



City of Sebastopol

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF: April 21, 2026

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To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Victoria Henkel, Permit Technician
Subject: Climate Action Committee Appointments

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council considers appointment to the Climate Action Committee based on the interview conducted earlier in the agenda.

PROCESS OF AGENDA ITEM:

- a. Introduction of agenda item by Interim City Manager, Mary Gourley
- b. Questions and discussion from Councilmembers
- c. Public comment period
- d. Council deliberation and motion

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City received one application that qualified for the one vacancy on the Climate Action Committee. Earlier in the meeting, the Council interviewed the candidate. This item provides the Council with an opportunity to make an appointment to fill the open seat. If the seat remains unfilled, staff will re-advertise the vacancy.

BACKGROUND:

Earlier in the meeting, the Council conducted an interview with the applicant for the vacancy on the Climate Action Committee. The applicant— Mark Szatmari— meets the qualifications required for the vacant position.

DISCUSSION:

The Council may consider factors such as experience, knowledge of climate and environmental issues, community involvement, and demonstrated commitment to the City’s goals when making appointments. The applicant brings unique skills and perspectives that could contribute to the Climate Action Committees’ work. If the Council is unable to fill the vacancy during this session, staff will re-advertise the remaining opening to ensure full membership on the Committee.

Current Climate Action Committee terms/categories are listed below (vacancies are highlighted)

MEMBERS	CATEGORY	TERM ENDING DATE
Phill Carter	City Council Liaison at large	As assigned
Steven Pierce, Chair	Sebastopol Business Owner, Energy, Transportation, Local Climate Action Group	December 31, 2026
Emily Ocon	Transportation, Climate Change, Local Climate Action Group	December 31, 2026
Lila Newton	Youth Representative, Climate Change	December 31, 2026
Sunny Galbraith	Zero Waste	December 31, 2026
Kenna Lee	Climate Change	December 31, 2027

Vacant	One or more of the listed Experiences/characteristics	December 31, 2027
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The City Council received one qualified application and interviewed the following individual for the opening on the Climate Action Committee:

APPLICANTS	EXPERIENCE/CHARACTERISTICS:
Mark Szatmari	Climate Change, Energy, Environmental Justice, and Equity

STAFF ANALYSIS:

Staff recommends that Council consider the appointment of the applicant to the Climate Action Committee to fill the vacancy, based on the interview conducted earlier in the agenda.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS / PRIORITIES / GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY:

Goal 4: High-Performance Organization

Restoring public trust through transparent and inclusive processes

Improving public communications and community engagement

General Plan Consistency:

Goal COS 1: Make Proactive, Forward-Thinking Environmental Protection and Resource Management the Cornerstone of Sebastopol’s Identity.

Policy COS 1-1: Strive to establish Sebastopol as a leader in environmental protection, environmental stewardship, and sustainability.

Policy COS 1-2: Consider the effects of planning decisions on the overall health and well-being of the natural environment and regional ecosystems.

Policy COS 1-3: Consider the “Rights of Nature” as a key principle when making planning decisions and reviewing development and infrastructure project applications.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment on this item. However, if staff receives public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report, such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of this item.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

This item has been noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommended action tonight.

RESTATED RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council considers appointment to the Climate Action Committee based upon the interview conducted earlier in the agenda. The term ending date for the current vacancy is December 31, 2027. Council should determine appointment to the open position and term ending date.

OPTIONS:

If the Council chooses not to make an appointment from the interview conducted earlier in the agenda, the Council can direct staff to reopen the application period for the unfilled opening on the Climate Action Committee.

APPROVALS:

Department Head Approval: Approval Date: 4/13/2026

CEQA Determination (Planning): Approval Date: 4/13/2026

The proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Administrative Services (Financial) Approval Date: N/A

Costs authorized in City Approved Budget: Yes No N/A

Account Code (if applicable) _____

City Attorney Approval: Approval Date: N/A

City Manager Approval: Approval Date: 4/13/2026