



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
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FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION Report for Calendar Years 2017 and 2018

Roles of the Commission

The Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (Commission) advises the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors (Board) on issues relating to fish and wildlife, and also recommends projects for funding with the County's portion of Fish and Game Code fine monies and judgments.

Meeting Dates, Time and Location

The Commission meets generally six times a year in March, May, June, September, November and December at 7:00 pm in the Fifth Floor Redwood Conference Room, Room 520, at 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz.

Commission Structure

As of December 31, 2018, the Commission consists of Chairperson Chris Berry, representing the 1st District, and Vice Chair Jodi Frediani, representing the 3rd District. Other commissioners include Lois Robin, 1st District; Rogers Johnson and Sandra Baron, 2nd District; Kristen Lee, 3rd District; Mathew Wise and Samuel Cooley, 4th District; Matt Freeman and Ross Parmenter, 5th District.

Commission Staff

Kristen Kittleson, Resource Planner with Environmental Health, is the administrative staff to the Commission.

Annual Goals and Accomplishments – 2017 and 2018

Over 2017 and 2018, the Commission considered and made recommendations regarding a range of topics including cannabis Cultivation, coho and steelhead conservation, riparian habitats, climate change and federal regulations affecting the environment. The Commission followed closely the County's development of a Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance and discussed this issue at several meetings and submitted two comment letters to the Board. The Commission also commented on the County's Strategic Plan and the importance of water resources to our community and aquatic ecosystems.

The Commission continues to follow steelhead and coho salmon recovery efforts. Over the past two years, the Commission has heard a presentation by Dr. Kiernan, National Marine Fisheries

Service about coho conservation, by Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project about conservation efforts and by the County's fishery resource planner on the Juvenile Steelhead and Stream Habitat Monitoring Program.

In September 2017, the FWAC participated in a joint meeting with the Water Advisory Commission and Commission on the Environment on the County's Climate Action Strategy and other approaches to address Climate Change Adaption.

In 2017, the Commission recommended \$15,000 in funding for 9 projects that included transportation for O'Neill Sea Odyssey stewards, California Turn In Poachers program, wildlife rescue, Invasive Weed Management and several outreach projects for snowy plovers, marine conservation, winter preparedness and watershed conservation.

In 2018, the Commission recommended \$12,445 in funding for six projects that included teacher training and equipment for the Classroom Aquarium Education Program, student education and trash removal on Scotts Creek beach, transportation for students attending O'Neill Sea Odyssey program, wildlife rehabilitation, Scotts Creek hydrology study and ivy removal at a Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander Ecological Reserve.

Over 2017 and 2018, fines and settlements deposited into the Fish and Game Propagation Fund dropped off significantly and the Commission suspended the Public Grants Program for the 2018-19 fiscal year. The Commission is collecting information about the financial situation but hopes to solicit proposals for the Public Grants Program for fiscal year 2019-20. This is an important funding source that supports local conservation organizations with small projects and outreach programs.

Additional Activities

The Commission provides a forum for members of the public to voice concerns or issues on fish and wildlife related issues. In the past two years, the Commission heard public comments about cannabis cultivation, low-flow fishing regulations, the Highway 1 bridge at Scotts Creek, riparian conservation, the Significant Tree Ordinance and wildlife preparedness. In 2018, the Commission updated their public comment policy to encourage more public participation on agenda topics and to clarify how to submit those comments.

Future Goals

The Commission scheduled 8 meetings for 2018 to allow more time to address a wide range of topics including funding for the Public Grants Program, PG & E's Community Wildlife Safety Program, CDFW's low flow fishing regulations, 40 years of San Lorenzo watershed management, land and open space conservation and management, invasive plants, climate change, Pajaro River, impact of crab traps on whales and wildlife. The Commission will continue to follow the implementation of the cannabis cultivation ordinance, coho salmon and steelhead recovery planning, and riparian corridor enhancement. The Commission will continue to provide a forum for public input regarding fish and wildlife issues.

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission Attendance 2017 and 2018

Commissioner	District	Mar '17	May '17	June '17	Sept '17	Nov '17	Dec '17	Mar '18	May '18	June '18	Oct '18	Dec '18
Berry	I	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Robin	I	P	P	P	P	P	P	Ex	P	P	P	P
Johnson	II	P	P	P	Ex	P	Ex	P	P	P	Ab	P
Baron	II	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Frediani	III	Ex	P	P	P	P	P	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	P
Noyes	III	P	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Lee	III	---	---	---	---	P	P	P	P	P	Ab	P
Shikuma	IV	P	P	P	Ex	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Maridon	IV	P	Ex	Ex	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Wise	IV	---	---	---	P	P	P	Ex	Ex	P	P	Ex
Cooley	IV	---	---	---	---	---	---	P	P	Ex	Ex	Ex
Freeman	V	P	Ex	Ex	P	P	P	P	Ex	Ex	P	P
Grant	V	Ab	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Parmenter	V	---	---	---	P	P	P	P	P	Ex	P	Ex

KEY: P = Present Ex= Excused Ab = Absent --- = not on the commission