



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency - Environmental Health



Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

(831) 454-2022 TDD/TTY - Call 711 <http://www.scceh.org>

Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2025

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 6:30 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**

District	Commissioner	Status	Commissioner	Status
I	Chris Berry	P	Samuel Adelson	E
II	VACANT		David Somerton	E
III	Liz Alter	E	Jon Jankovitz	P
IV	Brooke Sampson	P	Daniela Suarez	P
V	Jenni Gomez	P	VACANT	

P = Present R = Remote E = Excused A = Absent

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Berry noted a typo in the commissioners reports where “presentation” should have been “presented”.
 - o **Motion to Approve Minutes with Correction:** Berry, **Second:** Gomez,
 - o **All Ayes:** Minutes approved
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
 - o Steve Kennedy: Asks that an item be placed on a future agenda to release him from his promise to make no further funding requests for his Canonbal Express film.
5. **REVIEW AND APPROVE LETTER TO THE BOARD REGARDING SIGNIFICANT TREE ORDINANCE:** The Commissioners reviewed the proposed letter and had no revisions. Commissioners also reviewed the suggested code changes and made the following edits: Add Black Locust and Tree of Heaven to list of invasive species that are exempt. Change the Green Wattle Acacia to be simply Acacia. Maintain references to the benefits of large trees to property values and visual aesthetics. Combine the two sections of code referring to timber harvest exemptions, with a comment saying this change is suggested for code simplification only.

- **Motion to Approve Letter with Changes to Suggested Code Revisions:** Gomez, **Second:** Berry,
- **All Ayes:** Letter and Code Change Suggestions approved. Letter will be presented to the BOS at the next possible meeting.

With the letter completed, the Commission also voted to end the Significant Tree Ordinance Sub-committee.

- **Motion to End the STO Sub-Committee:** Berry, **Second:** Gomez
- **All Ayes:** Sub-committee has ended.

6. APPROVE THE 2025 FWAC WORKPLAN: Commissioners reviewed the workplan and suggested adding Regulatory monitoring, coordination with stakeholders, and maintain the iNaturalist account to General Workplan items. Commissioners suggested waiting to approve the final agenda until more commissioners were present and potential new commissioners could be added. Vote on final Workplan will be held at the July Meeting.

7. VOTE FOR COMMISSION OFFICERS: Each commission and committee shall elect its chairperson and vice-chairperson. Each commission and committee may also elect a co-chairperson in lieu of a vice-chairperson, if established in the body's authorizing ordinance or bylaws. Annually, commission officers shall be elected during the first meeting in April, or if the commission does not meet in April, at the next subsequent meeting. Commission officers may serve for up to two consecutive years and shall be eligible to serve again after a one- year "sit-out" period.

- **Motion to Approve Gomez as Chair:** Suarez, **Second:** Sampson,
- **All Ayes:** Gomez appointed as Chair
- **Motion to Approve Berry as Vice-Chair:** Suarez, **Second:** Sampson,
- **All Ayes:** Berry appointed as Vice-Chair

8. APPROVE MEETING SCHEDULE, DISCUSS POSSIBLE CHANGES: Commissioners voted to retain time and location of the meetings. The proposed meeting dates needed to be correct in 2026 to fall on the first Thursday.

- **Motion to Approve Meeting Schedule, with correction:** Berry, **Second:** Jankovitz,
- **All Ayes:** Minutes approved

9. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Staff Reports:**

- The OR3 office is implementing the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, which recently received an additional \$4 million (now at \$9.7 million) to provide streambank stabilization for up to 15 homes. Property owners will be responsible for 25% of the cost. A status update will be provided to the BOS at the November 18th meeting. [Staff Report](#)
- In communication with Staff at the Land Trust to present on the effects of the Highway 17 wildlife tunnel after 1 year in operation.
- A new Diversity Survey is expected to be going out in the coming months. This is to see how the situation has changed, or not changed, since the 2022 meeting.
- **Commissioner Reports:**
 - **Com Sampson:**
 - 1) Provided a summary and update on Measure Q update to all commissioners.
 - 2) Flagged concerns regarding the weakening of the Endangered Species Act, noting the US house voted to remove long finned smelt
 - **Com Berry:** Provided an update on the status of the ongoing Salmonid Restoration Federation events.
 - **Com Jankovitz:**
 - 1) Has been attending and enjoying the SRF,
 - 2) Commercial season for salmon is closed but the recreational season is open July-August,
 - 3) Descending device is now required when fishing for groundfish, which was a FWAC topic of discussion last year.
 - 4) A relic dam was removed in Pajaro Watershed, near Gilroy, in September. The removal opened over 3 miles of habitat and has resulted in fantastic improvements to habitat quality both up and downstream of the dam.

10. ADJOURN. Motion to Adjourn: Berry, **Second:** Jankovitz
All Aye: meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.