



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
(831) 454-2022 FAX: (831) 454-3128 TDD: (831) 454-2123

### SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION DRAFT 2016-2017 BIENNIAL REPORT

This report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the Santa Cruz County Water Advisory Commission (Commission) during 2016 and 2017.

#### **ROLES OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION**

The Commission was established in 1975 to serve as a policy advisory body to the Board of Supervisors (Board) on issues relating to the use and protection of the county's water resources. The roles of the Commission, as outlined in its bylaws, are as follows:

1. Advise the Board on all policy issues impacting water resources in Santa Cruz County, including but not limited to the following categories:
  - a. Water quality and conservation.
  - b. Water supply development, storage and distribution.
  - c. Forestry and watershed management.
  - d. Preservation of fish, wildlife, and riparian habitat.
  - e. Groundwater extraction.
  - f. On-site sewage disposal systems.
  - g. Recreation.
  - h. Water reclamation.
  - i. Public health and safety.
  - j. Monterey Bay preservation.
  - k. Local agency water management plans.
  - l. Water resource development proposals.
  - m. Santa Cruz County Water Master Plan/General Plan.
  - n. County ordinances, and departmental policies and regulations.

2. Staffing, funding, and other resources available to the Commission necessarily limit the duties and responsibilities outlined above. Therefore, the Commission will utilize discretion in devoting time to those activities that are most important to achieving its overall goal of enhancing and preserving Santa Cruz County water resources. County departments (Planning, HSA-Environmental Health (EH), and Public Works (DPW)) will assist the Commission in its work, by including the Commission in water related correspondence, and by having staff provide timely oral reports on pending issues.

#### **MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION**

Starting in fiscal year 2010-2011, commission meetings were reduced from monthly to quarterly (March, June, September and December). In 2016-17 meetings were generally held at 4-6 pm on the first Wednesday of even numbered months, with meetings cancelled or rescheduled depending on special circumstances. Meetings are generally held in the County Governmental Center at 701 Ocean Street in the fifth-floor Conference Room. Other rooms are used for special meetings. Agendas are posted at least five days in advance of meetings, and are distributed electronically to local water districts and interested persons. Agendas and attachments are posted on the County website: <http://sceh.com/Home/Programs/WaterResources/WaterAdvisoryCommission.aspx>

**COMMISSION STRUCTURE**

The Commission consists of seven members, five of whom are concerned citizens appointed by individual supervisors and two that are appointed at-large. The two at-large positions represent public water purveyors and private or mutual water companies in the county. From the beginning of 2016 Chris Berry was the Chair and Tony Gregorio was the Vice-Chair. On June 1, 2016, Carol Hamilton-Monkerud was elected Chair, with Tony Gregorio as Vice-Chair. On June 7, 2017, meeting Carol Hamilton-Monkerud was elected to serve as the Commission Chair and Chris Berry was elected to serve as the Vice-Chair.

Membership during 2016-2017 was as follows:

- 1st District: Ned Spencer
- 2nd District: Carol Hamilton-Monkerud
- 3rd District: Linda Wilson
- 4th District: Antonio Gregorio
- 5th District: Mark Edgemon
- Public Water: Chris Berry-City of Santa Cruz Water Dept.
- Mutual Water: Gerald (Skip) Fehr (Resigned 11/17/16); then Owen Sharp (appointed 1/24/17), both from San Andreas Mutual Water Company

**COMMISSION STAFF**

John Ricker, the Water Resources Division Director in the EH division of the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, served as administrative secretary to the Commission throughout 2016 and 2017, and attends most meetings.

