



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency - Environmental Health



Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2022 TDD/TTY - Call 711 <http://www.scceh.org>

AGENDA

March 6, 2025, 6:30 PM

Agenda Item #	Start Time	End Time	Description
1	6:30	6:40	Call to Order
2			Roll Call
3			Approval of Minutes
4			Public Comment on Items Not on The Agenda
5	6:40	7:40	Review Significant Tree Ordinance Language of Nearby Jurisdictions, Consider Possible Incorporation for County Ordinance
6	7:40	8:00	Review Current FWAC Workplan and Revise, As Needed, for 2025
7	8:00	8:30	Staff Reports Commissioner Reports and Announcements
8		8:30	Adjourn

Public Comment

- Jean Brocklebank: Recommended listening on [Beavers, Rewilding Rivers, and Wildlife Crossings](#)

Items of Interest:

- [Citizen science can help detect invasive species early - The Wildlife Society](#)
- [Measure Q gets underway with citizen oversight, funding allocation - Press Banner](#)
- [Moss Landing fire: Santa Cruz sees no elevated health risks - Lookout Santa Cruz](#)

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

Commissioners meet in person at the **Solarium Conference Room, 1060 Emeline Avenue**. Members of the public can join in person at either location but are encouraged to join virtually using the link below.

Commissioner Michelsen will be appearing remotely from C. Tahiti 109, 63729 San Francisco, Nay., Mexico

PLEASE NOTE: The meeting room is on the second floor, above the Water Quality Lab entrance. The door must remain locked after hours, but staff will be able to provide access to all attendees as they arrive.

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

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Meeting ID: 232 043 390 067

Passcode: 2aG6T6cX

Click the “Click here to join the meeting” link above. If you are asked to join 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.

Please join the meeting a few minutes BEFORE 6:30 pm so that we can start at 6:30 pm. Staff will open the video conference at 6:25 pm. Cameras are optional for members of the public.

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

Meeting Roles and Rules:

Jon Jankovitz, Chair, will lead the meeting. Chair Jankovitz 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 email 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.



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency - Environmental Health



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

Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 6:32 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**

District	Commissioner	Status	Commissioner	Status
I	Chris Berry	P	Samuel Adelson	P
II	Warren Barry	A	David Somerton	P
III	Liz Alter	R	Jon Jankovitz	P
IV	Brooke Sampson	P	Daniela Suarez	P
V	Jenni Gomez	P	Jen Michelsen	R

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

3. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS:**

- o Berry: Edit section of nitrate comment to be “can degrade estuary rearing conditions for steelhead”.
- o Michelsen: Expand possible research from redwoods to ground water dependent ecosystems.
- o **Motion to Approve Minutes with edits:** Berry, **Second:** Gomez,
- o **All Ayes:** Minutes approved

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- o None

5. **SELECT GRANT PROPOSALS TO RECOMMEND FOR FUNDING:** Commissioners provided their initial scores for each proposal, which were averaged to show the proposals the commissioners most supported. Commissioners discussed how funding should be allocated and recommended the following proposals for funding:

California Trout	Branciforte Fish Tracking Project	\$3,000.00
Native Animal Rescue	Wildlife Rehabilitation	\$3,000.00
Coastal Watershed Council	River Stewards	\$5,000.00
International Bird Rescue	Resolving Negative Human-Wildlife Conflicts	\$7,500.00

The \$1,500 left unallocated was determined to be insufficient to fund the next highest scoring application, so the funds will remain in the trust fund.

- **Public Comment:**
 - Steve Kennedy: Requested consideration to receive the funds that were left unallocated.
- **Motion to Make Funding Recommendations Above:** Berry, **Second:** Gomez,
- **All Ayes:** Recommendations will be sent to the Board for Approval

6. CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF BOULDER CREEK SEWER PROJECT: Commissioners continued the discussion from the November meeting. Commissioners reiterated the need to research flow impacts, water quality, and impact on groundwater dependent ecosystems. In addition, the commissioners identified the following additional research topics:

- What is the projected likelihood of another catastrophic fire impacting the new system?
- What would be the cost of purchasing properties with the worst septic constraints as conservation easements?
- What are the additional funding sources? A possible option could be the Climate Vulnerable Community Platform.

7. UPDATE ON SIGNIFICANT TREE ORDINANCE MEETING: Commissioners Berry and Gomez provided an update on a meeting with Supervisor McPherson's office and the Planning Dept regarding possible changes to the Significant Tree Ordinance. While both are open to the suggested changes, they are concerned about both the cost to implement and roll out, as well as the possible unintended consequences. The FWAC was encouraged to create a possible model ordinance based on a comparison of local ordinances. Commissioners determined a sub-committee would be needed, which would include Commissioners Gomez, Berry, Somerton, and Adelson. The model ordinance and comparison to the next meeting in March.

