

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes - February 26th, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER at 2:06PM**
- II. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT -** We would like to recognize that while we gather at California State University East Bay located in Hayward, CA, we are gathered on the ethno-historic tribal territory of the intermarried Jalquin (hal-keen) / Yrgin (eer-gen) Chochenyo-Ohlone-speaking tribal group, who were the direct ancestors of some of the lineages enrolled in the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area, and who were missionized into Missions San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Jose.

It is important that we not only recognize the history of the land of the Jalquin/Yrgin on which we gather to learn and participate, but also recognize that the First People of this region – the Muwekma Ohlone People, are alive and thriving members of the Hayward and broader Bay Area communities today.

It is of great importance to acknowledge the significance of this Holše Warep (hol-sheh wah-rehp) ~ Beautiful Land to the indigenous Muwekma Ohlone People of this region. We ask everyone who attends or visits Cal State University East Bay in Hayward, to be respectful of the aboriginal lands of the Muwekma Ohlone People, and consistent with their principles of community and diversity strive to be good stewards on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, on whose land you are their guests.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Daniel Kristofferson Lopez, Sri Charan Baka, Srilekha Budithi, Ruthvik Reddy, David Teng

Absent: Mukul Dawan

IV. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda of sustainable affairs meeting on February 26th, 2026 by **S. Baka**, Seconded by **R. Reddy**. **Motion Carried.**



V. ACTION ITEM - Approval of the Minutes of, October 30th, December 4th, 2025 and February 12th, 2026

Motion to approve the agenda of sustainable affairs Minutes of, October 30th, December 4th, 2025, 2026 by **S. Baka**, Seconded by **R. Reddy**. **Motion Carried.**

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – Public Comment is intended as a time for any member of the public to address the committee on any issues affecting ASI and/or the California State University, East Bay.

No public comment

VII. UNFINISHED ITEMS:

No Unfinished Items

VIII. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Welcoming New Committee Members

The committee will be informed on the new members of the committee.

D. Lopez began by keeping the introduction brief and thanked the applicants for applying to the committee. He invited each applicant to introduce themselves, share who they were, and explain what had interested them in joining the committee.

S. Budithi introduced herself as **Srilekha Budithi**, a graduate student pursuing a master’s degree in Business Analytics. She shared that she works in University Advancement and had applied to the committee with an interest in sustainability. She expressed her enthusiasm about the opportunity and stated that she looked forward to working with everyone.

S. Baka then introduced himself as **Sri Charan Baka**. He explained that he was currently in his second semester studying Construction Management and holds a bachelor’s degree in Architecture. He added that the work of the committee aligned closely with his previous academic and professional background, and he was looking forward to contributing in areas related to his field of experience.



R. Reddy introduced himself as Ruthvik Reddy, a sophomore at UCLA majoring in Computer Science. He stated that his interest in joining the committee stemmed from his desire to become more involved in campus activities and to better understand how the campus operates.

D. Lopez concluded by thanking the applicants for their introductions and expressed excitement about having them on the committee. He also shared her enthusiasm for the new initiatives and ideas they would bring to the group.

4:55

B. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Jennifer Sanchez Visit

The committee will be visited by Jennifer Sanchez.

J. Sanchez introduced herself as **Jennifer Sanchez-Biederman**, the campus's Shared Sustainability Manager. She explained that she supports sustainability efforts at both East Bay and Sonoma campuses, primarily working in a remote capacity. However, she noted that she attends campus visits and events when possible and makes an effort to visit at least once a month, depending on ongoing activities. She added that she had communicated frequently with **D. Lopez** through email and zoom and expressed her appreciation for being invited.

E. Munoz then introduced herself as **Evelyn Lopez-Munoz**, the Sustainability and Energy Project Manager working within the Facilities Management department on campus. She stated that she works closely with **Jennifer Sanchez-Biederman** and shared her academic background, noting that she is an alumna with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and a master's degree in Sustainable Construction Management.

J. Sanchez followed by sharing her own educational background, stating that she holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a master's degree in Business Administration. She also mentioned that she is an alumna of CSU Bakersfield and noted her interest in **E. Munoz's** background in construction management.

6:38

D. Lopez responded by mentioning that the committee already had several initiatives planned related to campus buildings and expressed interest in collaborating on those efforts. He thanked both speakers for their introductions and encouraged attendees to raise their hands or speak up if any items on the agenda interested them. He clarified that the introductions were brief and that more in-depth discussions would follow.

