



County of Santa Cruz
Water Advisory Commission
701 Ocean Street, Room 312 ❖ Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2022 ❖ Fax (831) 454-3128
<https://www.scceh.org/>

AGENDA

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION Wednesday February 2, 2022, 4pm

[Microsoft Teams Meeting:](#)

Please see information on meeting access and procedures on the page 3 of the Packet.

- A. OPENING**
1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. AB 361 Compliance, authorizing teleconference meeting
 4. Election of Officers
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 1, 2021**
- C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**
Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on matters that are within the Commission's area of responsibility, but not on today's agenda.
- D. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**
Opportunity for Commissioners to report on matters that are not on today's agenda.
- E. STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- F. NEW BUSINESS**
1. City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District Water Supply Planning Update
Receive a presentation by Melanie Mow Schumacher from Soquel Creek Water District and Heidi Luckenbach of the City of Santa Cruz Water Department about water supply project progress.
- G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS and UPDATES**
1. SB 552 Compliance Subcommittee Update
Receive update and take recommended actions.
Attachments: Staff memo
 2. WAC Work Plan Subcommittee Update
Consider approval of WAC Work Plan 2022-2023 and Process for Revising WAC Work Plan.
Attachments: Draft 2022-2023 Work Plan clean copy
Draft 2022-2023 Work Plan redline
Process for Revising WAC Work Plan

3. WAC Biennial Report

Review the Biennial Report that was submitted to the Board of Supervisors

Attachments: 2020-2021 Biennial Report

H. CORRESPONDENCE

None

I. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTION ON ITEMS AFFECTING WATER:

J. ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. https://santacruzlocal.org/2022/01/25/water-quality-rates-could-rise-with-big-basin-san-lorenzo-valley-water-merger/?utm_source=Santa+Cruz+Local&utm_campaign=409de75553=-Newsletter+for+nonmembers&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f5d347e2d2-409de75553-403410434
2. <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2022/01/22/water-district-pge-revitalize-olympia-watershed-sandhills/>
3. <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2022/01/19/california-drought-january-is-a-rainfall-bust-how-big-of-a-problem-is-that/>
4. <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2022/01/08/santa-cruz-on-cusp-of-relaxing-water-restrictions/>
5. <https://pressbanner.com/water-district-pge-team-up-on-restoration-project/>

K. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Presentation about the Regional Water Management Foundation.
2. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

L. ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE CONTACT SIERRA RYAN (831) 345-5202, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

Commissioner and Public Participation Information and Guidelines

Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health, the California Governor's Office, and Santa Cruz County Health Officer, in order to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this meeting will be held virtually. You will NOT be able to attend the meeting in person.

The public may conference into the meeting by clicking the link below or calling in (audio only) using the Conference ID:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 916-318-9542, 560428807#](#) United States, Sacramento

Phone Conference ID: 560 428 807#

- Once in the meeting, please mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- If disruptive sound is coming from your device/phone line, the moderator will mute your device and you will have to unmute yourself to participate.
- If you are dialing in by phone, press *9 to raise your hand and *6 to unmute yourself.

Commissioners are expected to join with a video camera. Public attendees may choose to have their cameras on or off.

Please join the meeting a few minutes BEFORE 4:00 pm so that we can start at 4:00 pm. Staff will open the video conference at 3:50 pm. Feel free to chat and say hello before 4:00 pm.

Meeting Roles and Rules:

- All meeting attendees should keep their microphones on mute unless they are speaking.
- Brian Lockwood, Chair, will lead the meeting. Chair Lockwood will announce each agenda item, identify who will be leading an item and introduce discussion and public comment periods.
- Sierra Ryan, 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. Sierra will monitor her 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.
- During a discussion, if 2 or more people speak at the same time, please defer to the person who speaks first. In any moment where we have some confusion due to multiple people wanting to speak, please pause and let the Chair take the lead. The Chair will call on someone to speak. Also please "raise your hand" to speak by clicking on the hand symbol in the upper right.
- If you are having any trouble joining you can send a message to Sierra (email sierra.ryan@santacruzcounty.us or text 831-345-5202.) There will be a public comment period for each item. You can also contact Sierra on technical issues.



County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency

Water Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312 ❖ Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(831) 454-3133

<https://www.scceh.org/>

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION'S
FINDINGS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361 AUTHORIZING TELECONFERENCE
MEETINGS AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUING COVID-19 PANDEMIC STATE OF
EMERGENCY AND HEALTH OFFICER RECOMMENDATION FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING**

WHEREAS, The Water Advisory Commission is a legislative body under the Brown Act as defined under Cal. Gov. Code section 54952(b) and Santa Cruz County Code Section 2.38.110; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361 ("AB 361"), urgency legislation effective immediately, that amended Government Code section 54953 to permit legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act to continue to meet under modified teleconferencing rules provided that they comply with specific requirements set forth in the statute; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to AB 361 and Cal. Gov. Code section 54953(e)(1)(A), a legislative body may meet under the modified teleconferencing rules during a proclaimed state of emergency, and where local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and which remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2021, Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer Dr. Gail Newel strongly recommended that legislative bodies in Santa Cruz County continue to engage in physical/social distancing by meeting via teleconference as allowed by AB 361 and confirmed that she will regularly review and reconsider this recommendation and notify the public when it is no longer recommended; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to AB 361 and Cal. Gov. Code section 54953(e)(3), within 30 days of the date the legislative body first holding a teleconferenced meeting under the modified rules, and every 30 days thereafter, a legislative body can continue to hold such teleconference meetings provided it has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and determined either that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person or that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 2021, the Water Advisory Commission intends to hold its initial teleconference meeting under AB 361; and

WHEREAS, this the Water Advisory Commission has reconsidered the circumstances of the current state of emergency and finds that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to directly impact the ability of members of the public to participate safely in person and further finds that the Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer continues to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, and due to the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Water Advisory commission deems it necessary to utilize the modified teleconferencing rules set forth in AB 361;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Water Advisory Commission makings the following findings by a majority vote:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct, and adopted as findings of the Water Advisory Commission.

Section 2. Effective immediately, and for the next 30 days, the Water Advisory Commission will meet via teleconference as authorized under AB 361 and Government Code section 54953(e)(3).

Section 3. No later than thirty (30) days from making today’s findings, or at the next scheduled meeting, the Commission will reconsider the circumstances of the COVID-19 state of emergency and, if necessary, adopt subsequent findings to continue holding teleconference meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Water Advisory Commission in Santa Cruz, State of California, this 2 day of February , 2022 , by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:
- ABSTAIN:

Chair, Water Advisory Commission

ATTEST: _____
Department Staff

Approved as to Form:

Office of the County Counsel



County of Santa Cruz

Water Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312 ❖ Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(831) 454-2022 ❖ Fax (831) 454-3128

<https://www.scceh.org/>

MEETING MINUTES

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Wednesday December 1, 2021, 4pm

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order 4:07

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Cheap, Lego, Pereyra, Wilson, Vice Chair Berry, Chair Lockwood, Largay (joined at 4:11, left at 5:04)

Staff: Sierra Ryan, Nathan Salazar

Public: Becky Steinbruner

3. AB 361 Compliance, authorizing teleconference meeting: Motion from Lego, Second from Berry, unanimous vote, Largay abstains.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **October 6, 2021**

Typo on Pereyra, corrections on items Commissioner Lockwood sent.

Motion from Berry, second from Pereyra, Lego abstains.

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

A member of the public mentioned the final EIR for the City Water Rights project. The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board will be reviewing their triennial plan on water quality at their December 10th meeting.

D. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Chair Berry – Final Water Rights EIR is going to the Water Commission Monday and to City Council on the 14th to be certified. The City did review the triennial report and the pathogen and sediment standards. The temporary urgency change petition from Loch Lomond was approved which adjusts their bypass requirements. The Loch is at 55.1% right now. The FWAC submitted a letter to the BoS regarding the impacts of encampments in the riparian corridor.

Commissioner Largay – pleased that resolution is being made in the infrastructure improvements for the Big Basin Water Company.

E. STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Tours of the water labs to high profile personnel

2. Still waiting on drought funding.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Draft Annual Water Resources Status Report

The Commissioners provided comments to staff on the draft document. Commissioners really liked the report and the addition of so much more data.

Berry motions that we approve the report with changes already approved by commissioners with a note to follow up on other items later. Wilson Seconds. Unanimous approval.

2. SB 552 compliance

The Commission considered taking action to approve the staff recommendation that the WAC serve as an alternative to the required Drought Task Force and form a subcommittee to develop the process. This subcommittee will plan for a larger, more inclusive process as outlined in the legislation.

Paul Lego offers support for the process and volunteers to participate in the subcommittee. Commissioner Cheap confirms that it is an unfunded mandate and that it is needed. He volunteers for the committee.

Vice-chair Berry asks for clarification of the responsibility and volunteers.

One member of the public comments.

Commissioner Berry motions to support the WAC taking on the SB 552 responsibilities and for a subcommittee of commissioners Lego, Cheap and Berry to plan for it. Wilson seconds. Unanimous approval.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS and UPDATES

3. WAC Workplan Subcommittee Update

Since the WAC last met, the subcommittee met once and then met via email. The final draft is presented in the packet.

Chris asks about a procedures document, maybe as a part of the document or a standalone. Sierra will try to get the higher ups to give a little more guidelines on process. Will also look at the COE process document.

Lego thinks it does a good job representing what we want to be doing now. Does anything with 552 need to be in there or is it already covered? Brian points out that it is consistent.

Ray suggests adding subcommittee member names and asks for a few clarifications.

The Subcommittee will return with a final version at the next meeting.

4. Pajaro Valley Groundwater Management

PVWMA board adopted the 5-year update to the GSP alternative in November. Preparing to submit it to the State.

5. Santa Margarita Groundwater Management

SMGWA Board adopted the GSP at their November meeting and will be submitting it to the State.

6. Mid-County Groundwater Management

No discussion.

7. Coordination with Other Commissions


John Hunt (CoE) has taken a lot of interest in other commission collaboration. If we start to go back to in-person meetings we may want a joint commission meeting this summer. That will likely be the next action.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

None

I. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTION ON ITEMS AFFECTING WATER:

October 19, 2021


51. [DOC-2021-886 : Approve agreement with Balance Hydrologics Inc., for a maximum amount of \\$82,917, for groundwater and streamflow monitoring, and take related actions, as recommended by the Director of Health Services](#) *Approved By Consent Vote [Unanimous]* 

[Agenda Item Board Memo](#)

- a. [Contract 22H0124 Balance Hydrologics, Inc. \(eSign\)](#)

[ADM 29 22H0124](#)

November 9, 2021

40. [DOC-2021-936 : Authorize the Chair to execute agreement regarding interim administrative and legal services for the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency between the County of Santa Cruz, the City of Watsonville, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, the Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District \(Zone 7\), and the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency, as recommended by the Deputy CAO/Director of Public Works](#) *Approved By Consent Vote [Unanimous]* 

[Agenda Item Board Memo](#)



J. ITEMS OF INTEREST

Santa Cruz Sentinel “Conservation ethic allows Monterey Bay farmers to thrive during drought”

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2021/11/08/conservation-ethic-allows-monterey-bay-farmers-to-thrive-during-drought/>

Santa Cruz Sentinel “USGS report shows progress in Valley’s fight to save its water basin”

https://santacruzsentinel-ca-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=342910903_1345fc9

My Scotts Valley “Groundwater Sustainability Plan for Scotts Valley, San Lorenzo Valley adopted”

<https://myscottsvalley.com/groundwater-sustainability-plan-for-scotts-valley-san-lorenzo-valley-adopted/>

Santa Cruz Sentinel “State awards San Lorenzo Valley Water District \$3.2 million to provide some Big Basin customers relief” <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2021/11/10/state-awards-san-lorenzo-valley-water-district-3-2-million-to-provide-some-big-basin-customers-relief/>

Santa Cruz Sentinel “Main Beach’s notorious lagoon about to get an upgrade”

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2021/11/21/main-beachs-notorious-lagoon-about-to-get-an-upgrade/>

K. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Relationship between growth and water demand.
2. Presentation about the Regional Water Management Foundation.
3. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

L. ADJOURNMENT 6:00



County of Santa Cruz

Water Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312 ❖ Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(831) 454-2022 ❖ Fax (831) 454-3128

<https://www.scceh.org/>

Subject: Feb 2, 2022 Water Advisory Commission Agenda Item G.1

Title: SB 552 Compliance Subcommittee Recommendations

Recommended Action:

1. Motion to have the Water Advisory Commission form a Drought Response Working Group (DRWG)
2. Provide input and consensus on DRWG membership and application process
3. Authorize the Chair to submit a written notice to the Board of Supervisors notifying them of the establishment of the subcommittee.

Background

On September 23, 2021, SB 552 was signed into law. SB 552 adds Part 2.56 (Drought Planning for Small Water Suppliers, State Small Water Systems, and Domestic Well Communities) to Division 6 of the Water Code. Chapter 3 states that “a county shall establish a standing county drought and water shortage task force to facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county’s jurisdiction...” Outside agencies and interested parties must be invited to participate. At the December 1, 2021 WAC meeting, the Commission voted to take on the responsibility for implementing SB 552 through the an alternative process and selected a subcommittee of Commissioners Lego, Cheap, and Berry to plan the next steps.

The subcommittee met in January 2022 to outline the best approach for both meeting the regulatory requirements and providing the most benefit to local priorities. The meeting included staff from the Water Resources and Office of Response, Recovery and Resiliency. The primary focus of the meeting was how to approach the development of the required plan for drought and water shortage risk, as outlined in SB 552.

Analysis

The subcommittee has proposed the formation of a new WAC subcommittee called the Water Advisory Commission Drought Response Working Group (DRWG) to provide the input required for the plan. The plan will be incorporated as a chapter into the County’s Climate Action Strategy Update which is currently under development. Once the plan is provided by the DRWG, it will go to the WAC for approval, and then be incorporated into the Climate Action Strategy which will be sent to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.

The subcommittee recommends that the composition of the DRWG be as follows:

- Three Water Advisory Commissioners including the at-large Small Water System representative.

- A representative from PV Water
- A representative from the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency, with preference given to a Private Well Owner Representative.
- A representative from the Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency, with preference given to a Private Well Owner Representative.
- An environmental justice representative (for example, the Community Water Center)
- An at-large environmental community representative
- An at-large public representative, with priority given to a well owner of small water system customer or operator in an area not covered by a groundwater sustainability agency.

In addition to the DRWG members, other experts would be invited to provide input on specific topics.

Outcome

The work of the DRWG will be centered around three primary topics which will be included in the Climate Action Strategy:

(1) Small Water System Evaluation and Regulatory Compliance Challenges

- Identify small water systems who are struggling to meet current water supply demands, particularly during drought, or will be challenged in meeting SB 552 requirements.
- Recommend Small Water System Ordinance update:
 - Compliance with GSA regulations
 - Compliance with SB 552 regulations
- Fiscal Planning, Resilience, and Assistance

(2) Domestic Well Drinking Water Resiliency

- Focus on areas that are struggling with water supply
 - Try to find funding/assistance.
 - Better data collection.
- Include fire suppression standards
- Guidance on the use of anticipated drought response grant funds
- Recommend update County forms and processes
- Well Water Ordinance update recommendations

(3) Provision of Emergency and Interim Drinking Water Solutions

- Intersection with OR3 and determining what process is the most efficient to ensure speedy response in the face of urgent drinking water shortages.
- Protective/preventative measures
- Expand topic to wildfire/earthquake/land sliding/flood in addition to drought
- Vulnerability assessments (pipes/infrastructure)
- Create MOUs with water supply agencies to provide water to rural communities in the event of a disaster – easier to reimburse an agency than a private well trucker. Similar model for the larger mutuals.

The first meeting of the DRWG would likely have to take place in April 2022 to allow time for the selection of at-large and GSA representatives. In order to align with the Climate Adaptation Planning process, the draft plan should be completed by August, with a final submitted in December 2022. The participating Water Advisory Commissioners will work with staff to recruit and select DRWG members, create an outline of meeting topics and expected outcomes, review agendas in advance of meetings, and participate in the writing and editing of the plan itself.



By: _____

Sierra Ryan
Water Resources Manager



County of Santa Cruz

Water Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312 ❖ Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(831) 454-2022 ❖ Fax (831) 454-3128

<https://scceh.com/Home/Programs/WaterResources/WaterAdvisoryCommission.aspx>

2022 -2023 Work Plan

DRAFT – January 2022

OVERVIEW

Consistent with its bylaws, the Water Advisory Commission (WAC) will focus on priority water resource related issues, policies and projects, with the intent of taking one or more of the following actions:

- Advise the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on issues related to water resources.
- Work cooperatively with county departments, other county commissions, public and private agencies, and concerned members of the public, to formulate advice to the BOS.
- Serve as an information clearinghouse to the BOS and other County commissions.
- Advise the BOS on potential areas of cooperation with other public and private agencies and organizations.
- Provide a public forum to educate the WAC and the community.
- Support the work of County staff in implementing water resource programs.
- Monitor and evaluate implementation of key policies and programs and advise the BOS as needed.
- Proactively identify water resource issues of concern that are not being addressed by other advisory bodies to the BOS.

BACKGROUND

The Water Advisory Commission (Commission) was established in 1975 to serve as a policy advisory body to the Board of Supervisors (Board) on issues relating to the use and protection of the county's water resources. The Commission consists of seven members, five of whom are concerned citizens appointed by individual supervisors and two that are appointed at large. The two at large positions represent public water purveyors (200 or more connections) and private or mutual water companies (five to 199 connections) in the County. The Environmental Health Services (EHS) Division of the Health Services Agency provides staff support for the Commission. In August 2021, Sierra Ryan, Water Resources Manager, is serving as lead staff.

Staffing, funding, and other resources available to the Commission necessarily limit the duties and responsibilities of the Commission. Therefore, the Commission utilizes discretion in devoting time to those activities that are most important to achieving its overall goal of

enhancing and preserving Santa Cruz County water resources. County departments (Planning, EHS, and Public Works (DPW) will assist the Commission in its work, by including the Commission in water related correspondence, and by having staff provide timely oral reports on pending issues. For more information about the Commission visit its webpage:

<https://sceh.com/Home/Programs/WaterResources/WaterAdvisoryCommission.aspx>

PRIORITY ISSUES

1. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Background

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), codified at Water Code §§10720 et seq., requires that groundwater basins form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) by 2015 and develop and implement plans to achieve sustainability. Santa Cruz County includes several groundwater basins as identified by the California Department of Water Resources, some of which are high priority and managed; others are low priority and not managed, [click here for a map viewer](#). Groundwater basins in the county managed by a GSA include the Santa Margarita Basin, the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin, and the Corralitos Basin.

From north to south, the three GSAs that exist within the County are: the [Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency](#) (est. 2015), the [Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency](#) (est. 2015), and the [Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency](#) (est. 1984). The County, while not a water purveyor, is involved in each of the three GSAs, either directly via a joint powers authority, or indirectly by means of committee-level participation. The County has the responsibility of reviewing and approving well permit applications, and many domestic wells as well as small state systems are located in unincorporated Santa Cruz County.

SGMA defines a sustainable groundwater basin as one that is not experiencing:

- Significant and unreasonable chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a depletion of supply
- Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage
- Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion
- Significant and unreasonable degradation of groundwater quality
- Significant and unreasonable land subsidence
- Depletions of interconnected surface water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water

WAC Role

The WAC should maintain a focus on the issues of sustainable groundwater management, support regional supply planning efforts (especially in regard to developing conjunctive use and groundwater recharge opportunities), proactively engage the BOS in advancing support for sustainable regional water supply alternatives as they emerge, and advise the BOS as appropriate. The WAC should receive, review, and potentially accept regular reports from County staff and/or representatives from GSAs and the water purveyors within the County.

2. DROUGHT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON WATER RESOURCES

Background

[California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment, Central Coast Region Report](#) (Langridge, 2018) states, *“The Central Coast Region is notable for its extensive natural ecosystems, many of which will be impacted by climate change. Hardwood forests, scrublands, and herbaceous grasslands comprise most of its land cover, with significantly less intensive agriculture and small-to medium-sized cities in the region. There is a strong demand for development in rural areas and agriculture is being developed on lands formerly supporting grazing or natural vegetation. The region continues to reflect an economic and social disconnect between prosperous coastal communities and agricultural areas with many low-income farm workers, inequalities that may result in disadvantaged groups suffering disproportionately from the impacts of climate change.”*

With respect to water resources, the report states that climate changes that will affect the Central Coast include:

- Temperatures, both maximums and minimums, are anticipated to increase through the next century, with greater increases in the inland region.
- Precipitation is expected to increase slightly, but precipitation variability will increase substantially.
- Atmospheric river events are expected to increase.
- Sea level is expected to continue rising.
- Fog impacts are uncertain.
- Droughts are predicted to remain a serious challenge to already stressed water supplies.
- Water supply shortages, already common during drought, will be exacerbated.

In 2020, approximately 275,441 people used 51,593 acre-feet of water (including agricultural uses) within the County. Groundwater accounted for 78% of the total supply, surface water accounted for 19%, and recycled water accounted for 3% ([Santa Cruz County Water Resources Report for 2020](#)). Drought conditions lead to less rainfall, and less groundwater recharge, and result in increased water use. Increased groundwater production may lead to lowering of groundwater levels, increased seawater intrusion, groundwater quality degradation, subsidence, and loss of interconnectivity between surface streams and groundwater dependent ecosystems.

WAC Role

The WAC should maintain a focus on drought and climate change impacts on water resources and receive, review, and potentially accept reports from County staff and/or experts in the field. The WAC should proactively engage with the BOS on issues related to climate change impacts on water resources and advise the BOS.

In response to SB 552, signed into law in September 2021, the WAC voted to assume the responsibility of oversight of the County's approach to compliance. The WAC will form a

Drought Response Working Group which will be charged with preparing a plan for drought and water shortage risks and will include the following 5 elements at minimum:

- (1) Consolidations for existing water systems and domestic wells.
- (2) Domestic well drinking water mitigation programs.
- (3) Provision of emergency and interim drinking water solutions.
- (4) An analysis of the steps necessary to implement the plan.
- (5) An analysis of local, state, and federal funding sources available to implement the plan

3. PAJARO RIVER FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

Background

The Pajaro Flood Risk Reduction Project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1966 following overtopping and failure in 1955 of the original Army Corps levees built in 1949. The two local sponsors, the Zone 7 Flood Control District of Santa Cruz County and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, have been working with the Corps since 1966 to develop a preferred alternative and to finalize environmental review on an improved levee system that will more adequately address flooding in the lower Pajaro River system (including Salsipuedes Creek). In 2021, the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency (PRFMA), the “local sponsors,” formed to plan, finance and implement projects and programs to reduce flood risk from the lower Pajaro River and its tributaries in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. The PRFMA is a joint powers authority of the County of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation Zone No. 7, the County of Monterey, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, and the City of Watsonville.

WAC Role

The WAC should keep informed of the ongoing work of the PRFMA; receive, review, and potentially accept reports from County staff and/or PRFMA; and provide a recommendation to the BOS regarding adoption of a final plan/project alternative that supports improved watershed functions as well as provisions of adequate flood protection.

4. KARST PROTECTION ZONE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Background

County codes have not historically provided protection for karst-derived water resources. These resources are disproportionately important for support of both municipal water supply and cold water fisheries (including coho and steelhead) and, due to their unique geology, are both limited in geographic scope and highly subject to degradation by anthropogenic disturbance.

In 2016, the BOS directed County departments to incorporate karst-protective language into future updates of their respective ordinances and policies. Environmental Health Services initiated updates of their onsite wastewater disposal ordinance, with such language in 2018, and Planning incorporated karst-protective standards in the commercial cannabis cultivation and manufacturing policies, also in 2018.

WAC Role

Review of geologic mapping to determine priority focus areas, periodic review of the status of policy and ordinance updates by County departments, review of the specific details of these changes and subsequent follow up with the BOS as appropriate, should be an ongoing focus for the WAC on this issue. Specifically, the WAC may advocate for protection of key karst zones in future General Plan updates.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND CODE COMPLIANCE PERFORMANCEBackground

The WAC has been aware that enforcement of County environmental and resource protection codes (Title 16) has been inconsistent. Due to the dynamics of staffing, the pre-existing historic, non-conforming development that dominates most watersheds in the County, population pressure and other challenges, implementation of these codes is challenging. Given the presence of special status listed species (e.g. steelhead and coho) in County streams, effective implementation of these codes is a high priority.

WAC Role

The WAC should continue to support these efforts. Specifically, the WAC may ask Planning to provide an annual update on code compliance program functions, advocate to the District Attorney's office their support for pursuit of prosecution of egregious violations, evaluate the future role of the County in timber harvest review, and consider how they can support implementation of the Riparian Conservation Program (RCP) in the San Lorenzo River watershed as well as other watersheds throughout the County.

6. OTHER ISSUES AS NEEDED (TBD)Background

The WAC occasionally becomes aware of issues that warrant investigation and interaction with the BOS regarding County policy. While many of these issues fall within broader subject areas already on the WAC agenda, other issues may arise that are outside of the WAC's current scope.

WAC Role

While the County is well supported by knowledgeable policy-makers and other water stakeholder groups that can inform the BOS, the WAC is the only advisory body specifically focused on water resource management, as enabled by County code, and should maintain and strengthen that role with the BOS as much as possible. These somewhat urgent, new issues are not unusual, and maintaining the ability to respond to them in a timely manner is of great importance to the WAC. The meeting frequency of the BOS and WAC often limits the opportunity for timely engagement on new issues, but the WAC should endeavor to maintain involvement in them, nonetheless. Specifically, the WAC should exercise the option to hold emergency meetings to address issues like this as they arise.

7. COORDINATION WITH OTHER COUNTY COMMISSIONS

Background

In 2014, discussion was initiated between three County commissions (Commission on the Environment (COE), Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (FWAC) and Water Advisory Commission (WAC)) that have significant overlap in their scopes regarding protection of water resources and related environmental issues. The Inter-Commission Coordination Working Group (ICCWG) was formed in an attempt to clarify the distinct and shared areas of focus of each commission.

WAC Role

Developing the three commissions' alignment around positions on water resource management issues and identifying and maintaining discrete roles of the commissions respective to their particular subject matter expertise and bylaws should continue to be the focus of this work. The WAC should continue to participate in the ICCWG and joint commission meetings, focus on resolving joint strategies on issues that require coordination with other commissions, reduce redundancy in effort and find synergies with these other commissions' work where possible. This will ensure that the BOS is kept apprised of significant water resource management issues in a meaningful manner that is inclusive of other related significant issues the County currently faces (fisheries conservation and recovery, climate change adaptation, etc.)



County of Santa Cruz

Water Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312 ❖ Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(831) 454-2022 ❖ Fax (831) 454-3128

<https://sceh.com/Home/Programs/WaterResources/WaterAdvisoryCommission.aspx>

2022 -2023 Work Plan

DRAFT – January 2022

OVERVIEW

Consistent with its by-laws, the Water Advisory Commission (WAC) will focus on priority water resource related issues, policies and projects, with the intent of taking one or more of the following actions:

- Advise the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on issues related to water resources.
- Work cooperatively with county departments, other county commissions, -public and private agencies, and concerned members of the public, to formulate advice to the BOS.
- Serve as an information clearinghouse to the BOS and other County commissions.
- Advise the BOS on potential areas of cooperation with other public and private agencies and organizations.
- Provide a public forum to educate the WAC and the community.
- Support the work of County staff in implementing water resource programs.
- Monitor and evaluate implementation of key policies and programs and advise the BOS as needed.
- Proactively identify water resource issues of concern that are not being addressed by other advisory bodies to the BOS.

BACKGROUND

The Water Advisory Commission (Commission) was established in 1975 to serve as a policy advisory body to the Board of Supervisors (Board) on issues relating to the use and protection of the county's water resources. The Commission consists of seven members, five of whom are concerned citizens appointed by individual supervisors and two that are appointed at large. The two at large positions represent public water purveyors (200 or more connections) and private or mutual water companies (five to 199 connections) in the County. The Environmental Health Services (EHS) Division of the Health Services Agency provides staff support for the Commission. In August 2021, Sierra Ryan, Water Resources Manager, is serving as lead staff.

Staffing, funding, and other resources available to the Commission necessarily limit the duties and responsibilities of the Commission. Therefore, the Commission utilizes discretion in devoting time to those activities that are most important to achieving its overall goal of

enhancing and preserving Santa Cruz County water resources. County departments (Planning, EHS, and Public Works (DPW) will assist the Commission in its work, by including the Commission in water related correspondence, and by having staff provide timely oral reports on pending issues. For more information about the Commission visit its webpage:

<https://sceh.com/Home/Programs/WaterResources/WaterAdvisoryCommission.aspx>

PRIORITY ISSUES

1. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Background

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), codified at Water Code §§10720 et seq., requires that groundwater basins form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) by 2015 and develop and implement plans to achieve sustainability. Santa Cruz County includes several groundwater basins as identified by the California Department of Water Resources, some of which are high priority and managed; others- are low priority and not managed, [click here for a map viewer](#). Groundwater basins in the county managed by a GSA include the Santa Margarita Basin, the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin, and the Corralitos Basin.

–From north to south, the three GSAs that exist within the County are: the [Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency](#) (est. 2015), the [Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency](#) (est. 2015), and the [Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency](#) (est. 1984). The County, while not a water purveyor, is involved in each of the three GSAs, either directly via a joint powers authority, or indirectly by means of committee-level participation. The County has the responsibility of reviewing and approving well permit applications, and many domestic wells as well as small state systems are located in unincorporated Santa Cruz County.

SGMA defines a sustainable groundwater basin as one that is not experiencing:

- Significant and unreasonable chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a depletion of supply
- Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage
- Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion
- Significant and unreasonable degradation of groundwater quality
- Significant and unreasonable land subsidence
- Depletions of interconnected surface water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water

WAC Role

The WAC should maintain a focus on the issues of sustainable groundwater management, support regional supply planning efforts (especially in regard to developing conjunctive use and groundwater recharge opportunities), proactively engage the BOS in advancing support for sustainable regional water supply alternatives as they emerge, and advise the BOS as appropriate. The WAC should receive, review, and potentially accept regular reports from County staff and/or representatives from GSAs and the water purveyors within the County.

2. DROUGHT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON WATER RESOURCES

Background

[California’s Fourth Climate Change Assessment, Central Coast Region Report](#) (Langridge, 2018) states, “*The Central Coast Region is notable for its extensive natural ecosystems, many of which will be impacted by climate change. Hardwood forests, scrublands, and herbaceous grasslands comprise most of its land cover, with significantly less intensive agriculture and small-to medium-sized cities in the region. There is a strong demand for development in rural areas and agriculture is being developed on lands formerly supporting grazing or natural vegetation. The region continues to reflect an economic and social disconnect between prosperous coastal communities and agricultural areas with many low-income farm workers, inequalities that may result in disadvantaged groups suffering disproportionately from the impacts of climate change.*”

With respect to water resources, the report states that climate changes that will affect the Central Coast include:

- Temperatures, both maximums and minimums, are anticipated to increase through the next century, with greater increases in the inland region.
- Precipitation is expected to increase slightly, but precipitation variability will increase substantially.
- Atmospheric river events are expected to increase.
- Sea level is expected to continue rising.
- Fog impacts are uncertain.
- Droughts are predicted to remain a serious challenge to already stressed water supplies.
- Water supply shortages, already common during drought, will be exacerbated.

In 2020, approximately 275,441 people used 51,593 acre-feet of water (including agricultural uses) within the County. Groundwater accounted for 78% of the total supply, surface water accounted for 19%, and recycled water accounted for 3% ([Santa Cruz County Water Resources Report for 2020](#)). Drought conditions lead to less rainfall, and less groundwater recharge, and result in increased water use. Increased groundwater production may lead to lowering of groundwater levels, increased seawater intrusion, groundwater quality degradation, subsidence, and loss of interconnectivity between surface streams and groundwater dependent ecosystems.

WAC Role

The WAC should maintain a focus on drought and climate change impacts on water resources and receive, review, and potentially accept reports from County staff and/or experts in the field. The WAC should proactively engage with the BOS on issues related to climate change impacts on water resources and advise the BOS.

In response to SB 552, signed into law in September 2021, the WAC ~~could form a Drought Task Force subcommittee, the composition of which would be determined by the WAC but~~

~~which may include WAC Commissioners, outside experts, and potentially others voted to assume the responsibility of oversight of the County's approach to compliance. The WAC will form a Drought Response Working Group. The subcommittee would which will~~ be charged with preparing a plan for drought and water shortage risks and will include the following 5 elements at minimum:

- (1) Consolidations for existing water systems and domestic wells.
- (2) Domestic well drinking water mitigation programs.
- (3) Provision of emergency and interim drinking water solutions.
- (4) An analysis of the steps necessary to implement the plan.
- (5) An analysis of local, state, and federal funding sources available to implement the plan

3. PAJARO RIVER FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

Background

The Pajaro Flood Risk Reduction Project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1966 following overtopping and failure in 1955 of the original Army Corps levees built in 1949. The two local sponsors, the Zone 7 Flood Control District of Santa Cruz County and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, have been working with the Corps since 1966 to develop a preferred alternative and to finalize environmental review on an improved levee system that will more adequately address flooding in the lower Pajaro River system (including Salsipuedes Creek). In 2021, the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency (PRFMA), the "local sponsors," formed to plan, finance and implement projects and programs to reduce flood risk from the lower Pajaro River and its tributaries in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. The PRFMA is a joint powers authority of the County of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation Zone No. 7, the County of Monterey, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, and the City of Watsonville.

WAC Role

The WAC should keep informed of the ongoing work of the PRFMA; receive, review, and potentially accept reports from County staff and/or PRFMA; and provide a recommendation to the BOS regarding adoption of a final plan/project alternative that supports improved watershed functions as well as provisions of adequate flood protection.

4. KARST PROTECTION ZONE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Background

County codes have not historically provided protection for karst-derived water resources. These resources are disproportionately important for support of both municipal water supply and cold water fisheries (including coho and steelhead) and, due to their unique geology, are both limited in geographic scope and highly subject to degradation by anthropogenic disturbance.

In 2016, the BOS directed County departments to incorporate karst-protective language into future updates of their respective ordinances and policies. Environmental Health Services

initiated updates of their onsite wastewater disposal ordinance, with such language in 2018, and Planning incorporated karst-protective standards in the commercial cannabis cultivation and manufacturing policies, also in 2018.

WAC Role

Review of geologic mapping to determine priority focus areas, periodic review of the status of policy and ordinance updates by County departments, review of the specific details of these changes and subsequent follow up with the BOS as appropriate, should be an ongoing focus for the WAC on this issue. Specifically, the WAC may advocate for protection of key karst zones in future General Plan updates.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND CODE COMPLIANCE PERFORMANCE

Background

The WAC has been aware that enforcement of County environmental and resource protection codes (Title 16) has been inconsistent. Due to the dynamics of staffing, the pre-existing historic, non-conforming development that dominates most watersheds in the County, population pressure and other challenges, implementation of these codes is challenging. Given the presence of special status listed species (e.g. steelhead and coho) in County streams, effective implementation of these codes is a high priority.

WAC Role

The WAC should continue to support these efforts. Specifically, the WAC may ask Planning to provide an annual update on code compliance program functions, advocate to the District Attorney's office their support for pursuit of prosecution of egregious violations, evaluate the future role of the County in timber harvest review, and consider how they can support implementation of the [Riparian Conservation Program \(RCP\)](#) in the San Lorenzo River watershed as well as other watersheds throughout the County.