- **Motion to Create STO Sub-Committee:** Gomez, **Second:** Berry,
- **All Ayes:** Creation of sub-committee approved

8. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Staff Reports:** NONE
- **Commissioner Reports:**
 - **Com Berry:**
 - (1) City of Santa Cruz completed 6ppd monitoring in first flush and found elevated levels in Branciforte. Coordinated a meeting with interested parties and will be working to build attention at the state level.

- (2) There will be no State of the San Lorenzo this year, but there will be an SRF meeting. Com Adelson will present at SRF meeting.
- (3) There was a fish kill near Boulder Creek that is being investigated by CDFW.
- (a) Cpt Schindler: Possibly a natural event that washed sediment out of a culvert and caused the kill.
- (4) Haven development on Graham Hill Rd, a proposal for 150 houses across from Henry Cowell. Will be in Zayante Sands and remove large number of trees
- **Com Michelsen:** On February 25th, the [Santa Cruz Mountain Bioregional Council](#), will have a presentation from Jodi McGraw on the project that was funded by the FWAC.
 - **Com Sampson:** World Wetlands Day is the First Saturday in Feb at Struve Slough. Watsonville Wetlands Watch will be planting lots of native plants
 - **Com Adelson:** Seeing lots of spawning salmon between San Lorenzo River mouth and in Felton.

9. ADJOURN. Motion to Adjourn: Michelsen, **Second:** Somerton
All Aye: meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

To:

[Sean Abbey](#)

Subject:

Beavers ... again

Date:

Friday, January 24, 2025 10:33:08 AM

******CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

Hello Sean ~

Please share with the FWAC this interesting Podcast interview with California's California's Natural Resources Secretary, Wade Crowfoot: **California's Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot On Beavers, Rewilding Rivers, and Wildlife Crossings**

https://rewilding.org/episode-140-on-beavers-free-rivers-wildlife-crossings-with-wade-crowfoot/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=episode-140-on-beavers-free-rivers-wildlife-crossings-with-wade-crowfoot

Thank you,
Jean Brocklebank

Ordinance	Link	Purpose	County-wide Protection	Restricted Species	Oak Tree/ keystone species/special protection	Invasives exemption?	Coastal Zone	Fuel modification/ Fire protection	Mitigation Options?	Enforcement	Other notes
Monterey County	https://library.municode.com/ca/monterey-county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT16EN_CH16.60PR_OAOTPRTR	This Chapter is necessary to adequately implement policies of the Monterey County General Plan, area plans, and Carmel Valley Master Plan relative to the preservation of protected trees.	applicable throughout the unincorporated area of the County of Monterey outside the Coastal Zone		Lists specific native tree species. Has specific rules depending on the species and area of the county.	Not mentioned	Separate ordinance?	Not mentioned		enforced pursuant to Chapter 21.84 of the Monterey County Code, relating to enforcement of the Zoning Code of the County	removal will not involve a risk of adverse environmental impacts such as: erosion, water quality, ecological impacts, noise pollution, air movement, wildlife habitat
San Benito County	https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/sanbenitocounty/latest/sanbenito_ca/0-0-0-37403	The purpose of this section is to protect trees, which in the judgment of the County provide numerous aesthetic, economic, and functional benefits.	does not apply to any agricultural use permitted by right in any agricultural zone district or to areas having been classified as Areas of Special Study prior to the effective date of the		Not mentioned	Not mentioned	N/A	"to protect life and property from sites that are constrained by slope stability, landslide hazard, fire hazard, and fault zones."	assessment of potential impacts upon adjacent trees by a certified arborist or forester, along with the development of mitigations to lessen such impacts.		...the approving authority shall take into account the following factors in determining what action to take upon the permit application: The condition of the tree with respect to disease or damage, imminent danger to human life or safety, imminent danger to property, proximity to existing or proposed structures, and interference with utility services where the problem cannot be corrected by pruning.
San Mateo County	https://sanmateocountytrees.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Ordinance-4895.pdf	"...new ordinance language to the regulations governing the issuance of tree removal permits and the management of protected trees ..."	Yes		Includes table of Indigenous tree species		Mentioned specifically	no permits required "for species that present a significant fire risk ..."	it is the County's intent that removed trees shall be replaced, and over time, urban areas deficient in trees will have greater tree canopy, and that replacement trees are drought tolerant, fire resistant, and advance County goals		Addresses TPZ issues. SM Co likely the most similar to SC Co in terms of diversity of land use/forest types.
Santa Clara County	https://library.municode.com/ca/santa-clara-county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TITCCODELAUS_DIVC16TRPRRE	The County recognizes the substantial economic, environmental and aesthetic importance of its tree population. The County finds that the preservation of all trees in private and public property is necessary for the best interests of the County and its citizens in order to: a) Establish and maintain the optimum amount of tree cover on public lands in the County; b) protect property values; c) preserve and protect aesthetic and scenic beauty; d) prevent erosion of topsoil and protect against flood hazards and the risk of landslides; e) counteract the pollutants in the air; f) protect against high winds; g) maintain the climatic balance and provide shade; h) provide habitat to a variety of wildlife species; and i) protect valuable historical and community assets	Yes								"recognizing and respecting individual rights to develop, maintain and enjoy private property to the fullest possible extent, consistent with the public interest"
Scotts Valley	https://library.municode.com/ca/scotts_valley/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT17ZO_CH17.44GESPPR_17.44.08OTPRPRE	The city is forested with several varieties of native and significant trees which contribute greatly to the value of the land in the city and the preservation of which is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the city. It is the intent of this section to: (1) regulate the removal of protected trees within the city in order to preserve scenic beauty, and a diverse ecosystem, prevent erosion of topsoil, protect against flood hazard and risks of land slides, counteract pollutants in the area, maintain the climatic balance, decrease wind velocities; (2) retain as many trees as possible consistent with the reasonable enjoyment of private property. (3) preserve significant, healthy trees when development of property is proposed; and, (4) protect trees designated for preservation during the construction of new development projects.	city	no	yes	yes	no	no	mitigation may be required	yes	(2) retain as many trees as possible consistent with the reasonable enjoyment of private property. (3) preserve significant, healthy trees when development of property is proposed; and, (4) protect trees designated for preservation during the construction of new development projects.
Santa Barbara County	https://library.municode.com/ca/santa_barbara-county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH35ZO_ARTIX_DEOATPRPRE	The purpose of this article is to implement those goals and policies of the Santa Barbara County comprehensive plan that promote the protection of deciduous oak trees, which are important to the people's well-being and the ecological integrity of Santa Barbara County, and the continuation and intensification and expansion of agriculture, the leading production industry and a land use that is considered beneficial to the county.	mainly focused on farming areas or areas that may be utilized for farming		Deciduous Oaks only						Seems mostly focused on oaks and probably not that useful for our purposes.