J. Sanchez explained that she and her colleague are part of the Office of Energy and Sustainability. She stated that their mission on campus is to track sustainability data and initiate projects and programs aimed at reducing the campus’s carbon footprint and minimizing the consumption of natural resources. She added that their office also works to support overall campus operations through sustainability-focused initiatives. She further described their collaborative efforts with various campus departments, including dining services, where they work to promote sustainable dining practices such as reducing food-related emissions and increasing plant-based food options. In addition, she noted that they collaborate with academic departments on sustainability-related initiatives and manage energy-related projects as part of their daily responsibilities.

J. Sanchez also highlighted their educational programs, particularly those focused on zero waste and sustainability awareness. She emphasized that education and behavior change among campus users are essential components of their work, as individual actions play a significant role in achieving sustainability goals. She expressed interest in collaborating with the committee to support these efforts and promote sustainable practices across campus. Finally, she mentioned that their office oversees HGSTARS reporting, which involves collecting extensive sustainability data from across the campus. Although she did not go into detail about the reporting system, she offered to share a link so that committee members could learn more about it.

9:05

C. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Upcoming Event: “Cigarette Surfboard x Eastbay Documentary Screening” The committee will be informed about the upcoming event’s logistics and execution.

D. Lopez informed the committee that he wanted to show them the event flyer, which he had previously shared. He explained that although the template was already created, he planned to update the color scheme to blue and green and asked if a committee member would be willing to finalize the flyer by adjusting the colors and tidying up the design. **J. Sanchez** offered assistance and suggested that if a committee member volunteered, she could help guide them on how to complete the flyer.

D. Lopez then opened the shared drive to display the event materials and explained the event details. He stated that the event would take place on March 10, approximately two weeks from the meeting date. He noted that the planning process had been relatively straightforward because the event was a movie screening and did not require extensive coordination. He also clarified that the location had changed from the MPR to Room 311, which could accommodate approximately 100 attendees, matching their original expectations.



He emphasized that the primary responsibility of committee members would be to help advertise the event. He mentioned that he had shared the flyer and a synopsis of the movie via email and during a Board of Directors meeting and offered to forward the information again if needed. He outlined the event setup, explaining that there would be a banquet-style arrangement with a panel discussion at the front featuring Ben and other producers. He added that the event would last approximately three hours, include a photo booth, and offer popcorn sponsored by ASI. He also described the outreach plan, which included posting flyers around campus, especially in high-traffic areas like the CORE, and creating Instagram Reels and Highlights to promote the event.

J. Sanchez asked about the typical turnout for movie screening events. **D. Lopez** responded that this would be his first time organizing such an event but shared that he had attended a similar event hosted by the Philippine Ex-American Student Association (PASA), which had attracted approximately 60 to 70 attendees. He expressed confidence that ASI's broader outreach could result in even higher attendance.

14:14

J. Sanchez then asked about the RSVP process and whether an RSVP link would be used. **D. Lopez** explained that he had initially planned to collect attendance information at the event entrance using students' Net IDs but was open to creating an online RSVP option. **J. Sanchez** offered to create a Google Form and generate a QR code that could be added to the Canva flyer to make registration easier and potentially support grant requirements.

J. Sanchez also offered to assist with outreach by sharing the event information with faculty members such as **Dr. Lee** and **Antonio** so they could promote the event in their classes. She emphasized her willingness to support the committee's efforts and help maximize attendance.

D. Lopez agreed with the suggestions and stated that he would follow up to coordinate the RSVP form and QR code. He also mentioned that the event could be promoted during upcoming ASI tabling and outreach events, where flyers are typically distributed to encourage student participation. The discussion concluded with both parties expressing support for the outreach and planning efforts.

15:58



D. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Upcoming Event: “Rescue & Relish”

The committee will be informed about the upcoming event’s logistics and execution.

D. Lopez stated that he was very happy about the event and briefly expressed his enthusiasm. He then presented the event details and explained that it would be an intensive initiative but one that would provide meaningful support to students. He shared that the event would involve collaboration with The HOPE Pantry and local restaurants. He introduced the concept by referencing the Too Good To Go app, explaining that it allows restaurants to distribute surplus food that would otherwise be discarded. **D. Lopez** stated that his goal was for committee members and ASI representatives to reach out to locally owned restaurants in Hayward to determine whether they had surplus food that could be collected and redistributed to students experiencing food insecurity.

