



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-3154 FAX: (831) 454-3128

AGENDA

February 3, 2022, 7:00 PM

This meeting will be conducted as a video conference -see link and call-in information on next page.
Please contact Sean Abbey sean.abbey@santacruzcounty.us if you have questions.

Agenda Item #	Start Time	End Time	Description
1	7:00	7:15	Call to Order
2			Roll Call
3			Guest Introductions
4			Approval of Minutes Public Comments
5	7:15	8:00	Letter in support of low-flow fishing closures. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background and status update from Sean Cochran on status of low-flow fishing closures in Santa Cruz County• Review letter of support for low flow closures sent to CA FGC in 2019. Consider updates to letter for 2022 submittal
6	8:00	8:40	Discussion of 2022 Work Plan including what items to prioritize and how to achieve set goals
7	8:40	8:50	Discuss March agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreement to Continue Virtual Meetings
8	8:50	9:00	Commissioner Reports and Announcements
		9:00	Adjourn

Items of Interest:

1. Fish and Game Commission regulatory announcements: [New and Proposed Regulations - 2022 \(ca.gov\)](https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2022/01/04/meet-the-mosquitofish-california-scientists-debate-whether-its-menace-or-messiah/)
2. <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2022/01/04/meet-the-mosquitofish-california-scientists-debate-whether-its-menace-or-messiah/>
3. <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2022/01/25/western-monarch-butterfly-numbers-rebound-in-santa-cruz-but-below-historic-levels/>

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. This online meeting is available to anyone with a telephone. If you are a person with a disability and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting, please contact Sean Abbey at (831) 454-2386 or TDD number (454-2123) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent free.

Commissioner and Public Participation Information and Guidelines

Pursuant to AB 361 and Cal. Gov. Code section 54953, due to the ongoing COVID 19 state of emergency and upon recommendation of the County Health Officer, public meetings of the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee will be held virtually -- by teleconference only. No physical location will be available for these teleconference meetings; however, members of the public will be able to participate in the meetings via Microsoft Teams or by telephone using the information provided below.

If you have questions, please contact Sean Abbey at sean.abbey@santacruzcounty.us.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 916-318-9542](tel:+19163189542), [987383164#](tel:+1916987383164) United States, Sacramento

Phone Conference ID: 987 383 164#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Click on the “Click here to join the meeting” link above. If you are asked to join in the Teams with an application, click on “No thanks” and open in the browser. You should not need to download the application to join the meeting.

Commissioners are expected to have their camera on, but cameras are optional for public attendees.

Please join the meeting a few minutes BEFORE 7:00 pm so that we can start at 7:00 pm. Staff will open the video conference at 6:50 pm. Feel free to chat and say hello before 7:00 pm.

Meeting Roles and Rules:

All meeting attendees should keep their microphones on mute unless they are speaking.

Chris Berry, Chair, will lead the meeting. Chair Berry will announce each agenda item, identify who will be leading an item and introduce discussion and public comment periods.

Sean Abbey, staff, will assist with roll call, note taking, and tracking who wants to speak. Please allow time for staff to make notes about any decisions. Sean will monitor both email and text messages during the meeting.

There will be a public comment period for each item and the Chair will invite the public to participate at the appropriate time.

During a discussion, if 2 or more people speak at the same time, please defer to the person who speaks first. In any moment where we have some confusion due to multiple people wanting to speak, please pause and let the Chair take the lead. The Chair will call on someone to speak.

If you are having trouble joining the conversation, you can send a message to Sean (email sean.abbey@santacruzcounty.us) and he will call on people who want to comment.



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Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:02 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**

District	Commissioner	Status	Commissioner	Status
I	Chris Berry	P	Del Crawford	P
II	Sandra Baron	P	David Somerton	P
III	Liz Alter	P	Jon Jankovitz	P
IV	Matthew Wise	A	VACANT	
V	Jenni Gomez	P	Jen Michelsen	P