Ordinance	Link	Purpose	County-wide Protection	Restricted Species	Oak Tree/ keystone species/special protection	Invasives exemption?	Coastal Zone	Fuel modification/ Fire protection	Mitigation Options?	Enforcement	Other notes
Marin County	https://library.municode.com/ca/marin_county/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=TIT22DECO_ARTIIISPLGEDERF_CH22.27NATRPRPR_22.27.02OAP	The purpose of this chapter is to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of Marin County, insofar as trees provide a wide variety of functions, values and benefits including: 1. Providing an important and essential functional element of the plant communities that constitute Marin County's natural heritage;2.Providing habitat for wildlife;3.Stabilizing soil and improving water quality by reducing erosion and sedimentation;4.Allowing for the natural replenishment of groundwater supplies by reducing stormwater runoff;5.Controlling drainage and restoring denuded soil subsequent to construction or grading;6.Preserving and enhancing aesthetic qualities of the natural and built environments and maintaining the quality of life and general welfare of the County;7.Reducing air pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, and producing oxygen;8.Assisting in counteracting the effects of global warming resulting from the depletion of forest and urban trees;9.Conserving energy by shading buildings and parking areas;10.Maintaining and increasing real property values;11.Reducing wind speed and human exposure to high winds and other severe weather; and12.Assisting in reducing noise pollution through the effects of vegetative buffers.	yes	unclear	yes	focused on natives		yes	unclear	unclear	Seems like this is a useful ordinance for our purposes if needed.
Carmel	https://www.copublishing.com/CA/CarmelbytheSea/html/Carmel17/Carmel1748.html#17.48.030	The City Council finds that in order to preserve windbreaks, reduce soil erosion, and preserve the natural beauty of the City's urbanized forest, it is necessary to maintain the extent and health of the dominant Monterey Pine forest, along with other native tree species and adopts this chapter in the interest of public health and safety	city	unclear	yes	unclear...appendix with tree species not online	yes	no	yes	yes	canopy standards in addition to diameter standards, very focused on monterey pine though other species also referenced

16.34.010 Purpose.

(A) The Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County finds that the trees and forest communities ~~located within the County's Coastal Zone~~ are a valuable resource. ~~Significant trees provide wildlife habitat, stabilize top soils, reduce the risk of landslides, sequester atmospheric carbon, reduce storm runoff, and contribute to the Removal of significant trees could reduce~~ scenic beauty ~~and the attractiveness~~ of the area to residents and visitors.

(B) The Board of Supervisors further finds that the preservation of significant trees and forest communities on private and public property is necessary to protect and enhance the County's natural ~~habitats, scenic~~ beauty, property values, and tourist industry. The enactment of this chapter is necessary to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the County, while recognizing individual rights to develop, maintain, and enjoy the use of private property to the fullest possible extent. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983; Ord. 3341 § 1, 1982].

16.34.015 Scope.

This chapter regulates the removal of trees in the ~~Coastal Zone unincorporated area of the County of Santa Cruz~~ when not included in the provisions of a discretionary permit. This chapter establishes the type of trees to be protected, the circumstances under which they may be removed, and the procedures for obtaining a permit for their removal. The provisions of this chapter apply to all persons as defined herein; they also establish standards applicable to tree cutting activities of public agencies required to obtain a Coastal Zone permit pursuant to Chapter [13.20](#) SCCC. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983; Ord. 3341 § 1, 1982].

