



County of Santa Cruz
Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health



Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-3154 TDD/TTY -Call 711 www.sceeh.com
EnvironmentalHealth@santacruzcounty.us

AGENDA
June 2, 2022, 7:00 PM

The meeting will be held both on Microsoft Teams and in person at **the Solarium Conference Room, at 1060 Emeline Avenue.**

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 see and provide access to all attendees as they arrive.

Agenda Item #	Start Time	End Time	Description
1	7:00	7:15	Call to Order
2			Roll Call
3			Approval of Minutes
4			Public Comments
5	7:15	7:25	Elections for position of Chair and Vice Chair
6	7:25	7:40	Presentation from Kristen Kittleson regarding county fish passage projects
7	7:40	8:15	Invasive Species: Updates from Invasive species sub-committee
8	8:15	8:30	Public Grants Program: Discuss possible changes to PGP
7	8:30	8:50	September agenda items
8	8:50	9:00	Staff Reports Commissioner Reports and Announcements
9		9:00	Adjourn

Items of Interest:

1. Fish and Game Commission regulatory announcements: [New and Proposed Regulations - 2022 \(ca.gov\)](#)

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 both virtually and in person. Members of the public can join in person or via the Microsoft Teams link 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)

[+1 831-454-2222,,215478045#](tel:+18314542222215478045) United States, Salinas

Phone Conference ID: 215 478 045#

[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:

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 two 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.



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Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2022

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:11 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**

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

P = Present E = Excused A = Absent

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - **Motion to Approve Minutes:** Alter, **Second:** Gomez,
 - Commissioner Berry abstains (wasn't present at March meeting)
 - **All Ayes:** Minutes approved
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No members of the public present
5. **DISCUSSION OF INVASIVE SPECIES ORDINANCES:** Commissioners discussed possible courses of action that could be taken to address the spread of invasive plants in the county, including
 - Banning the sale of invasive plants at county regulated nurseries. This has been done at the state level in Delaware, however there were questions about who would manage the program, the lack of effect on invasives already released and the limited impact of only being enforced on nurseries in unincorporated areas. Commissioners also suggested a certification program for nurseries that carry only non-invasive plants, similar to the Green Business Program.
 - Public Education Campaign. Commissioners suggested working with groups like Ecology Action, the Resource Conservation District and Monterey Bay Chapter of California Native Plant Society. The campaign could be targeted to a particular species or areas of concern using mailers.
 - Creation of a County Invasive Species Coordinator Position. This position could help to coordinate efforts to remove invasive species across not only county departments, but also among the many independent organizations that coordinate invasive species removal events. Commissioners did question whether it was coordination or labor limitations that were the primary need. A primary goal of this position could be to establish a local labor pool, which would have increased impact by having more locals knowledgeable about invasive species removal techniques.



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- Have invasive species management included as part of the County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). Commissioners note that invasives are not atuned to local conditions and are therefore more likely to create wildfire conditions and other climate issues.
 - Commissioner Jankovitz suggests that efforts should be focused primarily on species that have not taken hold in the county but could cause significant problems when established. The primary example being Arundo, which causes issues in many waterways throughout the state.
 - The invasive species sub-committee will review the items discussed and bring further discussion items to the June 2 meeting.
6. **INTER-COMMISSION COORIDNATION OPPORTUNITIES:** Commissioners discussed the possibility of restarting coordination with the Commission on the Environment (COE) and the Water Advisory Commission (WAC). This would be to find points of synergy where the commissions could support each other, or areas of duplicative efforts that could be avoided. For example, the WAC is currently focusing on drought management, which could have overlaps with fish passage protections.
7. **DISCUSS 2022 WORKPLAN / MAY AGENDA:** Commissioners reviewed the workplan and developed the following action items to review after the meeting and potentially include on June meeting agenda;
- Invasives species sub-committee to report back on possible actions
 - The County Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is currently being reviewed and the commissioners were encouraged to provide a comment as a member of the public before the window closes on May 31st. There is reference to the Significant Tree Ordinance
 - Commissioner Jankovitz did not hear back before the meeting but will be following up with CA Fish and Wildlife regarding the possibility of share hunting.
 - Commissioner Somerton joined the Monterey Bay sanctuary program as a way of determining where the county plays a role in Marine Management. One item of interest could be a program to reintroduce Pismo Clams in this area, which is being done further south.
8. **STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
- **Staff Report:** The California FGC voted unanimously to authorize the notice of intent to change the regulations regarding low flow closures in the San Lorenzo River. FGC staff recommended a minimum of 40CFS at the Big Trees gauge in Henry Cowell be allowed before a fishing closure be instituted. The regulation change will be discussed at the June 15-16 meetings and adopted at the August 17-18 meeting.
 - **Commissioner Reports:**
 - Monterey County had a large settlement that went to their Fish and Wildlife Commissions grant program.



