



# 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>

### AGENDA

July 11, 2024, 7:00 PM

Agenda Item #	Start Time	End Time	Description
1	7:00	7:10	Call to Order
2			Roll Call
3			Approval of Minutes
4			Public Comment for Items Not on The Agenda
5	7:10	7:40	Presentation From Ed Browne on Current Enforcement Actions
6	7:40	8:30	Discuss Possible Changes to Significant Tree Ordinance Letter
7	8:30	8:40	Receive Report on the Presence of Arundo in the County
8	8:40	8:45	Approve Meetings Schedule
8	8:45	9:00	Staff Reports Commissioner Reports and Announcements
9		9:00	Adjourn

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Items of Interest:**

[Chapter 16.34 SIGNIFICANT TREES PROTECTION \(codepublishing.com\)](#)

[Camping ordinance iced as Santa Cruz County wildfire fears grow - Lookout Santa Cruz](#)

[Water, wildfire protection measure headed for November ballot in Santa Cruz County - Santa Cruz Sentinel](#)

[DOC-2024-424 Accept report of sufficiency for the "Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction, and Wildlife Protection Initiative" petition and adopt resolution calling for an election on the initiative \(County Administrative Office\) - Santa Cruz County, CA \(iqm2.com\)](#)

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 but are encouraged to join virtually using the link below.

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 meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 235 724 562 913

Passcode: LBcWdG

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

**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 7:00 pm so that we can start at 7:00 pm. Staff will open the video conference at 6:55 pm. Cameras are optional for members of the public.

If you have questions, please contact Sean Abbey at [sean.abbey@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:sean.abbey@santacruzcountyca.gov).

#### 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



## Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

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

### Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:01 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**

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

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

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Motion to Approve Minutes:** Somerton, **Second:** Michelsen,
2. **All Ayes:** Minutes approved

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Becky Steinbruner: Approves of letter to the Board regarding Cotoni Coast Dairies and encourages follow up with Sup Cummings. Presents a letter to the Chair requesting a discussion on the Purewater Soquel project at next meeting. Concerned about bird netting and possible spills at the Laurel St Bridge.

### 5. DISCUSSION WITH RICH SAMPSON OF CALFIRE ABOUT SIGNIFICANT TREE ORDINANCE:

Com Gomez provided background on the past work done on changing the Significant Tree Ordinance (STO), including the feedback that there were concerns from CalFire about requiring a permit for Significant Tree removal county wide. CalFire Division Chief, Rich Sampson, spoke with the Commission about those concerns and how an expansion of the STO could be done in a way that CalFire would support. Specifically, the following recommendations were made:

1. Permit exemptions for trees within a home’s “Zone-1 Defensible Space”, as defined by CalFire. Currently, that would be 30’ from the home.

2. Permit exemptions for invasive trees, such as Eucalyptus.
3. Permit exemptions for emergency tree removals. Such as when a tree becomes a clear threat to a home or critical infrastructure.
4. There is no requirement for tree replacement added to the STO.

Chair Berry recommends this item be on the agenda of our next meeting.

Public Comments:

- Jean Brocklebank: concerns about conversation which seems to be allowing more trees to be removed by allowing these exemptions. Disagrees with using the “Dead or Dying” description of trees.
- Nancy Macy (Valley Women’s Club): approves of concept of expanding the STO outside the coastal zone, but also concerned about possibly weakening the STO by allowing the suggested exemptions.
- Becky Steinbruner: Asks how the exemption of Eucalyptus would affect residents in Watsonville. Recommend commissioners think about how to enforce this ordinance.

