



# 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

May 1, 2025, 6:30 PM

Agenda Item #	Start Time	End Time	Description
1	7:00	7:10	Call to Order
2			Roll Call
3			Approval of Consent Items: 1. March 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes
4			Public Comment for Items Not on The Agenda
5	7:10	7:40	Review and Approve Letter to the Board Regarding Significant Tree Ordinance
6	7:40	8:00	Approve the 2025 FWAC Workplan
7	8:00	8:20	Vote for Commission Officers
8	8:20	8:30	Approve Meeting Schedule, Discuss Possible Change to Meeting Location
9	8:30	9:00	Staff Reports Commissioner Reports and Announcements
10		9:00	Adjourn

### Public Comment

None

### Items of Interest:

[Commercial salmon season canceled; limited recreational dates – Lookout Santa Cruz](#)  
[Nonprofit working to save Monterey Bay’s fishing industry – 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.

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?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 262 733 412 400 6

Passcode: j2mR6ng2

**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.

Please contact Sean Abbey ([sean.abbey@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:sean.abbey@santacruzcountyca.gov)) with questions.

### Meeting Roles and Rules:

Jon Jankovitz, Chair, will lead the meeting. The Chair will announce each agenda item, identify who will be leading an item and introduce discussion and public comment periods.

Sean Abbey, staff liaison, 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.



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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>



### Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2025

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 6:33 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	Brooke Sampson	P	Daniela Suarez	A
V	Jenni Gomez	P	Jen Michelsen	A

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **Motion to Approve Minutes:** Berry, **Second:** Somerton,
- **All Ayes:** Minutes approved

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- None

5. **REVIEW SIGNIFICANT TREE ORDINANCE LANGUAGE OF NEARBY JURISDICTIONS,**

**CONSIDER POSSIBLE INCORPORATION FOR COUNTY ORDINANCE:** Commissioners reviewed similar ordinances for local jurisdictions and identified language that could be applicable to Santa Cruz County. Sub-committee generally felt that San Mateo County had the most applicable ordinance due to comparable land usage. Commissioners also discussed possible minor edits to the existing ordinance that would expand the scope, while also allowing exemptions that CalFire requested. Commissioners felt the existing ordinance could be altered to achieve the desired protection for large trees. Sub-committee will finalize a draft ordinance and cover letter, which will be reviewed and approved at the May meeting.

**6. REVIEW CURRENT FWAC WORKPLAN AND REVISE, AS NEEDED, FOR 2025:**

Commissioners reviewed the previous year's workplan and suggested the following potential additions; 1) add monitoring of Measure Q with Commissioner Sampson as lead, and 2) re-introduce Invasive Species item with Commissioner Adelson as lead. Commissioners will review their workplan items language and provide updates to liaison. 2025 Workplan to be approved at the May meeting.

**7. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

○ **Staff Reports:**

- Moss Landing Battery Fire update: [Santa Cruz County completed](#) surface water and soil sampling and found no elevated levels of contaminants associated with battery fire. In addition, [Monterey County found](#) impacted soils only in samples taken immediately adjacent to the battery facility.
- Notified that [applications are currently open for the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board](#) which will, among other things, approve the 5-Year Vision Plan synthesizing local climate, recreation, and resource management strategies.
- Notified of open Commissioner seat.
- The FWAC grant recommendations were approved by the Board on February 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Conflict of Interest Reports (Form 700) are due on April 1.

○ **Commissioner Reports:**

- Com Berry:
  - (1) Notified about a detection of Perchlorate in the Mount Hermon water system
  - (2) The [Salmon Restoration Federation conference](#) is coming at the end of April. The actions being taken at the federal level may lead to a large reduction in attendees this year.
  - (3) Former commissioner Jodi Frediani will be presentation that the Seymour Center on her book, [Wild Monterey Bay](#)
- Com Jankovitz:
  - (1) Santa Clara Valley Water District created an ordinance to eliminate camping in riparian areas
  - (2) [Executive Order from Governor Newsom](#) has limited permitting requirements for wildfire suppression projects.

**8. ADJOURN. Motion to Adjourn:** Gomez, **Second:** Alter  
**All Aye:** meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.



**County of Santa Cruz**  
**Health Services Agency – Environmental Health**  
**Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission**

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May 1, 2025

RE: Request that the Board of Supervisors consider modifying the Significant Tree Ordinance

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

The Significant Tree Ordinance (STO) is aimed at protecting big trees within the Coastal Zone of Santa Cruz County. These big trees are responsible for providing habitat, stabilizing soils, storing carbon, retarding storm runoff and maintaining the aesthetic character for which Santa Cruz is so widely loved. Unfortunately, this ordinance does not extend outside the Coastal Zone and furthermore only applies to trees visible from scenic roads, any beach, or within a designated scenic resource area and therefore many significant trees have virtually no regulatory protection.

The Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (FWAC) has contacted the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on several occasions in the past regarding this matter (Attachment 1 - Past FWAC/BOS STO Correspondences) and would again like to recommend that the County consider revision of this ordinance. Recently, several members of the FWAC met with Supervisor McPherson's office and County staff in order to discuss what changes might strengthen the ordinance and enable effective implementation. The FWAC was then encouraged to review neighboring similar ordinances and suggest either revisions of the existing STO or language for a new ordinance.

The FWAC did review ordinances from various central coast municipalities and counties and found several ordinances that are significantly more detailed and protective of significant trees than the existing STO. However, recognizing that significant public process went into development of those ordinances and that implementation of such detailed ordinances may exceed County bandwidth, the FWAC ultimately decided that the existing STO, as modified below, would strike the best balance between protection of significant trees and implementation efficacy. Proposed modifications include (Attachment 2 - Proposed STO Revisions)

1. Expand geographic scope of the STO outside the Coastal Zone to include all of unincorporated Santa Cruz County.



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2. Strike the requirement that a significant tree must be visible from scenic roads, beaches or designated scenic resource area.
3. Provide exemptions for specific invasive, non-native species
4. Provide exemptions for maintenance of CalFire - designated defensible space.

We are hopeful that the BOS will soon recommend that the Community Development and Infrastructure Department begin steps to modify the STO as described above. The FWAC stands ready to support this effort with further review of neighboring jurisdictions and/or community outreach on the matter, as needed. Thank you again for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns about these comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to the FWAC.

Sincerely,

**Jon Jankovitz**  
Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission Chair

Att 1: Past BOS/FWAC STO correspondence  
Att 2: Proposed STO Revisions



# 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>



September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

RE: Request that the Board of Supervisors consider extending the Significant Tree Ordinance outside the Coastal Zone

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

The Significant Tree Ordinance (STO) is aimed at protecting big trees within the Coastal Zone of Santa Cruz County. These big trees are responsible for providing habitat, stabilizing soils, storing carbon, retarding storm runoff and maintaining the aesthetic character for which Santa Cruz is so widely loved. Unfortunately, this ordinance does not extend outside the Coastal Zone and therefore big trees outside that zone have virtually no regulatory protection.

On July 11, 2019, the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (FWAC) contacted you to suggest that you consider extending this ordinance to the rest of the County outside the Coastal Zone. At that time, Supervisor McPherson expressed concern that doing so may be in conflict with the Forest Practice Rules or other related Cal Fire standards. Fortunately, since that time we've learned that Cal Fire is supportive of extending the Significant Tree Ordinance provided that a revised ordinance includes exceptions for hazard trees similar to those found in the County of San Mateo Significant Tree Ordinance:

<https://www.smcgov.org/planning/regulation-removal-significant-trees>)

Additionally, the County of Santa Cruz [Sustainability Update](#) also recommends that the Significant Tree Ordinance be reviewed in the context of climate change adaptation. We understand that the focus of this was more responsive to environmental justice concerns than it was on habitat, however big trees in urban environments can also provide valuable habitat and other environmental services.

Admittedly, the County is experiencing a budget crisis and bandwidth for new projects is understandably limited. However, extending the STO beyond the Coastal Zone may be one of the least costly yet most effective things the County can do to ensure protection of the values referenced above and to address climate change locally. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to reconsider

extending the Significant Tree Ordinance beyond the Coastal Zone to the rest of the County.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns about these comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to the FWAC.