D. Lopez explained that he also planned to work directly with The HOPE Pantry to organize a pop-up food distribution event. He noted that the location was still being finalized, as the originally proposed Bayview room might not be available, and an alternative room may be used instead. He described that student would be able to register upon arrival and receive food from The HOPE Pantry, along with any additional food secured from participating local restaurants. **D. Lopez** acknowledged that securing participation from restaurants would be one of the main challenges and emphasized that committee members would play a key role in conducting outreach. He added that the event was scheduled for the 17th and 19th, giving the committee approximately a month to prepare and coordinate efforts.

18:22

D. Lopez also stated that he had already received approval through Bay Sync but would confirm the final room assignment. He explained that the event would include two main components: tabling and food distribution programming. He described that tabling would take place downstairs, where committee members would share information about food resources available on campus, including the acceptance of EBT and other food assistance programs. **D. Lopez** noted that students would then be directed to the pop-up food distribution location, where they could access food without needing to schedule an appointment.

D. Lopez further explained that he would be responsible for creating the flyer and planned to complete it alongside flyers for other upcoming events. He mentioned that he would coordinate with Destiny regarding the promotional materials. Finally, he emphasized that executing the event would require significant coordination and active participation from committee members. He anticipated assigning two to three members to manage the tabling efforts while another two to three members



would assist with the food distribution programming. He concluded by reiterating the importance of teamwork and preparation to ensure the event's success.

19:47

J. Sanchez asked whether **D. Lopez** had spoken with Jennifer Luna regarding the event. She recommended that he consult with her before beginning promotional efforts. Drawing from her previous experience supporting a food pantry at another campus, she explained that food distribution events often involve additional food handling requirements. She emphasized the importance of confirming whether any forms, training, or procedural requirements needed to be completed to ensure the event was conducted properly and in compliance with campus policies.

D. Lopez acknowledged her suggestion and agreed that it was important to clarify any training requirements. He expressed appreciation for her advice and recognized the value of consulting with Jennifer Luna to ensure the event was organized appropriately.

J. Sanchez further explained that discussing the event with Jennifer Luna would be beneficial not only for immediate planning but also for potential long-term collaboration. She noted that Jennifer Luna, as someone overseeing the food pantry, might have existing plans, procedures, or resources that could support the initiative and strengthen its impact.

D. Lopez agreed and stated that he would reach out to Jennifer Luna following the meeting. He mentioned that he would need her contact information, and J. Sanchez offered to introduce them. He responded positively to her offer, and both expressed agreement on moving forward with the introduction and coordination.

E. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Upcoming Event: “Thrift, Swap & Drop”

The committee will be informed about the upcoming event's logistics and execution.

D. Lopez introduced another upcoming initiative, stating that it would take place on March 9 and March 11. He explained that the event would require less extensive planning because it would primarily involve tabling. However, he noted that the event would include a creative component in the form of a mini thrift store-style clothing swap called “Drip, Swap, and Drop.” He described the concept as allowing students to donate clothing items, browse available items, and exchange clothing with others.



D. Lopez explained that clothing racks would be provided, either purchased or sourced from existing campus resources such as the Hope Pantry or the Career Center, if available. He added that students would be able to donate clothing in advance through ASI or bring items directly to the event. These items would then be organized and displayed on racks and tables. He noted that students would be allowed to take a limited number of items to ensure fairness, but those who contributed clothing would have additional opportunities to swap items.

D. Lopez emphasized that the event aimed to reduce clothing waste and promote sustainability by giving students an opportunity to reuse items instead of discarding them. He referenced his observation of excess clothing at previous campus events, such as Free Fest, and expressed concern that many usable items might otherwise go to waste. He stated that this event would provide a practical solution by redistributing those items to students who could benefit from them. He further explained that the event would be organized into three sections: a clothing rack display, a drop-off area for donations, and a swap section where students could browse and exchange items. He described the structure as simple and easy to manage.

23:27

S. Budithi asked whether the event would last three days. **D. Lopez** clarified that the event would take place on two separate days, March 9 and March 11. He added that he would notify the committee if there were any changes to the schedule. He also stated that he would need two committee members to assist with tabling during each session and confirmed that he would be present on both days to oversee the event.

F. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Upcoming Event: “GenCo X CSUEB Tabling”

The committee will be informed about the upcoming event’s logistics and execution.