- 6. PRESENTATION FROM ED BROWNE ON CURRENT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS, BUDGET UPDATE FOR GRANT FUND:** Staff provided an update on the budget status of the Propagation Trust Fund, which provides revenue for the Public Grants Program. Ed Browne did not appear at the meeting due to travel delays and will attend a future meeting. Captain Schindler (CDFW) provided an update on current enforcement activities. There have been no significant changes in enforcement activity, but the Wardens are fully staffed currently.
- 7. APPROVE UPDATED FWAC BYLAWS:** Commissioners reviewed the bylaws and had no revisions to provide.
  - 1. Motion to Approve Bylaws:** Somerton, **Second:** Sampson,
  - 2. All Ayes:** Bylaws approved.
- 8. VOTE FOR COMMISSION OFFICERS:** Recent changes to [county ordinance for commissions](#) require a vote in April and a “sit out” period after being an officer for two consecutive years. Given the changes, commissioners discussed possible officer choices and came to the following votes:
  - 1. Motion to Approve Commissioner Jankovitz as Chair**
    - **Motion:** Somerton, **Second:** Gomez,
    - **All Ayes:** Com Jankovitz approved as Chair.
  - 2. Motion to Approve Commissioner Michelsen as Vice Chair**
    - **Motion:** Gomez, **Second:** Adelson
    - **All Ayes:** Com Michelsen approved as Vice Chair.

## 9. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### 1. **Staff Reports:**

- Two bills were introduced in the state assembly related to wildlife connectivity.
  - (1) AB-2320 would require the state 30x30 initiative to also identify key wildlife corridors between blocks of natural area and support wildlife by acquiring and restoring blocks of space that are connected by a wildlife corridor.
  - (2) AB-1889 would require local governments, like the county, to consider habitat connectivity when creating the conservation element of their general plan. This consideration would include; identify connectivity areas, identify existing or planned wildlife passage features, and consider the impacts of development to wildlife and habitat connectivity. Staff will reach out to CDI to see if they were aware of the bill, how impactful that would be on current plans, and how FWAC can assist.
- The [Streamwood program](#) received a grant for \$500,000 to ensure there is sufficient funding support for future large storm events. This will include contracting with geomorphologist consultants, hiring and training tree crews, and refining data collection processes. This will also allow for more outreach work to spread the word about the value of stream wood to local ecosystems.
- iNaturalist update: 51 Observations, 26 research grade, favorite observation: California buckeye. Now that there are 50 observations, the commission can create projects. Com Gomez started pulling information out of iNaturalist to get an idea of possible projects and provided a map of the observations of the biggest weeds of concern in the county. Of note were observations of Arundo near Corcoran Lagoon and New Brighton Beach. A good first step could be confirming those observations.

### 2. **Commissioner Reports:**

- **Com Sampson:** Pitch in Santa Cruz.org May 11<sup>th</sup>
- **Com Adelson:** March 9<sup>th</sup> related to 6ppd, the US tire manufacturer association has been researching alternatives and is down to 5 options
  - (1) Com Berry: Local testing in Branciforte was actually lower than in previous years
- **Com Jankovitz:** Salmon season is closed Statewide for the second year in a row. May negatively affect small coastal communities.
- **Com Berry:**

(1) Guided Bird walk at Loch Lomond in 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat in May

(2) Snap shot day is taking place Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

- **Com Michelsen:** Broom pull for the Jodi McGraw project funded by FWAC was well attended and very successful.

**10. ADJOURN. Motion to Adjourn:** Berry, **Second:** Somerton

**All Aye:** meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.



# 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>

### Special Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 6:00 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**

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

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

3. **REVIEW EMERGENCY GRANT REQUESTS AND CONSIDER RECOMMENDING RELEASE OF FUNDS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:** Commissioners received presentations from Native Animal Rescue (NAR) and International Bird Rescue (IBR) on their work responding to the large numbers of sick and injured pelicans that are appearing in the county. Before voting on whether to recommend funding, Commissioners asked the following questions.