16.34.020 Amendment.

Any revision to this chapter which applies to the Coastal Zone shall be reviewed by the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission to determine whether it constitutes an amendment to the Local Coastal Program. When an ordinance revision constitutes an amendment to the Local Coastal Program, such revision shall be processed pursuant to the hearing and notification provisions of Chapter [18.60](#) SCCC and shall be subject to approval by the California Coastal Commission. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983; Ord. 3341 § 1, 1982].

16.34.030 Definitions.

All terms used in this chapter shall be as defined in the General Plan and Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan glossaries and as follows:

“Coastal Zone” means that unincorporated area of the County of Santa Cruz as defined by the California Coastal Act of 1976, Division 20 of the California Public Resources Code. This area is identified on the General Plan and Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan maps.

“Diameter at breast height (d.b.h.)” means the average diameter of a tree outside the bark at a point four and one-half feet above the highest level ground.

“Person” means any individual, group, firm, organization, association, limited liability company, or other business association, corporation, including any utility, partnership, business, trust company, special district or public agency thereof, or other party, or as specified in Section [53090](#) of the California Government Code; or the State or a State agency or city when not engaged in a sovereign activity. Where a coastal development permit is required pursuant to Chapter [13.20](#) SCCC, State and Federal agencies may be required to comply with various provisions of this chapter as a condition of the coastal development permit.

“Planning Director” means the Director of the Planning Department or his or her authorized designee charged with the administration and enforcement of this chapter.

“Significant tree,” for the purposes of this chapter, shall include any tree, sprout clump, or group of trees, as follows:

(A) Within the urban services line ~~or rural services line~~, any tree which is equal to or greater than 20 inches d.b.h. (approximately five feet in circumference); any sprout clump of five or more stems each of which is greater than 12 inches d.b.h. (approximately three feet in circumference); or any group consisting of five or more trees on one parcel, each of which is greater than 12 inches d.b.h. (approximately three feet in circumference).

(B) Outside the urban services line ~~or rural services line, where visible from a scenic road, any beach, or within a designated scenic resource area~~, any tree which is equal to or greater than 40 inches d.b.h. (approximately 10 feet in circumference); any sprout clump of five or more stems, each of which is greater than 20 inches d.b.h. (approximately five feet in circumference); or, any group consisting of 10 or more trees on one parcel, each greater than 20 inches d.b.h. (approximately five feet in circumference).

(C) Any tree located in a sensitive habitat as defined in Chapter [16.32](#) SCCC. Also see SCCC [16.34.090](#)(C), exemption of projects with other permits.

“Significant tree removal permit” means a permit issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

Commented [SA1]: For simplicity of enforcement, I would suggest removal of the rural services line. The area covered is minimal and creates added complexity.

“Sprout clump” means individual stems arising from one root collar and sharing a common root system. [Ord. 5182 § 14, 2014; Ord. 4346 §§ 73, 74, 1994; Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983; Ord. 3341 § 1, 1982].

16.34.040 Permit required.

Except for those exempt activities as enumerated in SCCC [16.34.090](#), no person shall do, cause, permit, aid, abet, suffer, or furnish equipment or labor to remove, cut down, or trim more than one-third of the green foliage of, poison, or otherwise kill or destroy any significant tree as defined in this chapter ~~within the Coastal Zone~~ until a significant tree removal approval for the project has been obtained pursuant to Chapter [18.10](#) SCCC, Level II. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983; Ord. 3341 § 1, 1982].

16.34.050 Application and fee.

Applications for significant tree removal approvals granted pursuant to this chapter shall be made in accordance with the requirements of Chapter [18.10](#) SCCC, Level II, and shall include the following:

- (A) Applicant’s or authorized representative’s name, address, and telephone number.
- (B) Property Description. The description of the site(s) involved, including the street address, if any, and the assessor’s parcel number.
- (C) Required Information. The following information shall be provided in writing:
 - (1) A site plan sufficient to identify and locate the trees to be removed, other trees, buildings, proposed buildings, and other improvements.
 - (2) A description of the species, circumference or diameter at breast height, estimated height, and general health of the tree(s) to be removed.
 - (3) A description of the method to be used in removing the tree(s).
 - (4) Reason(s) for removal of the tree(s).
 - (5) Proposed visual impact mitigation measures as appropriate. Size, location, and species of replacement trees, if any, shall be indicated on the site plan.
- (D) Applicant’s Property Interest. Evidence that the applicant is the owner or purchaser under contract of the premises involved, is the owner of a leasehold interest, or has written permission of the owner to make the application.

(E) Further Information. Such further information as may be required by the Planning Director, including but not limited to the opinion of a registered professional forester, tree surgeon, or other qualified expert.