P = Present E = Excused A = Absent

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The following changes were made to the minutes; 1) The city implemented a raptor box program in response to the Pajaro Project, 2) The low flow fishing closure information only applied to Steelhead. 3) Misspelling of levee
 - o **Motion to Approve Minutes:** Baron, **Second:** Alter,
 - o **All Ayes:** Minutes approved
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Kristen Kittleson provided the following updates; Bullfrog Population in San Lorenzo Watershed has increased over the last several years. She will be investigating this further. Also, Chinook Salmon were found in both the Upper San Lorenzo River and in San Vicente Creek. San Vicente also had Coho observed making nests.
5. **REGIONAL CONSERVATION INVESTMENT STRATEGY (RCIS) UPDATE:** Kristen Kittleson provided an update regarding the RCIS Draft Environmental Setting and Conservation Elements. The draft report is now available and is being reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee.
6. **PUBLIC GRANTS PROGRAM (PGP) APPROVALS:** Commissioners deliberated each of the proposals and decided to fund all the proposals at the requested amount.
 - o **Motion to Approve All Proposals:** Michelsen, **Second:** Alter
 - o **All Aye:** All proposals are approved to receive the level of funding requested

The amount of funding requested this year did not use all the funding available, so the possibility of issuing the remaining funds to a project that was unable to complete an application by the deadline was discussed.

7. **DISCUSS FEBRUARY AGENDA:**
 - o **2022 Meeting schedule:** Commissioners felt the meeting schedule for 2022 was acceptable.
 - o **Vote to Continue Virtual Meetings:** The passage of AB 361, regarding the continuation of remote public meetings, requires Commissioners to hold a vote on whether the following

criteria is true; 1) The State continues to be under a State of Emergency, and 2) local Health Officials continue to recommend physical distancing.

- **Motion to Approve:** Michelson, **Second:** Somerton, All Aye
- February meeting will continue to be held completely by teleconference

8. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Staff provided some information regarding recently passed Federal Infrastructure Bill. Which provides \$350 million dollars to support the creation of Wildlife Crossings. In addition, the State has also provided \$61 million in funding for Wildlife crossings.
- Commissioner Jankovitz shared an updated regarding low flow closures for Steelhead. The season opened on December 1st, as normal, though there are low flow closures north of the Golden Gate. The State Fish and Game Commission is currently in deliberation about moving the closure south also
- Commissioner Berry provided the following updates:
 - The environmental impact report (EIR) for the City of Santa Cruz Water Rights update has been completed and is to be certified this year. This will allow for utilizing neighboring groundwater sources during periods of low stream flow and sharing of surface water during periods of high flow. In addition, this will allow excess surface flow to be utilized for groundwater recharge.
 - Flows in the San Lorenzo River are still historically low, at only 25% of normal.
 - Unhoused encampment near the Santa Cruz cemetery is expected to be removed in January
- Commissioner Crawford provided background information regarding a proposed dam removal project on Bates Creek in the Soquel Creek watershed.

9. ADJOURN. Motion to Adjourn: Jankovitz, **all Aye**, meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.



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October 2, 2018

County of Santa Cruz
Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: Letter of Support for California Department of Fish and Wildlife's effort to finalize low flow angling closure for recreational steelhead fishery in Santa Cruz County

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

The Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors write a letter to the California Fish and Game Commission to convey our strong support of current efforts to study and propose a finalized low flow target for temporary closures of recreational steelhead angling in Santa Cruz County waterways. During low flows, steelhead are unable to migrate and are more vulnerable to getting caught multiple times or getting caught while spawning.

In the 2018 California Freshwater Sports Fishing Regulations Chapter 3, Article 4, Supplemental Regulations 8.00 Low Flow Restrictions, (c) South Central Coast Streams explains that steelhead streams "*will be closed to fishing when the department (DFW) determines that stream flows are inadequate to provide fish passage for migrating steelhead trout and salmon. Closed streams will be reopened when the department determines flows are adequate for fish passage*".

While most steelhead and salmon streams throughout California have finalized closure thresholds in the accepted Sport Fishing Regulations, efforts to analyze and propose low flow fishing standards in Santa Cruz County have been minimal.

As a partner in the recovery of salmonids in Santa Cruz County and a pro-angling group, we are excited by the efforts started by DFW in 2018 to bring scientific protocols to local angling regulations. Recent years of exceptional drought and low winter flow conditions have raised concerns among commissioners and the local angling community alike about potential adverse impacts of steelhead angling during critically dry conditions. The flashy hydrological nature of streams in Santa Cruz County increases the concerns of adverse impacts when adult salmonids

enter the systems and are unable to further migrate due to low stream flows. Low flow fishing thresholds will provide and maintain angling opportunities, enhance protection of listed salmonids during stressful low flow conditions, and simplify regulations and make them consistent statewide.

We look forward to progress and analysis by the DFW on regulation modification of Supplemental Regulation 8.00 (c).

Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support.

Sincerely,



Chris Berry, Chair
Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Room 312
Santa Cruz, CA 95060