- **Com Berry:** What is being done to ensure the pelicans are not being released into the same situation they were rescued from?
  - **IBR:** The cause seems to be a lack of food supply, so we are working with public agencies to identify locations for release with accessible food sources.
- **Com Berry:** Are there other agencies that are assisting with this effort?
  - **IBR:** We are working with USFW and CDFW to help with the sourcing of fish for the rescued birds, which is part of the matching funds described in the grant proposal.
- **Com Alter:** Has the number of pelicans received peaked or is more variable?
  - **NAR:** The number of pelicans does seem to have peaked and begun declining in Santa Cruz County, but it is still too early to say if that trend will continue.
- **Com Jankovitz:** Are you testing for diseases in the birds you receive?

- **NAR:** Yes, we are testing for avian influenza and performing necropsies on animals that could not be saved. The birds are not positive for avian influenza.
- **Com Michelsen:** If members of the public would like to support your effort, how could they do that?
  - **IBR:** Please donate at our website: [www.Birdrescue.org](http://www.Birdrescue.org)
  - **NAR:** Please donate at our website: [www.nativeanimalrescue.org](http://www.nativeanimalrescue.org)
- **Public Comment:**
  - **Jean Brocklebank:** Approves that the funding be recommended.
  - **Michael Lewis:** Approves that the funding be recommended. Recommends that the cause of the issue be researched to be better prepared should the conditions appear again.
  - **Com Sampson:** Unable to appear in person as a commissioner, but supports the funding being recommended.
- **Motion to recommend full funding:** Gomez, **Second:** Berry,
- **Roll Call Vote:**

Chris Berry	Aye	Samuel Adelson	
Warren Barry	Aye	David Somerton	
Liz Alter	Aye	Jon Jankovitz	Aye
Brooke Sampson		Daniela Suarez	
Jenni Gomez	Aye	Jen Michelsen	Aye

- **All Aye:** Funding unanimously approved for recommendation.

**4. ADJOURN. Motion to Adjourn:** Jankovitz  
Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.





# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION

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

July 11, 2019

County of Santa Cruz  
Board of Supervisors  
701 Ocean Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Extending the Significant Tree Ordinance to all of County of Santa Cruz

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

The Significant Tree Ordinance was enacted to protect large trees in our county, but it currently only applies within the Coastal Zone. The stated purpose of the ordinance is primarily to protect scenic resources. After hearing from members of the public that this application is too limited, we evaluated the ordinance and agree that it should be expanded. We have also found that all of our surrounding counties (San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Benito and Monterey) have county-wide tree ordinances, and Santa Cruz appears to be unique with its more limited scope. Applying this ordinance just to the Coastal Zone seems arbitrary, and leaves much of the County without the benefit of its protections. Therefore, we recommend that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Planning Dept. to modify both the Purpose and Scope of the ordinance.

Our forests provide much more than just scenic beauty. They provide valuable services such as preventing erosion of topsoil, protecting against flood hazards and the risk of landslides, counteracting pollutants in the water and air and relieving the public costs of installing and maintaining storm water drainage systems. Large trees are more fire resistant compared to other vegetation types and they provide a high degree of carbon sequestration.

The preservation of significant trees and forest communities on private and public property is necessary to protect habitat for fish, birds, insects and mammals, a number of which are rare, threatened and endangered species. We recommend that the Scope of the ordinance includes these important ecosystem services.

We recommend extending the Significant Tree Ordinance county-wide. While there is broad agreement that our county has a very high level of biodiversity, the number of forested acres without protections for large trees is substantial. Although there are some protections for trees under Chapters 16.30 (Riparian Corridor and Wetlands Protection), and Chapter 16.32 (Sensitive Habitat Protection), these areas are very limited, and there are no specific protections for large trees. **Based on county data, we estimate that 32% (over 92,000 acres) of Santa Cruz County has little or no protections for significant trees.** Exhibit 1 shows that the Coastal

Zone, where the current ordinance applies, covers only about 25% of the county. About 42% is under the jurisdiction of other agencies including incorporated areas, state parks and CalFire. Of the remaining county jurisdictional area, the vegetation analysis (Exhibit 2) suggests that roughly 70% includes forested vegetation types. However, significant trees may occur in all vegetation types.