(F) Filing Fee. A filing fee, set by resolution of the Board of Supervisors, shall accompany the application. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983; Ord. 3341 § 1, 1982].

16.34.060 Required findings.

One or more of the following findings shall be made prior to granting approvals pursuant to this chapter in addition to the findings required for the issuance of a development permit in accordance with Chapter 18.10 SCCC:

(A) That the significant tree is dead or is likely to promote the spread of insects or disease.

(B) That removal is necessary to protect health, safety, and welfare.

(C) That removal of a nonnative tree, ~~which is not listed as exempt in section 16.34.090~~, is part of a plan approved by the County to restore native vegetation and landscaping to an area.

(D) That removal will not involve a risk of adverse environmental impacts ~~such as degrading scenic resources~~.

(E) ~~That removal is necessary for operation of active or passive solar facilities, and that mitigation of visual impacts will be provided.~~

Commented [SA2]: Worth discussion

(F) That removal is necessary in conjunction with another permit to allow the property owner an economic use of the property consistent with the land use designation of the Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan.

(G) ~~That removal is part of a project involving selective harvesting for the purpose of enhancing the visual qualities of the landscape or for opening up the display of important views from public places.~~

Commented [SA3]: Worth discussing

(H) That removal is necessary for new or existing agricultural purposes consistent with other County policies and that mitigation of visual impacts will be provided. Also see SCCC 16.34.090(D), exemption of tree crops. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983; Ord. 3341 § 1, 1982].

16.34.065 Approvals.

Significant tree removal applications shall be processed according to Chapter 18.10 SCCC, Level II. Approvals shall be granted by the Planning Director or his designee. Notices of actions taken pursuant to this chapter shall be in accordance with Chapter 18.10 SCCC. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983].

16.34.070 Conditions of approval.

In granting any permit as provided herein, the Planning Director may attach reasonable conditions to mitigate visual impacts and ensure compliance with the provisions of this chapter, including but not limited to replacement of trees removed with trees acceptable to the Planning Director. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983; Ord. 3341 § 1, 1982].

16.34.080 Emergencies.

In the case of emergency caused by the hazardous or dangerous condition of a tree and requiring immediate action for the safety of life or property, such necessary action may be taken to remove the tree or otherwise reduce or eliminate the hazard without complying with the other provisions of this article, except that the person responsible for cutting or removal of the tree shall report such action to the Planning Director within 10 working days thereafter. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983; Ord. 3341 § 1, 1982].

16.34.090 Exemptions.

The following work is exempted from all provisions of this chapter:

(A) Trees that are located within a home's "Zone-1 Defensible Space", as defined by CalFire.

(B) Removal of the following invasive species: Blue gum Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus globulus), Green Wattle (Acacia decurrens).

(C) Timber operations which are in accordance with a timber harvesting plan submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practices Act of 1973 (commencing with Section 4511).

(BD) Any activity done pursuant to a valid timber harvest permit, or a notice of timber harvesting, approved pursuant to Chapter [16.52](#) SCCC.

(EE) Any tree removal authorized pursuant to a valid discretionary permit approved pursuant to Chapter [13.10](#) (Zoning Regulations), Chapter [13.20](#) (Coastal Zone Regulations), Chapter [14.01](#) (Subdivision Regulations), Chapter [16.20](#) (Grading Regulations), Chapter [16.22](#) (Erosion Control), Chapter [16.30](#) (Riparian Corridor and Wetlands Protection), Chapter [16.32](#) (Sensitive Habitat Protection), or Chapter [16.54](#) SCCC (Mining Regulations).

(DE) Removal of tree crops pursuant to agricultural operations. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983; Ord. 3341 § 1, 1982].

16.34.100 Inspection.

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Commented [SA4]: Pulled from SCC Timber Harvest Regulation: [Chapter 16.52 TIMBER HARVESTING REGULATIONS](#)

Acacia probably can be removed because it won't reach the size requirements anyway

Commented [SA5]: Find reason for addition. Seems duplicative of following exemption

Repealed by Ord. 4392A. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983; Ord. 3341 § 1, 1982].

16.34.105 Violations.

(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to do, cause, permit, aid, abet or furnish equipment or labor to remove, cut down, trim more than one-third of the foliage of, poison, or otherwise kill or destroy any significant tree as defined in SCCC [16.34.030](#) ~~within the Coastal Zone~~ unless: (1) a development permit has been obtained and is in effect which authorizes such activity; or (2) the activity is exempt from the requirement for such a permit by reason of the provisions of SCCC [16.34.090](#); or (3) there was an emergency caused by the hazardous or dangerous condition of the tree which required the action to be taken immediately for the safety of life or property.

(B) It shall be unlawful for any person to exercise any development permit which authorizes actions affecting significant trees without complying with all of the conditions of such permit. [Ord. 3451-A § 24, 1983].

