge rate of 150 kilowatts. Even that is now considered somewhat slow by industry standards, with much of the current EV fleet capable of charging at 300 kilowatts or more.

Meanwhile, Electrify America is pushing the accelerator further, building 400-kilowatt chargers and considering even faster units. BYD Co. Ltd., the Chinese EV giant, recently released new vehicles that will charge at 1,000 kilowatts, though they aren't available in the U.S.

Ultimately, Barrosa said the charging race has engendered a virtuous cycle in the car world: More and faster charging stations will spur EV sales, which, in turn, will pump up charging profits.

"When you buy an electric car, that's the first thing you think about," he said. "We've got to get that calculus out of consumer minds to really make the transition happen faster."

Stock writes for Bloomberg.

More to Read

California exceeds clean car goal despite declining federal support

Jan. 20, 2026



Heated debate over California water plan as environmentalists warn of ‘ecosystem collapse’



The approach backed by Gov. Gavin Newsom would give water agencies more leeway in how they comply with water rules. Above, boaters on the Delta near Stockton in 2024. (Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times)



By **Ian James**
Staff Writer |  Follow

Jan. 29, 2026 3 AM PT

- California regulators will soon decide on a water plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.
- The Newsom administration and water agencies support the proposed plan, which they say offers flexibility and would help improve the Delta's ecological health.

- Environmental advocates say the proposal would harm native fish.

The question of how to protect fish and the ecological health of rivers that feed California's largest estuary is generating heated debate in a series of hearings in Sacramento, as state officials try to gain support for a plan that has been years in the making.

"I am passionate that this is the pathway to recover fish," said state Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot. "This is the paradigm we need: collaborative, adaptive management versus conflict and litigation."

The plan is being discussed in three days of hearings convened by the State Water Resources Control Board. It sets out rules for water quality that will determine how much water can be pumped out of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for the state's farms and cities.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Newsom's plan to give water agencies more leeway in meeting rules moves forward

July 24, 2025

Years of research shows that fish do better when there is more water in the region's rivers and the Delta itself. The fish contend with dams that cut off their spawning grounds, nonnative fish such as bass that prey on them and powerful pumps that pull them into areas where they are vulnerable.

The approach backed by Gov. Gavin Newsom would give water agencies more leeway in how they comply with water rules.

Environmental advocates said the proposal would take too much water out of the Delta and threaten fish already in severe decline. They also point out that toxic algae blooms have increased in Delta waterways, but the plan doesn't address that.

"Native fish and wildlife populations are crashing," said Gary Bobker, program director of the environmental group Friends of the River, adding that the board's upcoming decision is critically important in determining whether the state will protect the Delta's ecosystem or allow it to deteriorate further.

Native fish that are increasingly threatened include the finger-sized Delta smelt and white sturgeon, the largest freshwater fish in North America, which can reach more than 10 feet long.

"What we are witnessing can only accurately be described as ecosystem collapse," said Eric Buescher, an attorney for the group San Francisco Baykeeper.

The plan would give water agencies two ways of complying with Delta water quality goals — either limit pumping to maintain required minimum levels of water in the rivers, as has traditionally been done, or take part in so-called "voluntary agreements,"

in which water agencies commit to ensuring certain river flows for the environment while contributing funds for projects that restore habitat for fish and other wildlife in the Delta.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

How a ‘death trap’ for fish in California’s water system is limiting the pumping of supplies

May 2, 2024

This approach, which state officials call the [Healthy Rivers and Landscapes](#) program, has strong support among water agencies that serve California’s farms and cities.

“The traditional regulatory approach has severe water supply impacts to California’s communities,” said Stephen Pang, state relations advocate for the Assn. of California Water Agencies, which represents about 470 public agencies. “Climate change will continue to constrain water supply.”

Participating agencies have agreed to begin a collaborative effort to restore wetlands and a science program to guide the effort. Pang said leaders of the water agencies believe this approach would “improve habitat conditions and ensure adequate flow to protect and support native species.”

State officials say if the more collaborative approach falters and water agencies fail to meet commitments, they still have the option of terminating the program.

“The parties that would be subject to the regulation have sort of a vested interest in ensuring its success, and we think there’s a lot of value in that as well,” said Eric Oppenheimer, the board’s executive director.

The board is [holding hearings](#) through Friday, and accepting written comments from the public until Feb. 2. A decision on the plan is expected later this year.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Experts urge California to avoid pitfalls in water deals in the delta

Feb. 22, 2024

The new update of the Delta water plan, formally called the [Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan](#), has been years in the making.

The last substantial changes to the plan date to 1995 for much of the watershed. In 2018, the state water board released new rules intended to increase flows in the San Joaquin River. The update will set rules for the Sacramento River and the rest of the Delta, where pumps operated by state and federal agencies send water flowing in aqueducts to farmlands and cities.

The hearings are being held after a [three-year shutdown](#) of commercial salmon fishing because of a decline in the Chinook salmon population.

“Excessive water diversions are killing California’s key salmon runs,” said Barry Nelson, an advisor to the Golden State Salmon Assn., a nonprofit group.

Nelson said he believes that the voluntary agreements are designed to weaken environmental protection at a time when the Newsom administration is proposing to take out more water by building a [45-mile water tunnel](#) beneath the Delta as well as the new [Sites Reservoir](#), which is planned northwest of Sacramento.

He urged the board to reject the voluntary agreements, calling them a “backroom water scam.”

More to Read

Trump’s plan to pump more water in California is ill-conceived and harmful, lawmakers say

Dec. 15, 2025



Trump administration adopts plan to pump more water in California over state objections

Dec. 4, 2025



California strongly objects to Trump’s plan to pump more Delta water south

Dec. 3, 2025



Ian James

Ian James is a reporter who focuses on water and climate change in California and the West. Before joining the Los Angeles Times in 2021, he was an environment reporter at the Arizona Republic and the Desert Sun. He previously worked for the Associated Press as a correspondent in the Caribbean and as bureau chief in Venezuela. Follow him on Bluesky [@ianjames.bsky.social](#) and on X [@ByIanJames](#).