



# 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

July 3, 2025

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 6:31 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**

District	Commissioner	Status	Commissioner	Status
I	Chris Berry	P	Kevin Butler	P
II	Brian Woodward	P	David Somerton	P
III	Liz Alter	P	Jon Jankovitz	P
IV	Brooke Sampson	E	Daniela Suarez	P
V	Jenni Gomez	P	Joanne Brown	R

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

### 3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **Motion to Approve Minutes:** Berry, **Second:** Somerton,
- **All Ayes:** Minutes approved

### 4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- NONE

5. **PRESENTATION ON HIGHWAY 17 WILDLIFE CORRIDOR FINDINGS:** Commissioners received a presentation from the Land Trust that provided a 1-year update on the Highway 17 Wildlife crossing at Laurel Curve. This report was previously presented at the Rio Theater, and a recording can be found here:  
[https://youtu.be/l5AXgc\\_6\\_wA?si=0hHarkuj3TukbXb](https://youtu.be/l5AXgc_6_wA?si=0hHarkuj3TukbXb)
  - The Land Trust provided information on their efforts to reconnect the Santa Cruz Mountain Range with the Gabilan Mountain Range:  
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/716de4f1100044779354ea8a3c8aff9f/>
6. **INTRODUCTION TO THE FWAC:** Staff introduced the three new commissioners to the FWAC and provided key information on the role of the FWAC, governing rules, and how meetings are run.

7. **SIGNIFICANT TREE ORDINANCE EXPANSION DISCUSSION:** Commissioners provided an update on the status of the letter and response from Supervisors. No Supervisors responded to requests to agendize the item. Commissioners Jankovitz, Gomez, and Somerton will again contact their supervisors and reference the May 20<sup>th</sup> Supervisors agenda where the letter was sent.
8. **APPROVE 2025 WORKPLAN:** Commissioners again reviewed the Workplan and chose to do additional refining before approving the plan. Commissioners Brown and Alter will work to align their work plan items and Commissioners Berry, Jankovitz, and Suarez will work to align their items. Commissioner Woodward has selected the Invasive Species workplan item and will update it as needed.
9. **STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
- **Staff Reports:**
    - NONE
  - **Commissioner Reports:**
    - **Com Somerton:** White sharks observed in Monterey Bay and noted concern about vessel strikes by tour vessels.
    - **Com Jankovitz:**
      - (1) New CEQA exemptions for development were signed into law and suggests a possible future agenda item.
      - (2) The start of the recreational salmon season was very successful, roughly 10-30k fish caught, but closed the season in only 2 days.
    - **Com Berry:**
      - (1) City of Santa Cruz finalized water use rules that should improve the flows available to fish
      - (2) Expanded Juvenile steelhead monitoring going on in the San Lorenzo River Watershed
      - (3) Pond turtle study on Loch Lomond noted that turtles are largely observed on Wednesday when the area is closed to the public
      - (4) San Lorenzo Lagoon is filling because the culvert bypass is in operation.
10. **ADJOURN. Motion to Adjourn:** Jankovitz, **Second:** Somerton  
**All Aye:** meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm