



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](http://www.sceeh.com)  
[EnvironmentalHealth@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:EnvironmentalHealth@santacruzcounty.us)

AGENDA  
April 6, 2023, 7:00 PM

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

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	7:10	Call to Order
2			Roll Call
3			Approval of Minutes
4			Public comment for items not on the agenda
5	7:10	7:20	Status of Low Flow Closures: Sean Cochran, CA DFW
6	7:20	7:50	County Housing Element, 6 <sup>th</sup> Cycle: Presentation by Planning Staff
7	7:50	8:30	Review Workplan for 2023
8	8:30	9:00	Staff Reports Commissioner Reports and Announcements
9		9:00	Adjourn

**Items of Interest:**

- [State of the SLR Symposium \(google.com\)](#)
- [Salmon fishing banned along California coast as population plummets - Lookout Local Santa Cruz](#)
- [Homelessness Is a Housing Problem - Sightline Institute](#)
- [California bill would make it harder to build far-flung subdivisions \(sfchronicle.com\)](#)
- [How a Highway 17 animal crossing protects mountain lions - Lookout Local Santa Cruz](#)
- [Santa Cruz County Supervisors to hear CZU fire rebuild update – Santa Cruz Sentinel](#)
- [Bill Text - AB-64 Fish and wildlife: beaver. \(ca.gov\)](#)

**Correspondences:**

- Jean Brocklebank: Request to study the importance of re-establishing beaver populations.
- Jean Brocklebank: Damage to intertidal areas from people and pets
- Del Crawford: Human and Wildlife Conflict management

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

### Microsoft Teams meeting

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

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 271 627 126 247

Passcode: 5MswnK

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

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 831-454-2222,,924187197#](#) United States, Salinas

Phone Conference ID: 924 187 197#

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

**Click on 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 6:50 pm. Cameras are optional for members of the public.

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

#### 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.



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Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2023

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

District	Commissioner	Status	Commissioner	Status
I	Chris Berry	P	Samuel Adelson	P
II	VACANT		David Somerton	P
III	Liz Alter	P	Jon Jankovitz	P
IV	VACANT		VACANT	
V	Jenni Gomez	P	Jen Michelsen	P

P = Present    E = Excused    A = Absent

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - **Motion to Approve Minutes:** Somerton, **Second:** Adelson,
  - **All Ayes:** Minutes approved
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
  - Cpt Schindler: CDFW officially took delivery of new ocean patrol boat today. Reported that a Mountain Lion attacked a child in Half Moon Bay, but had no details on that. Currently there is not much fishing in the rivers due to high flows. Currently no reports of streambed alteration violations after the storm.
  - Frank Cheap: Member of the Water Advisory Commission and is interested in work of the other commissions.
5. **CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTION PLAN (CAAP):** Staff provided a summary of the CAAP, what next steps are coming, and where there is potential for collaboration. Presentation materials provided on webpage.
  - Michelsen: Very Supportive of recharge projects and would love to provide feedback
  - Berry: Would like to know more details about the Boulder Creek sewer project and how it might impact stream flow and development.
  - Commissioners were supportive of recommending tree species that would not present invasive hazards.
  - Gomez: Concerned that the proposed CAAP revisions seem to focus on urban areas. Staff recommends collaborating efforts of the CAAP and FWAC so expansion of Significant Tree ordinance is included.
  - Staff will be communicating with OR3 to relay comments from commissions. There will be a standing CAAP update in the staff reports during future FWAC meetings.

6. **STREAM WOOD PROGRAM PRESENTATION:** Kristen Kittleson, the County Fisheries Planner, gave a presentation on the Streamwood program and how the 2023 Atmospheric River events affected the program. Presentation materials provided on webpage. Commissioner questions are as follows:
- Alter: Any plans to change the monitoring schedule for existing of Stream Wood sites to see how well they maintained Coho habitat?
    - The program is still in disaster clean up mode, but there is intention to do another inventory in the spring. Could bring the item back later in the year to provide an update.
7. **DRAFT BIENNIAL REPORT REVIEW:**
- Commissioners had no significant edits to the report and approved all the highlighted editions to the “Future plans” section.
8. **WORKPLAN REVIEW AND APRIL AGENDA ITEMS:**
- Coho and Steelhead recovery sub-committee: The San Lorenzo low flow fishing closure was implemented for watersheds north of San Lorenzo River at 40 Cubic Feet per Second (CFS). Sub-committee will research and report back on extending the low flow closure to other watersheds south of San Lorenzo.
  - Staff will research and report back on the allocation of property taxes in Santa Cruz County.
  - Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) Sub-committee believed there may be some activity that was about to take place. They will monitor and report back on what is happening and what potential there is for FWAC action.
  - Share Hunting sub-committee did not see much further potential to pursue the possibility of share hunting. Cpt. Schindler mentioned that turkey hunting was proposed in the Cotoni Coast Dairies, but most of the people who provided comment were in opposition.
  - Staff will put together an appreciation for Commissioner Baron that the commissioners will review at the next meeting.
  - Due to staff person being unavailable for the March meeting, commissioners agreed to move the March meeting to April, which has no regular meeting.
9. **STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
- **Staff Reports:**
    - Update on FWAC Grants: All grants were approved by Board and disbursements are in the process of being sent out. Special note, Sup. Cummings specifically commended the grant made to the CWC during the meeting.
    - Invasive Species letter: Staff confirmed the intent of the commissioners was to have letter to be a recommendation. The letter subject line will be corrected to reflect that. Commissioners to follow up with their Supervisors once the letter is released.
  - **Commissioners Report:**
    - Berry:
      - (i) State of San Lorenzo River will be on March 18<sup>th</sup>, other commissioners are encouraged to attend.
      - (ii) California Fish and Game Commission is continuing to look at Bull Frog management. The Vice Chair is very interested in this item and is a Professor at UCSC.
      - (iii) Will be leaving the Water Advisory Commission.
10. **ADJOURN. Motion to Adjourn: Jankovitz, Second: Somerton  
All Aye: meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.**

3 February 2023  
to  
Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

Dear Commissioners ~

As Santa Cruz County goes forward, trying to create policies for watershed management that will address flooding, repair of CZU burned landscapes and protection of biodiversity that is required for healthy watersheds and waterways, the FWAC should study the importance of re-establishing a beaver population that was extirpated in the upper Santa Cruz mountains.

I hope that you can add this topic for discussion to a meeting agenda this year.

I also hope that the Board of Supervisors will acknowledge and act upon the very real connection between watershed health and human health. It is way past time that human services are seen as separate from the natural world. Apart from nature, so to speak, rather than a part of nature. We spend an inordinate amount of time prioritizing one over the other, to the point that the environment has become an afterthought, a mere shadow, rather than as integral to the quality of all life in Santa Cruz.

Here are some articles (clickable links) for your initial consideration of the benefits of restoring *Castor canadensis* to our bioregion:

<https://hilltromper.com/article/return-beaver>

<https://baynature.org/article/beavers-used-to-be-almost-everywhere-in-california/> (June 19, 2014)

"Coastal Native American tribes had words for beaver. The Wappo in Sonoma called them "ma'-nah ow'-we," the Coast Miwok, "kah-ka'," and the Rumsen Coastanoan in Monterey called them "sur-ris," among others."

"But it's the historical records the group dug up that tell the fuller story of what happened to California's beavers. In short, they were trapped out of existence."

"It is perhaps because of their longtime absence that beavers are so overlooked as a solution to today's conservation problems. Need help restoring a wetland, or recharging groundwater? You could bring in a beaver. Does your river dry out for half the year? A family of beavers might fix that. Are you trying to bring back salmon populations, or red-legged frogs? Beavers."

"In an interesting historical footnote mentioned in the paper, California brought back some beavers to stem erosion from 1923-1950, bumping the statewide population

from a dwindling 1,300 in 1942 to 20,000 by 1950. The translocations happened in 58 counties — including Marin, Napa, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Cruz — and are thought to be responsible for the beavers that live here today."

[Beavers] "have the capacity to provide a level of service to the ecosystem that is better and more durable and cheaper than we can do."

"I wish people had been talking about [this] when California declared drought this year," said Perryman. "People need to be thinking about the animal that keeps water on the land as a resource."

Worth a Dam <http://www.martinezbeavers.org/wordpress/>

And lastly, an interesting perspective from [Cornwall in the UK](#), including what could be ("*... they are bringing back an awful lot of water into our headwaters, and keeping it there in times of flood and drought, they're entertaining visitors to our county, they are hosting a huge amount of wildlife, and in quite a few places they are now starting to provide some serious natural flood management*").

That flood management was described thusly:

*"He pointed to the series of ponds created by the beavers that now mean that huge amounts of water are stored in the landscape, and over 16 tons of silt that would otherwise have been washed out into the sea has been trapped in the ponds. "One pair of beavers on 200 metres have done that", he told me. "What if we had 10 pairs of beavers across the whole catchment?"*

Thank you for considering my request and for being prescient in advising the Board of Supervisors about a matter of importance that they might take seriously if it comes from your commission.