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- Commissioner Jankovitz spoke with NOAA representatives regarding policy changes in fish rescues. Currently, only representatives from Fish and Game are allowed to perform fish rescues, which limited the ability to perform them. Now private entities can be certified by NOAA to perform fish rescues, which should significantly increase the amount of rescues the can be performed.
- Commissioner Baron distributed copies of a brochure for “A Vision for Wildlife” brochure, which was funded by the Public Grants Program
- Commissioner Berry noted that Vector Control is currently adding mineral oil to 260 water bodies for mosquito abatement
- Commissioner Berry noted that Branciforte, near the San Lorenzo River convergence, will be getting passage improvements funded by Army Core of Engineers
- Commissioner Berry noted that the county received a grant for funding Pajaro levee work, which will be contingent upon local residents voting to provide the matching funds.

9. **ADJOURN.** **Motion to Adjourn:** Michelsen, **Second:** Berry
All Aye: meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.



National Marine Fisheries Service
Santa Rosa Office
777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325
Santa Rosa, California 95404-6528
(707) 575-6050

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bay Delta Region
2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100
Fairfield, California 94534
(707) 428-2002



NOAA'S NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, WEST COAST REGION
AND
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

CALIFORNIA VOLUNTARY DROUGHT INITIATIVE

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO SAVE CALIFORNIA'S
NATIVE SALMON AND STEELHEAD**

California is experiencing severe drought conditions, both at the state and local level. The ongoing drought has affected drinking water supplies, agriculture, municipal, and industrial supply and resulted in critically low instream flows that have severely impacted native fisheries. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) status and trend monitoring show that salmon and steelhead populations on the central California coast (San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties) are at a high risk of extinction and their abundance continues to decline. Low instream flows last summer likely led to poor survival of juvenile coho salmon and steelhead and increased their risk of extinction. The precipitation in late 2021 improved overall streamflow on the central California coast; however, due to an extremely dry period in January-March 2022, drought conditions are expected for the remainder of 2022. Your assistance can increase the survival of coho salmon and steelhead populations on the central California coast despite ongoing drought conditions. We invite you to partner with us and join our California Voluntary Drought Initiative to help protect juvenile salmon and steelhead this summer and fall.

The California Voluntary Drought Initiative is a collaborative effort designed to engage landowners, water users, and communities in watershed conservation and management actions that can help reduce the effects of the drought on our salmon and steelhead populations. These voluntary actions include:

1. implementing water conservation strategies that improve streamflow;
2. providing instream flows necessary for fish survival and persistence;
3. monitoring and evaluating the success of these measures;
4. allowing access for our fish rescue and relocation effort; and
5. enhancing floodplain inundation and groundwater recharge.

During the drought of 2012 to 2016, NMFS and CDFW entered into voluntary agreements with landowners in other watersheds to implement these actions. The participating landowners helped save water and provide flows in critical stream reaches where coho salmon and steelhead live

during summer. They also provided access to their property for fish rescues and monitoring. These collaborative efforts helped save fish from dry stream conditions and prevented large-scale fish kills. This year we would be particularly grateful for help from those who have off-stream ponds with sufficient storage to release small volumes of water (beginning in the late spring and early summer) to provide subsistence flows during the critical dry period when juvenile salmon and steelhead are most vulnerable.

There are several benefits for those who participate in the California Voluntary Drought Initiative:

1. Potential for financial and technical assistance to implement water saving or flow-enhancing activities.
2. Participants create a pathway for their community to develop cooperative solutions and regional approaches to water conservation and maintaining instream flows. These types of activities could be important for consideration by the State Water Resources Control Board if water right curtailments are needed in the future.
3. Participants will limit their liability and potential penalties under federal and state endangered species laws; and NMFS and CDFW will consider participation an important mitigating factor if any enforcement actions occur related to incidental take of an endangered or threatened species.
4. Potential for prioritized processing for water right changes (and the potential for reduced fees associated with such changes).

If you are interested in working with NMFS and CDFW and learning more about how to promote the survival and recovery of threatened or endangered salmon and steelhead species in your local watershed, please review the California Voluntary Drought Initiative found here: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=193837&inline>. For more information about how drought impacts salmon and steelhead along the West Coast visit: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/climate/drought-west-coast-region>.

If you are interested in participating and for additional information, please contact BDRDrought@wildlife.ca.gov and/or calcoastalvdi.wcr@noaa.gov. Your assistance may be crucial in helping salmon and steelhead survive and recover on the central California coast.

Sincerely,



Erin Chappell
Regional Manager
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bay Delta Region



Alecia Van Atta
Assistant Regional Administrator
NOAA's NMFS, California Coastal Office
West Coast Region