16.34.110 Enforcement penalties, remedies and procedures for violations.

Any violation of any provision of this chapter shall be subject to the enforcement penalties, remedies, and procedures set forth in SCCC Title [19](#), Enforcement of Land Use Regulations. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983; Ord. 3341 § 1, 1982].

~~[POSSIBLE IN-LEU FEE TO PAY FOR URBAN FOREST IMPROVEMENTS. Civil Penalty of \\$100 on top of permit fee?](#)~~

16.34.120 Appeals.

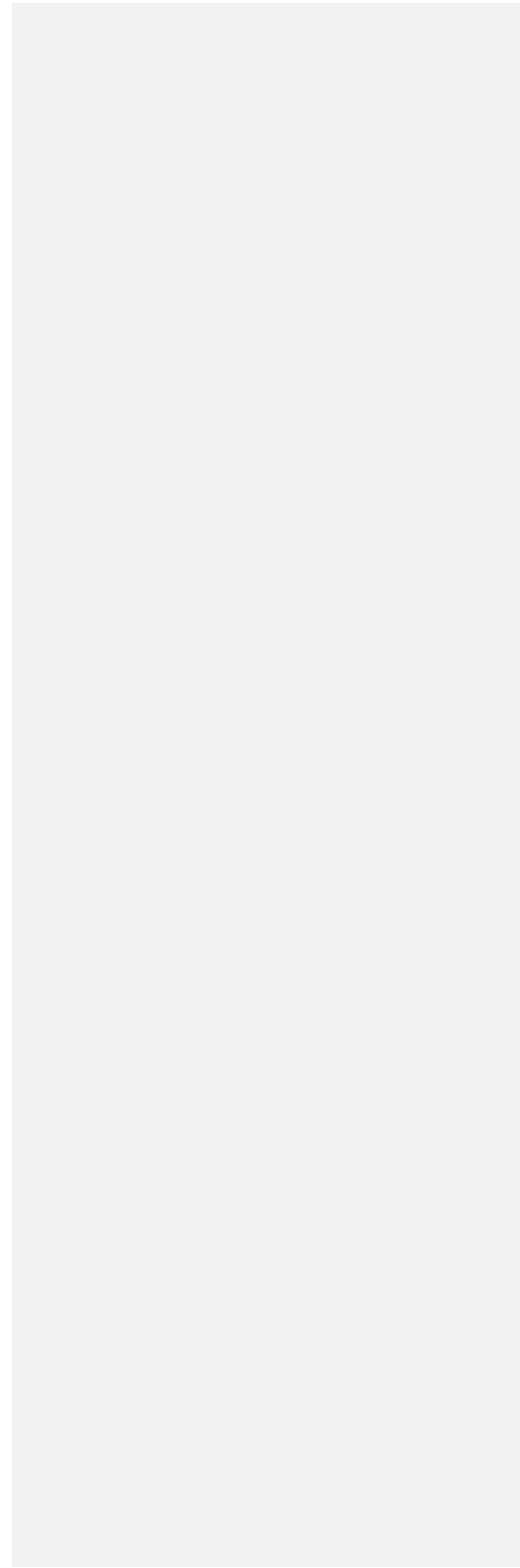
All appeals of actions taken pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be made in conformance with the procedures set forth in Chapter [18.10](#) SCCC; provided, however, that code enforcement actions and decisions are not subject to administrative appeal except for appeals of revocation of permits pursuant to SCCC [18.10.136](#)(C). [Ord. 4392A § 13, 1996; Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983; Ord. 3341 § 1, 1982].

16.34.130 Expiration.

Unless otherwise specified, approvals issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire one year from the date of issuance if not exercised. Where approvals are issued in conjunction with a development permit granted pursuant to Chapter [18.10](#) SCCC, the approval shall expire in accordance with the provisions of Chapter [18.10](#) SCCC. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983].

16.34.140 Amendment.

Amendments to approvals granted pursuant to this chapter, whether for change of project, conditions, or expiration date or other time limits, shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter [18.10](#) SCCC. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983].





County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency – Environmental Health

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2022 TDD/TTY – Call 711 <http://www.scceh.org>



DRAFT 2025 Work Plan

Public Grants Program

Monitor - Fish and Game Propagation Fund balance

Monitor – Ability to utilize Measure Q funding for added resources

Action – Decide on fund amount and suggested request level for PGP in 2025

Provide a forum for public input regarding fish and wildlife issues

Learn - about what community considers important fish and wildlife topics.

Action – Be responsive to issues as they arise, report back to Board of Supervisors

Coho salmon and steelhead recovery planning (*Approved Statement*)

Lead Commissioner: Berry

Learn - current status and research; impacts of CZU fire.

Monitor - low-flow fishing closure status and fishing regulation changes.

Monitor - progress for new coho salmon conservation hatchery.

Action – communicate with CDFW about fishing regulations.

Riparian Corridor Protection and Enhancement (*Approved Statement*)

Lead Commissioner: Jankovitz

Monitor - progress on County efforts to develop a Riparian Enhancement Program

Monitor - how local agencies are dealing with homeless living in riparian areas.