We respectfully offer these changes that can achieve the goals of increasing protection for important resources with a minimal amount of new regulation. We also request that the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission is given an opportunity to review changes to the ordinance prior to Board acceptance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Berry", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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



# County of Santa Cruz

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## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069  
(831) 454-2200 • FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD/TTY - Call 711

**JOHN LEOPOLD**  
FIRST DISTRICT

**ZACH FRIEND**  
SECOND DISTRICT

**RYAN COONERTY**  
THIRD DISTRICT

**GREG CAPUT**  
FOURTH DISTRICT

**BRUCE MCPHERSON**  
FIFTH DISTRICT

January 29, 2020

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission  
Santa Cruz County Government Center  
701 Ocean Street, Room 312  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Chair Berry and Commissioners,

Thank you for your letter dated July 11, 2019, stating your support for extending the Significant Tree Ordinance outside of the Coastal Zone. I appreciate your patience as my office considered the ideas and concerns expressed in your letter.

Since this ordinance expansion would include the San Lorenzo Valley, my staff and I had extensive conversation with members of the County Planning Department, County Counsel and CalFire to hear various perspectives on this proposed ordinance expansion from regulatory and enforcement perspectives.

From these conversations, we understand that large trees can be important landmarks and contribute to neighborhood character. We know trees are also critical to sequestering carbon in support of our Climate Action goals.

However, CalFire is concerned about how an ordinance expansion could conflict with state regulations and authority on forestry management and fire protection. There are also concerns about enforcement and property rights to remove dead and dying trees.

The Planning Department will be reviewing and revising the resource protection ordinances in the next several years and would prefer to consider the expansion of protection for trees through this process.

We encourage the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission to continue studying the issue and providing future input into the ordinance revision process.

Page 2  
January 29, 2020

Thank you for sharing your recommendations with the Board of Supervisors and your service to the County of Santa Cruz.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce McPherson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "B".

BRUCE MCPHERSON, Supervisor  
Fifth District

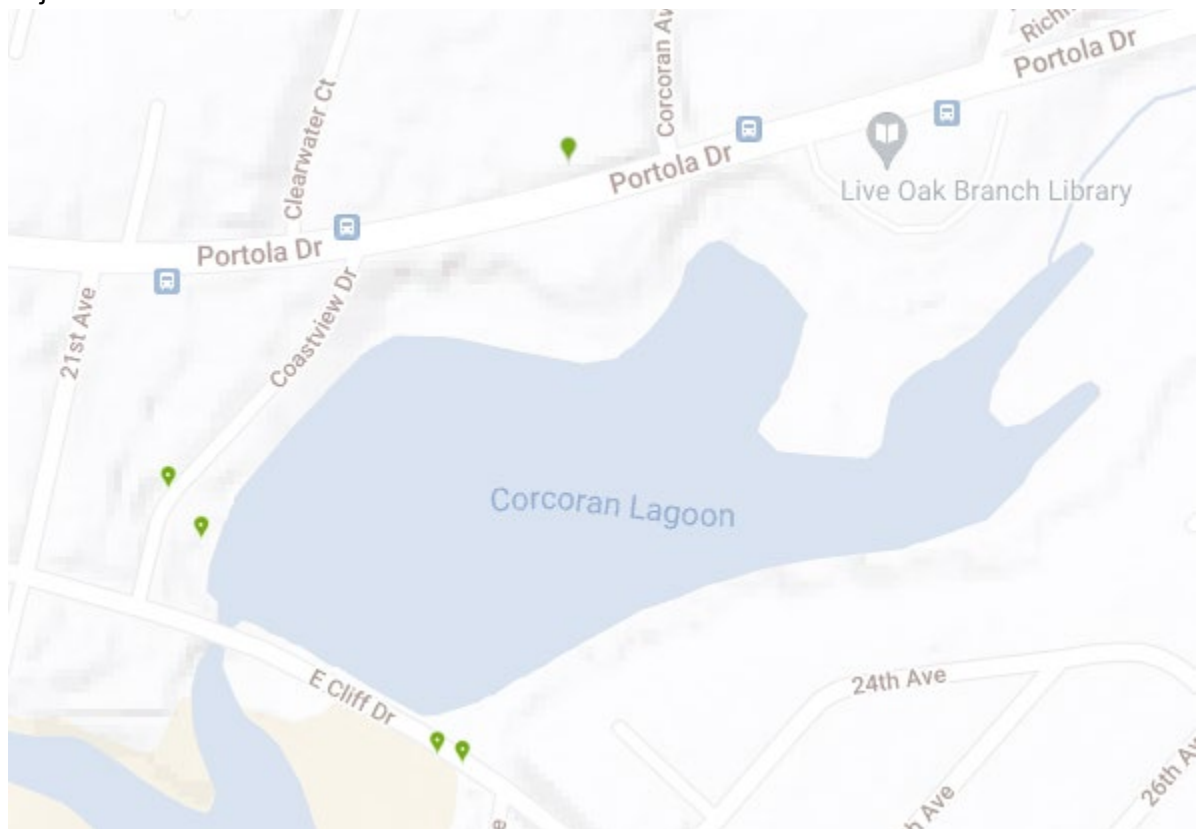
# Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) in Santa Cruz County