Sincerely,  
Jean Brocklebank  
First District resident

**From:** [del crawford](#)  
**To:** [Sean Abbey](#)  
**Subject:** checking in  
**Date:** Saturday, February 11, 2023 7:47:40 AM

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

Hello Sean,

So sorry the my tenure on the commission was so short as I was really enjoying getting to know the other folks on the commission and also understanding the work the commission does. Ahh, water under the bridge. If I were still a commissioner, I would be bringing a growing concern that I have to the attention of the others as to the increasing human/wildlife interactions in the more suburban areas of the county. I mentioned this to Chris Berry awhile back but thought I would also bring it to your attention. If one spends any time on Nextdoor or other local Facebook sites like Lookout and Aptosia, one will see the recent drought has caused a migration of mountain lions, bobcats and coyotes into neighborhoods and semirural farms with the obvious resulting predation of farmstock and neighborhood pets. Last year, a puma was spotted on the cliffs above Seacliff Beach. Within the last few months, a coyote tried to take a two year old toddler in Southern California. Video showed the father fighting the animal off. My fear is that the same could happen here.

Perhaps the commission should be looking at a process to track the local incidences with a goal of providing communities information and updates as the areas where pet and life stock predation are on the increase and begin to develop policies and procedures to communicate with affected areas through the above sites. In addition, increasing public education as to how to handle these interactions could be undertaken. Working with other outside groups to facilitate the humane removal of the problem animals should be part of the process through communication and working with state and other related services.

I am not saying we need to change the name of the commission to the Fish, Wildlife, and Human Commission (ha, ha) but it would probably be a good idea to recognize that we are now a part of the equation for better or, hopefully not, the worse. It is not just people and pets that are in danger, but the knee jerk reaction to someone losing their livestock to predation and responding by hunting and killing an animal that is just following its instinct is an outcome we should strive to avoid.

UCSC and Cabrillo students might be a great resource to look to help develop background and outreach programs.

Again, sorry I can't meet with you guys on a regular basis. Form 700 be damned.  
Del Crawford

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Jean Brocklebank](#)  
**To:** [Sean Abbey](#)  
**Subject:** Correspondence for FWAC - prior to 4/6/23 meeting  
**Date:** Friday, March 3, 2023 10:31:03 AM

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

Dear Fish & Wildlife Commissioners ~

For some time I have been wanting to encourage you to discuss the environmental damage of people (and their pets) while exploring intertidal areas of beaches located in the unincorporated county during the so-called King tides. Not only are invertebrates unavailable to feeding migratory birds due to disturbance by people, there also is collecting of other intertidal organisms and footfall destruction of others.

Even during regular non-King tides, shorebirds are flushed during their important feeding and resting along the shoreline, most usually by unleashed and even leashed dogs, as well as by children allowed to chase them.

As access to the beaches grows with more people and more dogs, things can only worsen for marine wildlife.

I am requesting that this matter be discussed by the FWAC in order to develop a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to establish a policy whereby, at a minimum, the County's Parks Dept. will be required to install educational signage at the beaches where Parks is responsible for access infrastructure.

Thank you for considering my request for your commission to address this environmental problem and potential solutions, policy wise.

Jean Brocklebank

<https://rewilding.org/elwha-nearshore-update-january-2023/>

### **Elwha Nearshore Update, January 2023**

Dr. Anne Shaffer

*Update from [Anne Shaffer, PhD](#) of the [Coastal Watershed Institute](#) on tracking Elwha nearshore ecosystem restoration post-dam removal.*

A few notes on the nearshore January 2023

First, a novel spin on king tide photos. **Shorebirds depend on the nearshore for critical winter food resources.** In the photos below, **shorebirds (sanderlings in winter plumage) use the king high tide to feed on invertebrate (and maybe forage fish eggs!) flushed up into the shallow sand of the upper intertidal zone. It's a rigorous process** - look how far into the sand they burrow! Sand lance spawning is occurring now—but these shorelines haven't



been documented (yet). Herring should be spawning along these shorelines within a few weeks, so these small birds are well situated to rest and fatten a bit before they head to the Arctic in May. Another indicator of how important these undisturbed zones, processes, and seasons are. **If you're walking on a shoreline keep an eye out for these quiet beautiful beings and keep those dogs on leash...**