Sincerely,

Jon Jankovitz  
Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission Chair

Att: July 11, 2019 FWAC letter to the BOS, January 29, 2020 Supervisor McPherson letter to the FWAC, maps





# 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

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

#### **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].

**Commented [cb1]:** I would leave this. Big trees can enhance property values.

#### **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).

**Commented [SA2]:** For simplicity of enforcement, I would suggest removal of the rural services line. The area covered is minimal and creates added complexity.

(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.

“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 SCCC 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 [to sensitive habitats, protected wildlife, shade, noise buffers, wind protection, air pollution, visual aesthetics and historic features, 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.](#)

(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.](#)

(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

**Commented [cb3]:** I think visual resources are still important...it's just that we don't want that issue being the only one that drives protection.

**Commented [SA4]:** Worth discussion

**Commented [SA5]:** Worth discussing

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 and California Code, PRC 4291.](#)
- (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 \(commencing with Section 4511\).](#)
- (D) Any activity done pursuant to a valid timber harvest permit, or a notice of timber harvesting, approved pursuant to Chapter [16.52](#) SCCC.
- (E) 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).
- (F) Removal of tree crops pursuant to agricultural operations. [Ord. 3443 § 1, 1983; Ord. 3341 § 1, 1982].

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**Commented [SA6]:** 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 [SA7]:** Find reason for addition. Seems duplicative of following exemption

#### **16.34.100 Inspection.**

*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].

#### **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

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## **DRAFT** 2025 Work Plan

### **Public Grants Program**

Monitor - Fish and Game Propagation Fund balance

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

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### **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:**

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

**Learn** - what community considers important fish and wildlife topics

**Learn** - about the human impact on inter-tidal communities

**Action** - take action when appropriate to support Marine Protection

**Monitor** - new legislation and actions

### **Measure Q Implementation** *(Approved Statement)*

**Lead Commissioner:** Sampson

**Learn** – Understand the goals of Measure Q the funding allocation structure

**Monitor** - creation of Citizen Oversight Advisory Board

**Monitor** - Ability to utilize Measure Q funding for added resources

**Action** – Prepare FWAC Approved Statement that may be used to support Measure Q project approvals

### **Invasive Species**

**Lead Commissioner:** Adelson

**Learn** - Identify species, statuses

**Action** - Prioritize species for future actions

**Action** - Lend support to Watershed Management Agency

### **Vision Santa Cruz Wild** *(Approved Statement)*



# County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency – Environmental Health

## Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

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**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](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>



# **County of Santa Cruz**

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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 intertidal communities, which are especially vulnerable in rocky habitats near urban centers. Although we recognize the importance of access to these areas at low tides both for educational enjoyment and the sport harvest of mussels, seaweeds and other edible seafood, many of the popular rocky intertidal areas are being “loved to death” by human disturbance. 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 posting signs at the entrances to the most popular areas outlining the best practices for reducing impact and utilizing volunteer shoreline stewards from various non-profit organizations at extreme low tides to help visitors learn how to enjoy, but not destroy, the intertidal community. 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.~~



# County of Santa Cruz

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## Measure Q Implementation

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 Measure Q (The Water and Wildfire Protection Act) funding recommendations.

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 funding projects that equitably address the health and habitat of local fish and wildlife populations throughout Santa Cruz County when considering eligible conservation, restoration, and stewardship projects including groundwater recharge, restoring vital habitats and controlling invasive species, building wildlife infrastructure, trail restoration, floodplains and wetlands, forest management, culverts, litter removal, and creating defensible space along roadways and trails. Under Measure Q, priority is to be given to multi-benefit projects that address critical environmental needs, like climate resiliency and adaptation, habitat protection, water conservation, extreme weather and natural disasters, and pollution reduction.

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. Thank you.



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## **FWAC Meeting Schedule** **2025-26**

July 3, 2025

September 4, 2025

November 6, 2025

December 4, 2025

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March 6, 2026

May 1, 2026