Action – support riparian corridor enhancement when appropriate

Action – communicate importance of protecting riparian from homeless encampments for wildlife and water quality benefits.

Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) (*Approved Statement*)

Includes conservation for wildlife, fish, riparian, oak woodlands, idea of strategic plan for fish and wildlife

Lead Commissioner: Michelsen

Learn - about RCIS process

Action – Discuss and comment to RCD/RTC on draft RCIS.

Action – Participate in public meetings.

Action – Consider letter to BOS re: RCIS comments

Monitor - development of final plan.



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Expand Significant Tree Ordinance outside Coastal Zone *(Approved Statement)*

Lead Commissioner: Gomez

Action – invite Rich Sampson to present on wildfire safety at March 2022 meeting and discuss Calfire perspective on expanding Significant Tree Ordinance.

Wildlife Corridors and Open Space Conservation and Management

(Approved Statement)

Lead Commissioner: Alter

Monitor - Cotoni-Coast Dairies and San Vicente Redwoods public access process.

Learn - about Cotoni-Coast Dairies and San Vicente Redwoods forestry management.

Learn - about how conservation easements are being used in County.

Learn - about how much open space is in the County.

Learn - about how to support wildlife corridors.

Marine Protection *(Approved Statement)*

Lead Commissioners: Somerton

Learn - about new and ongoing marine protection issues.
what community considers important fish and wildlife topics.

Learn - about local juvenile great white sharks.

Action - take action when appropriate to support Marine Protection.

Monitor - new legislation and actions.

Vision Santa Cruz Wild *(Approved Statement)*

Lead Commissioners: Adelson

Action – Create a strategic plan for habitat and wildlife.

Action – develop ways to education county residents about local fish and wildlife issues.

Learn - County General plan update is related to this item



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WORK PLAN APPROVED STATEMENTS:

Coho salmon and steelhead recovery planning

Coho salmon and steelhead trout are perhaps the greatest examples of our County's special biodiversity. In addition to having their own inherent value, healthy local populations of these fish are indicators of properly functioning watersheds and marine ecosystems that have broad value for our County in terms of recreation, water quality and supply, aesthetics and other ecosystem services. Recovery of these species is of paramount importance to our community and the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission strongly supports any actions that can be taken toward that goal. For more information on priority actions please refer to the respective recovery plans. They can be found at the following links:

Central California Coast Coho:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-evolutionarily-significant-unit-central-california-coast-coho>

Central California Coast Steelhead:

https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/2016-multispecies-recovery_plan-vol4.pdf

South Central California Steelhead:

<https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/17275>



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Riparian Corridor Protection and Enhancement

As a member of the Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, I would like to provide you, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, with information and recommendations pertaining to your upcoming agenda item regarding riparian corridor protection and enhancement. Considering the vulnerability of our County's wildlife, fishes, and natural habitat, it is critical to consider riparian corridors as being paramount for environmental functionality. Riparian corridors support a suite of native fish and wildlife species throughout the County, and increase the functions and value of the ecosystem. Riparian degradation has been observed at an increasingly alarming rate by the Commission in many forms including illegal dumping, unhoused population impacts, property owners disregarding riparian setback ordinances, invasive species colonization, and active removal of native riparian vegetation. All illicit activity in the riparian corridor has a cumulative effect on the health and status of our County's fish, wildlife and natural habitat

As you proceed with discussions on this topic, it is highly recommended that you take action and uphold your duty to protect the County's fish and wildlife by supporting riparian corridor enhancement when appropriate. It is encouraged to support progression on County efforts to developing a Riparian Enhancement Program.

By integrating the aforementioned information and recommendations into your decision making, our community can feel confident that you, the County Board of Supervisors, are taking the correct, informed steps to protect, conserve, and restore the health of our local fish and wildlife.



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Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)

As a member of the Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, I would like to provide you, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, with information and recommendations pertaining to your upcoming agenda item regarding the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS).

As you proceed with discussions on this topic, it is highly recommended that you take action and uphold your duty to protect the County's fish and wildlife by

By integrating the aforementioned information and recommendations into your decision making, our community can feel confident that you, the County Board of Supervisors, are taking the correct, informed steps to protect, conserve, and restore the health of our local fish and wildlife.



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Expand Significant Tree Ordinance outside Coastal Zone

As a member of the Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, I would like to provide you, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, with information and recommendations pertaining to your upcoming agenda item regarding expansion of the significant tree ordinance. Our forests provide valuable services such as preventing erosion of top soil, reducing the risk of landslides, protecting against flood hazards, counteracting water and air borne pollutants, and sequestering carbon. In addition large trees are more fire resistant than the vegetation that typically replaces one after it is removed. The preservation of significant trees and forest communities on private and public property is necessary to protect habitat for fish, birds, insects and mammals, many of which are threatened or endangered.