Objective: Follow-up on the observations of invasive *Arundo donax* in Santa Cruz County from iNaturalist, observed between 2018 and 2023.

## At Previous iNaturalist Observed Locations

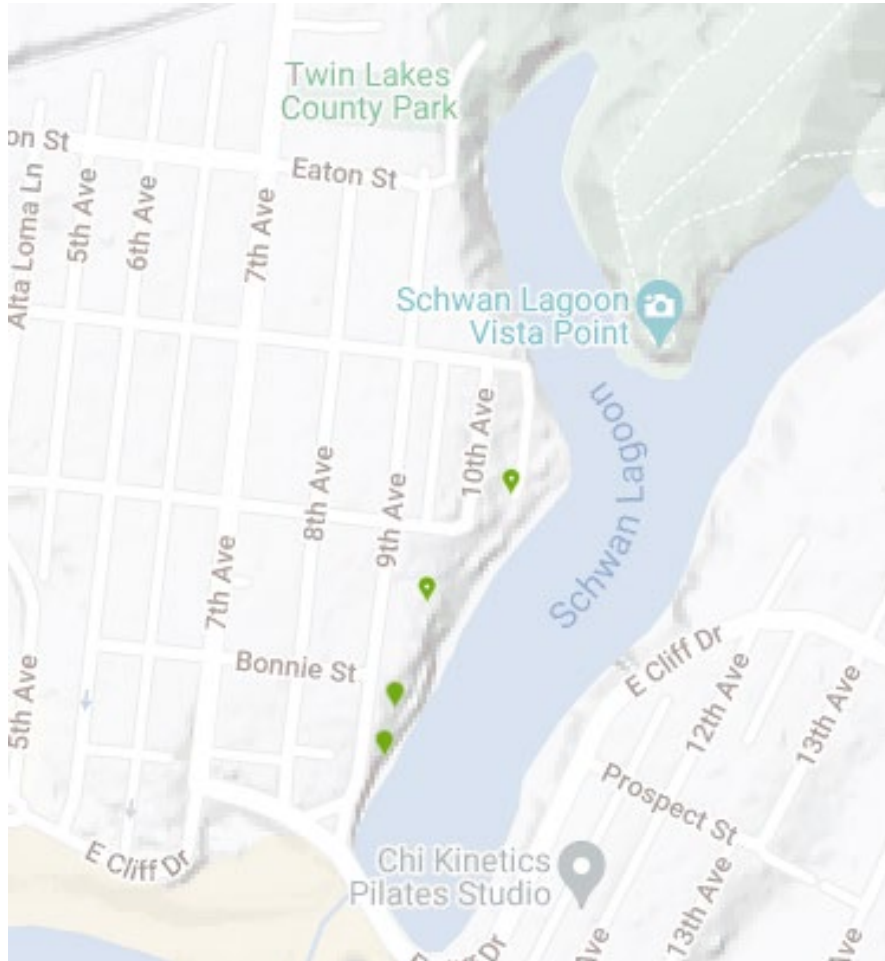
### Corcoran Lagoon

- Confirmed 2 iNat observations of *Arundo* and sighted an additional large patch in a residential yard near the top of the lagoon. The patch that is in the sand at the beach, appears to be about 120 ft<sup>2</sup> and was recently cut but was resprouting amongst iceplant. The patch adjacent to Coastview Dr appeared to be around 100 ft<sup>2</sup> and is directly adjacent to water.



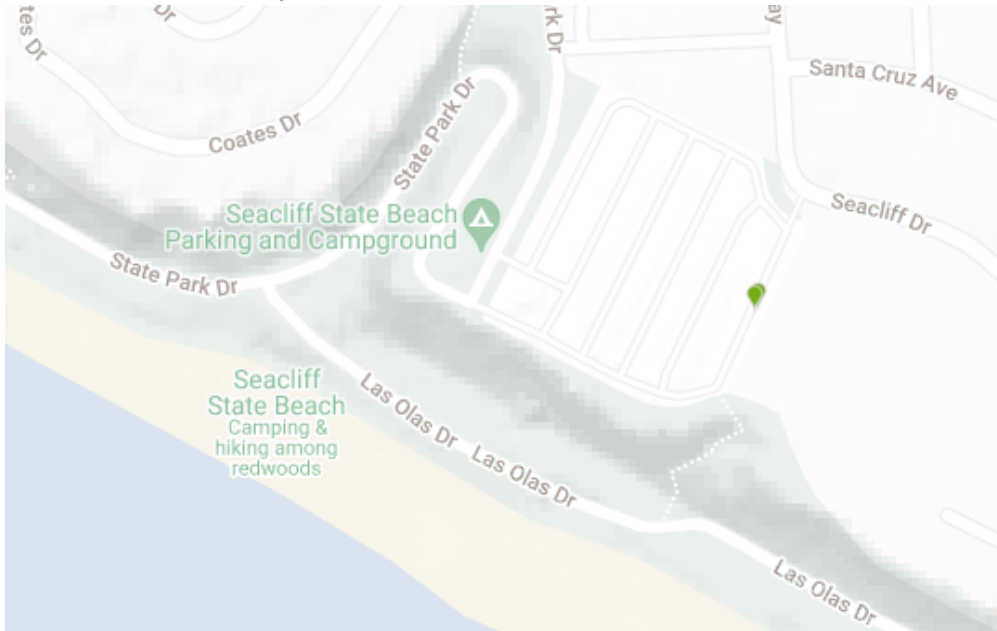
## Schwann Lagoon

- Confirmed 2 iNat observations of *Arundo* and sighted at least 3 more patches visually and 1 via google imagery. All on west side of lagoon. Patches range from approximately 25 - 200 ft<sup>2</sup> in size. Directly adjacent to water.



## Seacliff State Beach

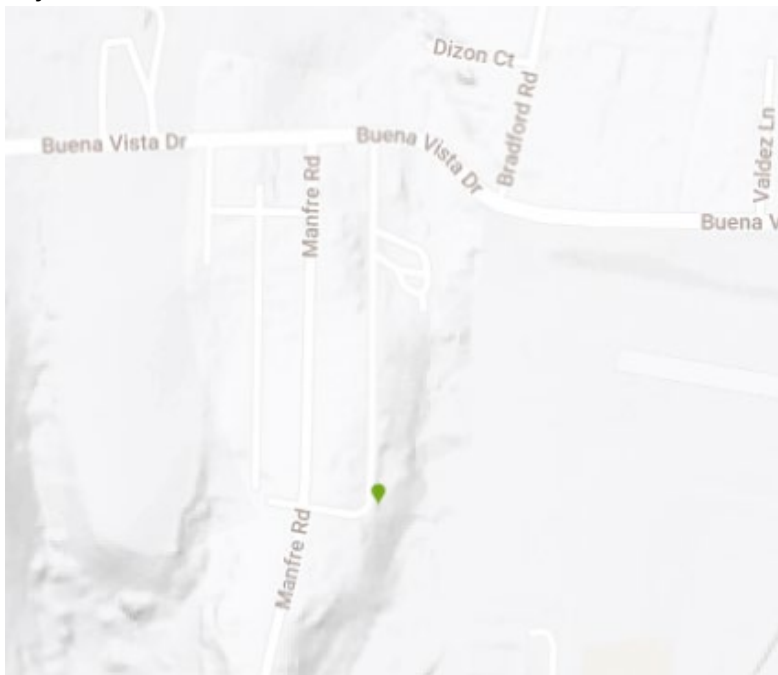
- Confirmed presence of Arundo in field beside parking lot. Small amount, approximately 4-ft<sup>2</sup>. Not on waterway.



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## Watsonville - Off Buena Vista

- Patch of Arundo found. Unknown size. Limited access due to downed tree. On lot adjacent to stream.



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## Neary Lagoon

- No Arundo found. iNat observation not confirmed.

## San Lorenzo River Levee

- No Arundo found. Appeared to have been recently restored. iNat observation not confirmed.

## New Brighton Beach

- No Arundo found. iNat observation not confirmed.

## Davenport, corner of Marine View Ave and Davenport Ave

- Not visited but 2024 Google imagery shows a likely location. Not on a waterway.

## Watsonville at Salsipuedes Creek

- Not visited but 2024 Google imagery shows a likely location. Just off levee patch on Salsipuedes Creek.

## Natural Bridges

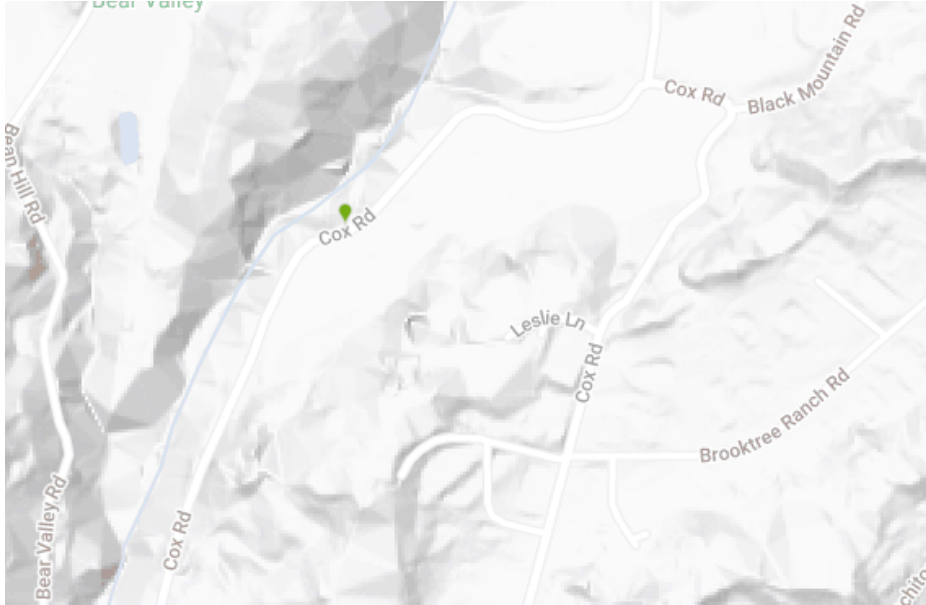
- Not visited. Could not be confirmed on Google imagery.



## Other Sites Found - Not Included in Initial iNaturalist observations

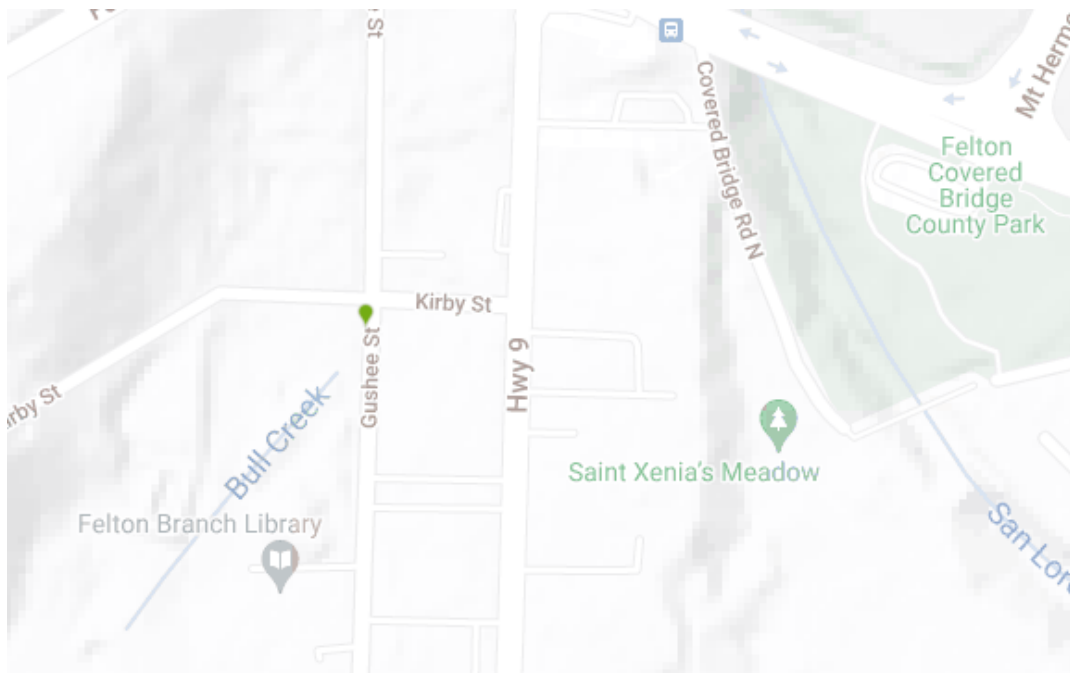
### Cox Road

- Small patch of roughly 4-ft<sup>2</sup> along roadside near Valencia Creek.



### Residential Lot near Felton Discovery Park

- Arundo seen in fenced residential yard and outside of fence along sidewalk. Patch outside of fence approx. 30 ft<sup>2</sup>. Directly adjacent to where Bull Creek enters drainage to San Lorenzo River.





# 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>

### 2024-25 Meeting Schedule

#### Regular Meetings

May 2, 2024

July 11, 2024 (July 4 is a county holiday)

September 5, 2024

November 7, 2024

December 5, 2024

January 2, 2025

March 6, 2025

#### 2.38.130 Meetings.

(A) Open and Public. Each commission and committee meeting shall be open and public. All commissions and committees shall hold regular meetings as specified in the commission or committee's authorizing ordinance or bylaws, and approved by the Board of Supervisors.

- (1) A calendar designating the time and place of such regular meetings shall be determined by a majority of the members at the first meeting in April, or if a commission does not meet in April, at the next subsequent meeting.
- (2) All commission and committee meetings shall be held at locations which are accessible to the public and which are functional for, usable, and accessible to persons with a disability.