6. OTHER ISSUES AS NEEDED (TBD)

Background

The WAC occasionally becomes aware of issues that warrant investigation and interaction with the BOS regarding County policy. While many of these issues fall within broader subject areas already on the WAC agenda, other issues may arise that are outside of the WAC's current scope.

WAC Role

While the County is well supported by knowledgeable policy-makers and other water stakeholder groups that can inform the BOS, the WAC is the only advisory body specifically focused on water resource management, as enabled by County code, and should maintain and strengthen that role with the BOS as much as possible. These ~~kind of~~ somewhat urgent, new issues are not unusual, and maintaining the ability to respond to them in a timely manner is of great importance to the WAC. The meeting frequency of the BOS and WAC often limits the opportunity for timely engagement on new issues, but the WAC should endeavor to maintain

involvement in them, nonetheless. Specifically, the WAC should exercise the option to hold emergency meetings to address issues like this as they arise.

7. COORDINATION WITH OTHER COUNTY COMMISSIONS

Background

In 2014, discussion was initiated between three County commissions (Commission on the Environment (COE), Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (FWAC) and Water Advisory Commission (WAC)) that have significant overlap in their scopes regarding protection of water resources and related environmental issues. The Inter-Commission Coordination Working Group (ICCWG) was formed in an attempt to clarify the distinct and shared areas of focus of each commission.

WAC Role

Developing the three commissions' alignment around positions on water resource management issues and identifying and maintaining discrete roles of the commissions respective to their particular subject matter expertise and bylaws should continue to be the focus of this work. The WAC should continue to participate in the ICCWG and joint commission meetings, focus on resolving joint strategies on issues that require coordination with other commissions, reduce redundancy in effort and find synergies with these other commissions' work where possible. This will ensure that the BOS is kept apprised of significant water resource management issues in a meaningful manner that is inclusive of other related significant issues the County currently faces (fisheries conservation and recovery, climate change adaptation, etc.)



County of Santa Cruz

Water Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312 ❖ Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(831) 454-2022 ❖ Fax (831) 454-3128

<https://scceh.com/Home/Programs/WaterResources/WaterAdvisoryCommission.aspx>

Process for Revising WAC Work Plan

Purpose and Process:

The Santa Cruz County Water Advisory Commission (WAC) Work Plan should be reviewed annually, and revised biannually to incorporate relevant and emerging issues in order to maintain the Commission's effectiveness as a public forum, as an advisory body to the Board, and as a supporter of County staff efforts.

Given resource constraints of County staff, an individual or party proposing revisions to the Work Plan will be responsible for developing a brief summary on the topic of interest by answering the questions below. This process also applies to the WAC advising the BOS on pending state and federal legislation.

Questions for New Issues/Topics/Pending Legislation:

(1-2 sentence answers are sufficient.)

- (1) Who are the proposing parties? (Example: County Supervisor, WAC Commissioner, County staff or at the request of another advisory body.)
- (2) Provide a brief description of the issue/topic/pending legislation. (Optional - Provide the executive summary and analysis written by the independent state or federal legislative analyst.)
- (3) What is the envisioned action that the proposing party requests from the WAC? (See page two for guidance.)
- (4) Is there another BOS advisory body taking the topic under consideration? If so, how do you envision coordination between the WAC and that advisory body?
- (5) Who will be the primary party handling the detailed research and analysis (if needed) in order for the WAC to discuss and take action?
- (6) How do you propose the WAC fit the topic into the time constraints of six annual WAC meetings given the existing workload?
- (7) Do you have other specific recommendations to make to the WAC?

**Possible WAC Actions/Roles/Points of Influence:
(From the draft Work Plan)**

Consistent with its by-laws, the WAC will focus on priority environmental issues, policies and projects, with the intent of taking one or more of the following actions:

- Advise the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on issues related to water resources.
- Work cooperatively with county departments, other county commissions, public and private agencies, and concerned members of the public, to formulate advice to the BOS.
- Serve as an information clearinghouse to the BOS and other County commissions.
- Advise the BOS on potential areas of cooperation with other public and private agencies and organizations.
- Provide a public forum to educate the WAC and the community.
- Support the work of County staff in implementing water resource programs.
- Monitor and evaluate implementation of key policies and programs and advise the BOS as needed.
- Proactively identify water resource issues of concern that are not being addressed by other advisory bodies to the BOS.

Draft, January 24, 2022



County of Santa Cruz Water Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312 ❖ Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2022 ❖ Fax (831) 454-3128

scceh.com/Home/Programs/WaterResources/WaterAdvisoryCommission.aspx

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION 2020-2021 BIENNIAL REPORT

This report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the Santa Cruz County Water Advisory Commission (Commission) during 2020 and 2021.

ROLES OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Commission was established in 1975 to serve as a policy advisory body to the Board of Supervisors (Board) on issues relating to the use and protection of the county's water resources. The roles of the Commission, as outlined in its bylaws, are as follows:

1. Advise the Board on all policy issues impacting water resources in Santa Cruz County, including but not limited to the following categories:
 - a. Water quality and conservation.
 - b. Water supply development, storage and distribution.
 - c. Forestry and watershed management.
 - d. Preservation of fish, wildlife, and riparian habitat.
 - e. Groundwater extraction.
 - f. On-site sewage disposal systems.
 - g. Recreation.
 - h. Water reclamation.
 - i. Public health and safety.
 - j. Monterey Bay preservation.
 - k. Local agency water management plans.
 - l. Water resource development proposals.
 - m. Santa Cruz County Water Master Plan/General Plan.
 - n. County ordinances, and departmental policies and regulations.

2. Staffing, funding, and other resources available to the Commission necessarily limit the duties and responsibilities outlined above. Therefore, the Commission will utilize discretion in devoting time to those activities that are most important to achieving its overall goal of enhancing and preserving Santa Cruz County water resources. County departments (Planning, HSA-Environmental Health (EH), and Public Works (DPW)) will assist the Commission in its work, by including the Commission in water related correspondence, and by having staff provide timely oral reports on pending issues.

MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION

In 2020-21 meetings were generally held from 4-6 pm on the first Wednesday of even numbered months, with meetings cancelled or rescheduled depending on special circumstances. In particular, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic several meetings were cancelled as remote participation was not readily available. Since March 2020, all meetings have been held remotely. Agendas are posted at least five days in advance of meetings, and are distributed electronically to local water districts and interested persons. Agendas and attachments are

posted on the County website:
<http://scceh.com/Home/Programs/WaterResources/WaterAdvisoryCommission.aspx>

COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Commission consists of seven members, five of whom are concerned citizens nominated by individual supervisors and two that are appointed at-large. The two at-large positions represent public water purveyors and private or mutual water companies in the county. From the beginning of 2020, Cherie Bobbe served as Chair and Chris Berry served as Vice-Chair. In February 2021, Brian Lockwood was elected to serve as Chair and Chris Berry to continue to serve as Vice-Chair.

Membership during 2020-2021 was as follows:

1st District: Cherie Bobbe until February 2021; Frank Cheap appointed April 2021
2nd District: Carol Hamilton-Monkerud until May 2021; Ray Pereyra appointed August 2021
3rd District: Linda Wilson
4th District: Brian Lockwood
5th District: Bryan Largay
Public Water: Chris Berry-City of Santa Cruz Water Dept.
Mutual Water: Owen Sharp, San Andreas Mutual Water Company until April 2021; Paul Lego, San Andreas Mutual Water Company appointed May 2021

COMMISSION STAFF

John Ricker, the Water Resources Division Director in the EH division of the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, served as administrative secretary to the Commission throughout 2020; Sierra Ryan, the Water Resources Program Manager, took over the role upon his retirement staffing every meeting from February 2021 onwards.

ATTENDANCE

2020	1ST DISTRICT	2ND DISTRICT	3RD DISTRICT	4TH DISTRICT	5TH DISTRICT	PUBLIC WATER	SMALL SYSTEMS
	BOBBE	HAMILTON-MONKERUD	WILSON	LOCKWOOD	LARGAY	BERRY	SHARP
Feb. 5, 2020	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Apr. 1, 2020	Meeting cancelled due to COVID						
Jun 3, 2020	Meeting cancelled due to COVID						
Aug 5, 2020	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Oct. 7, 2020	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
Dec. 16, 2020	E	P	P	P	P	P	P

2021	1ST DISTRICT	1ST DISTRICT	2ND DISTRICT	2ND DISTRICT	3RD DISTRICT	4TH DISTRICT	5TH DISTRICT	PUBLIC WATER	SMALL SYSTEMS	SMALL SYSTEMS

	BOBBE	CHEAP	HAMILTON-MONKERUD	PEREYRA	WILSON	LOCKWOOD	LARGAY	BERRY	SHARP	LEGO
Feb. 3, 2021	P		P		P	P	P	P	P	
April 7, 2021		*	P		P	P	E	P	P	*
June 2, 2021		P			P	P	P	P		P
Aug. 4, 2021		P		*	P	P	A	P		P
Oct. 6, 2021		P		P	P	P	P	P		E
Dec. 1, 2021		P		P	P	P	P	P		P

P – Indicates attendance at that meeting, E – Excused from Meeting, A – Absent from meeting

* - Present but not formally appointed to the Commission yet

Membership Notes:

April 13, 2021: Frank Cheap appointed as first District Representative

May 18, 2021: Paul Lego appointed as the At-Large Representative of private or mutual water companies

August 10, 2021: Ray Pereyra appointed as 2nd District Representative

GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

All information regarding the Commission activities is available on the internet. The website facilitates data access and makes the Commission’s work more available to the public. The Commission website address is:

<http://sceh.com/Home/Programs/WaterResources/WaterAdvisoryCommission.aspx>

In addition to preparing an agenda and minutes from the previous meeting, staff regularly includes pertinent water related articles in the Commission agenda packets to stimulate discussion on related topics.

Listed below are the principal issues and events that were discussed by the Commission during the past two years:

1. Update on County Water Resources Management Efforts

- Annual Water Resources Reports to Board of Supervisors
- Drought Response
- Updates to County Septic System Ordinance and Management Program

2. Pajaro Valley Water Management Issues

- The Pajaro River flood control project
- Managed Aquifer Recharge
- Basin Management Plan Update and Implementation, including the 5-year update to the alternate Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- Extension of recycled water pipeline along San Andreas Road
- College Lake Project and EIR
- Watsonville Sloughs Project and EIR

3. Santa Margarita Groundwater Issues

- Development and adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

4. Mid-County Water Issues

- Implementation of Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Plan

- Status of water supply projects
- Relationships between groundwater, groundwater dependent ecosystems, streamflow, and fish

5. Coordination with Commission on the Environment and Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

- Ongoing subcommittee to discuss coordination of effort with COE and Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

6. Senate Bill 552 Compliance

- The WAC has taken responsibility for compliance of SB 552 including drought response activities and related planning.

7. Water Advisory Commission Role and Work Program

- Periodic reports and discussion form a subcommittee to look at projects and priorities for the Commission and report back to the Commission.
- Determined to streamline the agenda, and consolidate and reduce topics for routine consideration. Commissioners volunteered to be responsible for specific topic areas, to investigate and bring information back to the commission

8. Additional Significant Items

- In addition to the list of principle issues discussed above, the Commission also discussed or followed the progress of the following issues and ongoing projects:
 - Presentations by County Water Resources staff on programs they oversee
 - Commissioners were regularly updated on actions taken by the Board on items that affect water supply, water quality, fisheries and riparian habitat protection, groundwater recharge, flood control, drainage, reclaimed wastewater and other related issues.

FUTURE GOALS

In the coming years the Commission will be following-up on current endeavors. These endeavors include oversight of SB 552 implementation, commenting on and providing recommendations to the Board on County Water Resource efforts, and staying abreast of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation and water supply projects. The Commission intends to continue its trend of soliciting information from various individuals and agencies as this information relates to water resources in the county. As always, the Commission will continue to evaluate important issues affecting the County's water resources, respond to requests by the Board and the public, and make timely recommendations on both policy and other appropriate matters.

Prepared by:

Sierra Ryan
Administrative Staff, Water Advisory Commission