As you proceed with discussions on this topic, it is highly recommended that you take action and uphold your duty to protect the County's fish and wildlife by expanding the scope of the ordinance to include these important ecosystem services, not just the scenic value of the trees.

By integrating the aforementioned information and recommendations into your decision making, our community can feel confident that you, the County Board of Supervisors, are taking the correct, informed steps to protect, conserve, and restore the health of our local fish and wildlife, and their habitats.



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Wildlife Corridors and Open Space Conservation and Management

As a member of the Santa Cruz County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, I would like to provide you, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, with information and recommendations pertaining to your upcoming agenda item regarding wildlife corridors and open space conservation and management. Maintaining habitat and connectivity between habitats is fundamental to conserving wildlife populations, particularly in areas like Santa Cruz County that have extensive urban-wildland interfaces, and an abundance of sensitive species (Figure 1). The mountains of Santa Cruz represent a mosaic of different habitats that host native biodiversity including mountain lions, mule deer, bobcats, foxes, Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders, red-legged frogs, tiger salamanders, coho salmon, steelhead trout, marbled murrelets and many others. The ecological integrity of these systems can be compromised by human infrastructure and activities. Roads and highways, in particular, represent both barriers to wildlife that effectively shrink the amount of habitat available to them, as well as an important source of mortality for many species. Likewise, human activities in open spaces including hiking, mountain biking, and both legal and illegal harvest of plants, animals and fungi, can degrade sensitive habitat over time if not kept in check.

As you proceed with discussions on this topic, we highly recommend that you take action and uphold your duty to protect the County's fish and wildlife by 1) continuing to support the construction and maintenance of wildlife corridors, such as the wildlife crossing tunnel on Hwy 17 at Laurel Grade built in collaboration with CalTrans; 2) promoting the protection of open space wherever possible including balancing habitat protection with public recreation and sustainable timber harvest, such as in the Cotoni-Coast Dairies and San Vicente Redwoods public access process; and 3) working with organizations such as the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and Sempervirens Fund to identify additional parcels of land for conservation easements and protection to prioritize contiguous tracts of habitat across the County.

While the focus of our Advisory Commission is on promoting the health of fish and wildlife populations, properly managed open spaces contribute to other important County goals including mitigating the effects of climate change and storm runoff. By integrating the aforementioned information and recommendations into your decision making, our community can feel confident that you, the County Board of Supervisors, will be supporting the wildlife populations and open spaces that make Santa Cruz County unique.



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Marine Protection

As a member of the Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

I would like to provide you, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, with information and recommendations pertaining to your upcoming agenda item regarding Marine Protection. Considering the vulnerability of the marine habitat within Santa Cruz county, it is critical to consider human impacts on iconic keystone species, such as white sharks. This is especially true within the near-shore area of the Capitola bight, which is a critical habitat of juvenile white sharks that is often impacted by boating activities. Based on examination of dead white sharks it has been determined that vessel strikes result in a significant source of their mortality. As you proceed with discussions on this topic, it is highly recommended that you take action and uphold your duty to protect the County's fish and wildlife by establishing maximum vessel speed limits within a designated area of the Capitola bight to reduce the likelihood of vessel strikes, similar to the current vessel speed limit within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to reduce the number of whale strikes. By integrating the aforementioned information and recommendations into your decision making, our community can feel confident that you, the County Board of Supervisors, are taking the correct, informed steps to protect, conserve, and restore the health of our local fish and wildlife.



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Vision Santa Cruz Wild

As a member of the Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, I would like to provide you, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, with information and recommendations pertaining to your upcoming agenda item regarding Vision Santa Cruz County, which promotes "a healthy, safe and more affordable community that is culturally diverse, economically inclusive and environmentally vibrant." Considering the vulnerability of Santa Cruz County's fish and wildlife, it is critical to consider that every aspect of Vision Santa Cruz County's Operational Plan (Health & Safety, Housing, Transportation, Sustainability, Economy, and Operations), if navigated sensitively, can support a healthier and more resilient natural ecosystem.

As you proceed with discussions on this topic, it is highly recommended that you take action and uphold your duty to protect the County's fish and wildlife by prioritizing the connections between a healthy human community and a healthy local natural ecosystem. Decisions that favor a healthy environment often also favor a healthy human community. To share some examples: Greenspaces support physical and mental health for humans, and if they are landscaped with native plant species greenspaces can also support healthy ecosystem function. Minimizing air pollution by using electric public transportation vehicles results in cleaner air for humans as well as animals like amphibians which only thrive in especially clean air. Sustainable, environment-focused development is becoming more favorable through an economic lens, including cost savings from the conservation of energy and water. As you navigate Vision Santa Cruz, it is strongly advised that you focus on the ways your programs might impact our County's fish and wildlife and how those impacts can be minimized.

By integrating the aforementioned information and recommendations into your decision-making, our community can feel confident that you, the County Board of Supervisors, are taking the correct, informed steps to protect, conserve, and restore the health of our local fish and wildlife.