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance by Commission members is shown on the following roster

<b>2016-17 ATTENDANCE ROSTER</b>							
	1ST DISTRICT	2ND DISTRICT	3RD DISTRICT	4TH DISTRICT	5TH DISTRICT	PUBLIC WATER	SMALL SYSTEMS
	SPENCER	HAMILTON-MONKERUD	WILSON	GREGORIO	EDGEMON	BERRY	FEHR/ SHARP
Feb 3, 2016	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Apr 6, 2016	Cancelled						
Jun 1, 2016	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Aug 3, 2016	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
Aug.17,2016 Spec. Mtg	P	P	P	P	P	P	E
Oct 5, 2016	P	P	P	P	P	P	E
Dec 7, 2016	P	P	P	A	A	E	FEHR Resigned 11/17/16
Feb 1, 2017	E	P	P	P	P	P	P-SHARP Appointed
Apr 5, 2017	P	P	P	A	A	E	P
Jun 7, 2017	A	P	P	A	A	P	P
Sep 6, 2017	P	P	P	A	A	P	A
Sep.27,2017 Joint Mtg	P	P	P	A	A	P	A
Dec 7, 2017	P	P	P	A	A	P	P

P – Indicates attendance at that meeting, E – Excused from Meeting, A – Absent from meeting

## GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

All information regarding the Commission activities is available on the internet. The website facilitates data access and makes the Commission's work more available to the public. The Commission website address is:

<http://sceh.com/Home/Programs/WaterResources/WaterAdvisoryCommission.aspx>

In addition to preparing an agenda and minutes from the previous meeting, staff regularly includes pertinent water related articles in the Commission agenda packets to stimulate discussion on related topics.

Listed below are the principal issues and events that were discussed by the Commission during the past two years:

### 1. **Pajaro Valley Groundwater Management Issues**

- The Pajaro River flood control project
- Managed Aquifer Recharge
- Basin Management Plan Update and Implementation
- College Lake Project

### 2. **Santa Margarita Groundwater Issues**

- Governance and Basin Boundary Modification for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- Formation of Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency

### 3. **Water Conservation Efforts, Countywide**

### 4. **Update on County Water Resources Management Efforts**

- Annual Water Resources Reports to Board of Supervisors
- Connecting the Drops: community water discussion
- Updated MOA for Integrated Regional Water Management
- Stormwater Resources Plan

### 5. **Mid-County Water Issues**

- Formation of Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency
- Soquel Creek Water District Review of Water Demand Offset Program
- Presentation on Pure Water Soquel Project

### 6. **Commission on the Environment**

- Subcommittee to discuss coordination of effort with Commission on the Environment (COE) and Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (FWAC)
- Annual Joint meetings with COE and FWAC to discuss priorities for climate change adaptation

### 7. **Update on Conjunctive Use**

- Prop 84 work plan for continued evaluation of conjunctive use
- Water sharing proposal with City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Water District

### 8. **Karst Protection Zone Proposal**

- Review of results of study of karst areas
- ACTION: Letter to Board supporting adoption of karst protection measures

### 9. **Environmental Code Compliance**

- ACTION: Approve the letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Draft Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance
- ACTION: Form a subcommittee to prepare and submit comments on the cannabis cultivation EIR

## **10. Desalination/water supply planning**

- City Water Supply Advisory Committee Recommendations

## **11. County-wide Drought response**

## **12. Water Advisory Commission Role and Work Program**

- Periodic reports and discussion form a subcommittee to look at projects and priorities for the Commission and report back to the Commission.

## **13. Sustainable Groundwater Management**

- County to be a member of the Joint Powers Authority for two new Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
- County to become Interim Groundwater Sustainability agency for West Santa Cruz Terrace (3-026) and Purisima Highlands (3-002.02)

### **Additional Significant Items**

In addition to the list of principle issues discussed above, the Commission also discussed or followed the progress of the following issues and ongoing projects:

- Water Rights
- Managing land to optimize groundwater recharge
- Impact of groundwater pumping on streamflow
- Commissioners were regularly updated on actions taken by the Board on items that affect water supply, water quality, fisheries and riparian habitat protection, groundwater recharge, flood control, drainage, reclaimed wastewater and other related issues.

### **FUTURE GOALS**

In the coming year, the Commission will be following-up on current endeavors. These endeavors include commenting on and providing recommendations to the Board on County Water Resource efforts and staying abreast of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation and conjunctive use projects. The Commission intends to continue its trend of soliciting information from various individuals and agencies as this information relates to water resources in the county. As always, the Commission will continue to evaluate important issues affecting the County's water resources, respond to requests by the Board and the public, and make timely recommendations on both policy and other appropriate matters.

Prepared by:

John Ricker  
Administrative Staff, Water Advisory Commission