D. Lopez introduced an initiative aimed at integrating laundry sheets into campus housing as a more sustainable alternative to traditional laundry detergents and pods. He explained that laundry sheets are more environmentally friendly and cost-effective in the long term. However, he emphasized that before implementing the initiative, it was important to gather student feedback and determine whether students would be interested in using them. He noted that installing permanent dispensers might require a flat cost, so evaluating feasibility and student support was a necessary first step.

J. Sanchez responded by acknowledging the project and asked whether he had continued discussions with Mylan, whom she had previously connected him with. She offered her support and



encouraged him to reach out if she could assist further, noting that she was not fully up to date on the project's recent progress.

D. Lopez shared that samples of the laundry sheets had recently arrived and that he planned to show them to interested members after the meeting. He explained that instead of promoting laundry sheets alone, he intended to present them alongside other sustainable laundry options to assess student preferences. He stated that the goal was to evaluate whether laundry sheets were truly needed or whether students were already satisfied with existing sustainable alternatives. He also mentioned that, based on discussions with Mylan, a trial approach using baskets placed near laundry areas might be more feasible than installing dispensers. He explained that this pilot method would allow students to try the products before making any permanent decisions.

26:27

To better understand effective outreach locations, **D. Lopez** asked committee members who lived in campus housing for input. **R. Reddy** confirmed that he lived in the dorms and provided general insight about student traffic. **D. Lopez** suggested placing laundry sheet baskets in high-traffic areas and conducting tabling efforts nearby to promote awareness. He also stated that he was willing to conduct tabling regularly until the initiative was fully evaluated.

E. Munoz suggested placing the baskets near laundry facilities, specifically mentioning locations such as El Dorado and Lassen residence halls, as these areas would provide direct access to students doing laundry. **J. Sanchez** clarified that the primary goal at this stage was to understand student interest and compare their preferences between laundry sheets and other sustainable laundry options. **D. Lopez** recalled that Mylan had mentioned another sustainable laundry option, specifically wool dryer balls. **J. Sanchez** clarified that wool dryer balls are used during the drying process and serve as an alternative to dryer sheets by reducing static. She also mentioned foil balls, explaining that they may help capture microplastics during laundry cycles, although she noted she did not have personal experience using them. She acknowledged that these alternatives were innovative and sustainable options worth exploring.

J. Sanchez further suggested that if the goal was to gather student feedback, high-traffic residential areas such as Pioneer Kitchen and laundry facilities would be ideal locations for outreach. She explained that distributing samples and collecting feedback near laundry rooms would be especially effective, as students would already be engaged in laundry-related activities and more likely to consider trying sustainable alternatives. **D. Lopez** agreed and proposed incorporating the laundry sheet samples into the upcoming "Drip, Swap, and Drop" clothing event, since it was already related to clothing and sustainability. He explained that this would serve as an opportunity to introduce



students to the product. He added that the committee could later organize a separate tabling event focused specifically on sustainable laundry options. He also noted that Mylan had advised presenting multiple sustainable alternatives rather than promoting only one option, in order to give students a broader range of choices and gather more balanced feedback.

29:15

G. DISCUSSION ITEM - Resolution Draft | Laundry Detergents Replacement

The committee will be discussing the upcoming resolution.

Motion to approve discussion item resolution draft for laundry detergent replacement by **S. Baka**,
Seconded by **R. Reddy**.

D. Lopez then referenced a previous discussion with Jennifer and Evelyn regarding the proposed sustainable laundry initiative. He described the project as a larger effort he has been developing in collaboration with Generation Conscious. The initiative would involve installing dispensers in campus housing to provide sustainable laundry sheets. He explained that funding the dispensers might require a small flat fee added to housing tuition. Although the increase would be minimal, he acknowledged that any added cost could still be significant for students. However, he noted that Generation Conscious had indicated the program would be more cost-effective for students in the long run.

D. Lopez clarified that the proposal was not yet finalized and sought feedback, particularly from students who currently live-in campus housing. He specifically asked for opinions from those who dorm, wanting to understand how they might feel about a potential fee increase tied to a sustainability-focused initiative.

33:14

D. Teng responded that he was unsure about students' overall preferences regarding laundry pods versus detergent alternatives. However, he suggested that instead of making assumptions, the committee could set up a table near Lassen Hall to gather direct student feedback. He explained that this area experiences consistent student traffic and would provide a convenient location to engage residents, share information about the initiative, and better understand their preferences before moving forward with any formal proposal.



R. Reddy added that students are typically expected to use laundry pods in the residence hall machines. His comment implied that any proposed alternative, such as laundry sheets, would need to be compatible with the existing machines and housing guidelines.

D. Lopez responded that he had not been aware that pods were typically required for the machines. He noted that this information was helpful, especially since the proposed product was not a pod but a small, dissolvable laundry sheet. He described the sheets as plastic-free, soft in texture, and pleasantly scented, emphasizing their sustainability benefits.

D. Lopez then explained that the proposed resolution would outline a request for funding from the administration to launch a pilot program. He clarified that the initial funding request was approximately \$4,500 to begin the pilot phase, which would cover the installation of two dispensers. He added that while the partnering organization would initially provide the laundry sheets, future costs would likely be limited to restocking the sheets, making the program more cost-effective over time. However, he stressed that the committee first needed to determine whether students would actually use and support the initiative.

D. Lopez concluded by stating that he would circulate a draft of the resolution within the next two weeks. He noted that the draft would focus on assessing student demand and overall feasibility. He also mentioned that he planned to continue discussions with Jennifer and Mylan to better understand usage patterns in campus housing and to evaluate the logistical considerations of implementing the program.

H. DISCUSSION ITEM - Resolution Draft | Braddock Center Main Garden

The committee will be discussing the upcoming resolution.

Motion to approve discussion item resolution draft for Braddock Center Main Garden by **S. Baka**,
Seconded by **R. Reddy**.

35:28

D. Lopez asked the committee if they were familiar with the large open space in front of the Braddock Center. He explained that he had recently met with Jennifer, a professor whose name he could not recall at the moment, and Dean Carmen Bustos to discuss ways to improve campus gardens, particularly in underutilized areas near the center.



D. Lopez shared that one of the primary ideas discussed was the creation of a sustainable community garden. The goal would be to allow students to grow produce such as tomatoes and other vegetables, thereby increasing access to fresh food on campus. He explained that the broader plan included expanding and revitalizing existing gardens, including improvements to the garden near the music building, which he noted was currently in poor condition. Additionally, discussions included upgrading campus irrigation systems so that sprinklers would better support trees and plant life rather than focusing primarily on turf grass.

D. Lopez further explained that this initiative aligned with a larger academic vision. According to the discussions, the long-term objective would be to support the development of a new sustainability-focused degree program, potentially in environmental science. He noted that the garden could eventually be integrated into coursework, providing students with hands-on learning opportunities connected to sustainability studies.

D. Lopez acknowledged that the initiative would likely take significant time to implement but expressed strong enthusiasm about its potential impact. He encouraged committee members, especially those planning to remain involved in ASI or sustainability efforts in the coming year, to continue advancing the project. He stated that he would be drafting resolutions related to both the laundry initiative and the community garden proposal and invited committee members to participate in the policy-writing process. He emphasized that their involvement would provide valuable experience in drafting resolutions and shaping campus sustainability initiatives. He concluded by inviting discussion and expressing excitement about the diverse academic backgrounds within the committee, noting that students in fields such as biochemistry and construction management could contribute meaningfully to the development of these projects.

IX. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

38:16

D. Lopez explained that there had not yet been a SHAC meeting referring to the Student Health and Counseling committee nor a sustainability meeting, which meant he had not yet assigned members to attend specific meetings. He informed the committee that he would soon begin delegating members to different committees to ensure representation and involvement.



D. Lopez stated that, since there are five committee members, three would be assigned to attend SHAC meetings, while two would attend sustainability meetings alongside him. He added that assignments could rotate over time so that everyone would gain experience in both areas. He clarified that SHAC focuses primarily on student wellness and health-related sustainability matters.

D. Lopez further explained that following these meetings, committee reports would be required. Each assigned group would need to prepare and present a slide before the main meeting summarizing what was discussed, what actions were taken, and any other significant updates or developments. He emphasized that this reporting process would help keep the full committee informed and ensure accountability and continuity across initiatives.

X. ROUND TABLE REMARKS

D. Lopez concluded the meeting by expressing his appreciation and formally welcoming the new committee members: **Ruthvik, Sri Charan, and Sri Lekha**. He encouraged everyone to greet and connect with them. He also noted that **Mukul** was not present but would ensure proper introductions at a later time. He shared his enthusiasm for the remainder of the academic year and expressed gratitude for having a larger team to support the committee's initiatives.

XI. ADJOURNMENT at 2:45PM

Minutes reviewed and approved by:

Chair/Director of Sustainability:

Daniel Kristofferson Lopez

Minutes approved on:

02-26-26

Date:

