



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

June 4, 2020, 7:00 PM

This meeting will be conducted as a phone conference.
Please call 831-454-2222 and enter meeting code 122998.

Agenda Item #	Start Time	End Time	Description
1	7:00	7:00	Call to Order
2	7:00	7:05	Roll Call and Guest Introductions
3	7:05	7:10	Approval of Minutes
4	7:10	7:15	Public Comments
5	7:15	7:35	Update on the Fish and Game Propagation Fund and discuss 2020 Public Grants Program
6	7:35	7:55	Discuss Regional Conservation Investment Strategy and wildlife corridors. https://scrtc.org/funding-planning/environmental/rcis/
7	7:55	8:05	Discuss holding joint meeting with Water Advisory Commission and Commission on the Environment
8	8:05	8:15	Discuss Soquel Lagoon and City of Capitola funding for lagoon management in 2020
9	8:15	8:20	Updates to the Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance https://santacruzcountyca.igm2.com/citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=1430&Inline=True
10	8:20	8:25	Update on homeless encampments during Covid-19 Health Emergency
11	8:25	8:30	Discuss PG & E's draft Habitat Conservation Plan
12	8:30	8:35	Update on Funding for Coho Salmon Broodstock Program and discuss letter to Board of Supervisors
13	8:35	8:50	Commissioner Reports and Announcements
14	8:50	8:55	Staff Reports
	8:55	9:00	Discuss September agenda / Review Correspondence
	9:00		Adjourn

14. CORRESPONDENCE

Please see Fish and Game commission for regulatory announcements
<https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/2020-New-and-Proposed>

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Meeting Minutes May 7, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:00 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Berry, Morrow, Baron, Somerton, Lee, Hoffman, Wise, Buchwald, Gómez, Michelsen
Excused: none
Absent: none

Commissioner Morrow, representing District 1 (Supervisor Leopold) introduced herself. There were no guests.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Commissioner Hoffman made a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Michelsen seconded the motion. All aye, except Commissioner Baron abstained; the minutes were approved.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.** None.
5. **Update on Grant Funding to Salmonid Restoration Federation.** Since the Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) spring conference in Santa Cruz had to be postponed due to Shelter-In-Place orders, SRF was interested in using their \$2,250 grant to pay for webinar software. There were a few questions about the cost of the software and how SRF will produce the webinars. Staff will discuss with SRF. Commissioner Gomez made a motion to tentatively approve a change of how the grant will be used if County staff supports the change; Commissioner Wise seconded the motion. All aye, the motion passed.
6. **Update on Funding for Coho Salmon Broodstock Program and discuss letter to the Board of Supervisors.** Staff reported that the State is working to sign contracts for \$1 million per year to fund the broodstock program as a joint venture between the NOAA Fisheries Science Center and the Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project (MBSTP). The state will also fill the funding gap for MBSTP for the next 2 months. Instead of sending a letter of gratitude through the Board of Supervisors, staff advocated for having either Supervisor Coonerty or Environmental Health send the letter. Commissioners were supportive of this idea. Commissioner Buchwald will contact Ben Harris again about the letter and report back to staff.
7. **Discuss PG & E's draft Habitat Conservation Plan.** Chair Berry reported that PG & E has completed a draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for a large region of Central California that focuses on listed species but does not include steelhead and coho salmon. While the public review period is closed, the plan still needs final approval from USFWS and a consultation with NOAA fisheries. In addition, the community will be able to use the approved HCP to evaluate if PG & E is implementing protective actions. Discussion included how PG & E work along riparian areas can impact steelhead and coho salmon, issues with state forestry regulations and observations of how PG & E is implementing their enhanced vegetation management. Staff will ask for an update from the Planning Dept about the PG & E encroachment permit for work within County road right-of-way and NOAA Fisheries about their consultation on the HCP.
8. **Updates to the Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance.** The Cannabis Licensing Office proposed some substantial changes to the cultivation ordinance. The primary goal of the changes would be to define cannabis as an agricultural product that would make it easier to cultivate on Commercial Agriculture properties. The changes would also increase the number of small parcels that would be eligible for

“cottage grows” and Timber Production Zone parcels eligible for cultivation. These proposals went to the Planning Commission where discussion and comments revolved around changes that could increase cultivation in small rural neighborhoods and on TPZ. Planning Commission recommendations will go to the Board. Staff will alert commissioners about the BOS hearing date.

9. **Elect New Chair and Vice Chair.** Several commissioners commended Chris Berry for his effective work as the Chair. Commissioner Michelsen nominated Chris Berry for Chair and Kristen Lee for Vice Chair. All aye; motion passed.
10. **Commission Reports and Announcements.** Commissioner Baron announced that she completed the wildlife brochure and sent it for printing. Several commissioners expressed interest in an electronic version when it’s available. Commissioner Hoffman reported that he and Commissioner Somerton will partner in the creation of a rodenticide monitoring program of predatory species in Santa Cruz County. The CDFW lab is currently closed due to Covid-19 but they will continue to develop ideas for the program. Chair Berry reported a pair of nesting bald eagles near Loch Lomond. He also reported that, due to Covid-19, homeless camps are being allowed to develop, including one that is close to City of Santa Cruz water diversion on San Lorenzo River; the City and County have teamed up to provide bathrooms and hand washing at larger homeless camps.
11. **Staff Reports and announcements.** The County submitted comments for the Cotoni-Coast Dairies public access plan. Staff reported that Bryan Largay, Santa Cruz County Land Trust, agreed to present and lead a discussion about wildlife corridors, hopefully in Fall 2020. USCS is installing owl boxes along the Pajaro that were funded in part by FWAC. The June meeting will be a phone conference call.
12. **Discuss June Agenda.** There are quite a few items for follow up in June, including the Cotoni-Coast Dairies public access plan, homeless camps, and Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance changes. Commissioners Michelsen and Gomez plan to meet to discuss the proposal to extend the Significant Tree Ordinance.
13. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.