

Santa Cruz County Water Advisory Commission

Work Plan Subcommittee Report

August 4, 2021

Water Advisory Commission

Powers and Duties

2.96.060 Powers and duties.

The Commission shall advise the Board of Supervisors on all matters relating to water policy. The Commission shall also recommend policies to the Board of Supervisors to ensure that the production of water and the development of additional water supplies are consistent with the growth management program and the General Plan of Santa Cruz County. In addition, the Commission shall recommend to the Board of Supervisors any policies necessary to protect the watersheds, groundwater, fish and wildlife, and recreational resources of Santa Cruz County. The Commission shall also undertake other duties relating to water resources, as requested by the Board of Supervisors. [Ord. 5278 § 25, 2018; Ord. 3372 § 1, 1983; Ord. 2111, 1975; prior code § 3.19.020].

<https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaCruzCounty/#!/SantaCruzCounty02/SantaCruzCounty0296.html>

Water Advisory Commission Work Plan

Draft Work Plan Items, December 2018

- Soquel/Santa Cruz Supply Development - Mid-County Groundwater Management
- Pajaro Groundwater Management
- Santa Margarita Groundwater Management
- County Environmental Planning and Code Compliance Performance
- Karst Protection Zone Program Development
- Pajaro River Flood Control
- Others as needed (TBD)

Inter-Commission Coordination Working Group

Participating Commissions

- Commission on the Environment (COE)
- Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (FWAC)
- Water Advisory Commission (WAC)

Focus Areas as of 2014

- Soquel/Santa Cruz Supply Development — Mid-County Groundwater Management
- Pajaro Groundwater Management
- Santa Margarita Groundwater Management
- County Environmental Planning and Code Compliance Performance
- Karst Protection Zone Program Development
- Pajaro River Flood Control
- Others as needed
- Coordination with other Commissions
 - Code Compliance, Drought Response, Coho recovery, Cannabis cultivation, San Lorenzo River Alliance
 - Others as needed

Work Plan Subcommittee Discussion

Subcommittee's Perception of Duties (e.g. Roll of Commission)

- “Advise Board of Supervisors on all matters relating to water policy” including but not limited to (in no particular order):
 - Sustainable Water Management (Quantity & Quality)
 - Climate Change
 - Drought
 - Development / Housing / Homeless Issues
 - Human Right to Water Bill (AB 685)
 - Riparian Corridors
 - Well Ordinance
 - Karst Zone Protection
 - Other (to be determined)
- Serve as Hub / Clearing House for Regional Water Related Activities
- Be Actionable & Be Informed

Work Plan Subcommittee Discussion (cont.)

Work Plan Update Issues to Address

- Water Supply
 - Groundwater
 - Surface Water
 - Alternative Sources of Water (i.e. Recycled Water, Desalinated Water, Flood Water)
- Water Quality
 - Point Source Threats
 - Non-Point Source Threats
- Water Agency Reporting
 - Who
 - Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
 - Municipalities
 - Small Water Systems
 - Rural Residential Well Owners
 - When
 - Quarterly / Semi-Annually / Annually?
 - By Rotation (i.e. one group per meeting)

Discussion