



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 October 5, 2022, 4pm

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Please see information on meeting access and procedures on the page 4 of the Packet.

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. AB 361 Compliance, authorizing teleconference meeting

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 3, 2022

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Opportunity for the public to comment on items under the purview of the Water Advisory Commission but not on today's agenda.

D. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

E. STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Urgent Drinking Water Grant Program
Water Resources staffing update

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS and UPDATES

1. County Sustainability Plan Update
Informational discussion about the General Plan update, documents available here:
<https://sustainability-update-sccgis.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/scope>
2. SB 552 Compliance Update
Receive the draft *Santa Cruz County Drought Response and Outreach Plan (DROP) for Small Water Systems and Domestic Wells*. Provide the staff with input for incorporation into the final draft, which will go to the Board of Supervisors in December. Materials from past and upcoming meetings can be found at: <https://scceh.com/NewHome/Programs/WaterResources/SenateBill552Compliance.aspx>

Attachment: *Draft Santa Cruz County Drought Response and Outreach Plan (DROP) for Small Water Systems and Domestic Wells*

3. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Update
Oral reports outlining updates from the three GSAs in the County.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

I. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTION ON ITEMS AFFECTING WATER:

[DOC-2022-720 : Ratify grant application to State Water Resources Control Board and California Department of Water Resources for Urgent Drinking Water Need Projects; accept two grant allocations and adopt two resolutions authorizing the County to enter into funding agreements with State Water Resources Control Board in the amount of \\$601,000 and California Department of Water Resources in the amount of \\$113,200; authorize the General Services Department to release Request for Proposals \(RFP\) for emergency Potable Water Hauling Services; direct the Health Services Agency to return with selected vendor\(s\) and contract\(s\) once the RFP process is completed, and take related actions, as recommended by the Director of Health Services](#)

J. ITEMS OF INTEREST

- September 5, 2022 *Las Vegas isn't betting on Mother Nature to solve its water problems. Here's how it intends to win* <https://www.cnn.com/2022/09/05/us/las-vegas-water-conservation-climate/index.html>
- September 19, 2022 *Opinion: The country that is showing the world how to save water* <https://www.cnn.com/2022/09/19/opinions/water-climate-crisis-farm-drought-israel-siegel/index.html>
- September 30, 2022 *Santa Cruz County Officials Share Algal Bloom Warning* <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2022/09/29/santa-cruz-county-officials-share-algal-bloom-warning/>

K. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. County response to chrome 6
2. Drought response standing item

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
join by entering a meeting ID

Meeting ID: 227 808 561 618

Passcode: 4NvXjo

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 831-454-2222](tel:+18314542222) Phone Conference ID: 557 044 833#

- 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.



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Minutes

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION **Wednesday August 3, 2022, 4pm**

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order 4:04
2. Roll Call

Present: Frank Cheap, Paul Lego, Ray Pereyra, Linda Wilson, Chair Brian Lockwood

Absent: Vice-Chair Chris Berry (with notification), Bryan Largay (with notification)

Guests: John Ricker, Joe Serrano, Tim Carson, Fred Yukic, Nathan Salazar, Patricia Newby

Staff: Sierra Ryan

3. AB 361 Compliance, authorizing teleconference meeting
Motion by Lego, seconded by Wilson, approved unanimously

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 1, 2022

Motion by Lego, seconded by Wilson, approved unanimously

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

None

D. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Pereyra: The SB 552 Drought Response meetings are good, and he encourages other Commissioners to attend.

Lockwood – Attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) quarterly meeting. Sierra Ryan presented to the Groundwater Committee, representing Santa Cruz County.

E. STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Urgent Drinking Water Grant Program is moving forward, the Board of Supervisors will be approving resolutions to enter into funding agreements later in June.

Water Resources staffing update – two new staff people will be joining the lab later in the month.

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS and UPDATES

1. LAFCO Countywide Service and Sphere Review

Update from Joe Serrano on the report. Full report available on the LAFCO meeting agenda, page 38: <https://santacruzlafco.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Aug-2022-Entire-Agenda-Packet.pdf>

- Mr. Serrano plans to contact Private water systems subject to AB 54, to introduce himself and requirements that water companies must meet. A question that came up was whether a sphere including a small water system could lead to consolidation. The County, affected agency, affected residents, and LAFCO have to be in support of any consolidation. LAFCO wants to be a tool and sees value in establishing a working relationship. Commissioner Lego offered to meet with Mr. Serrano as a small water system board member.
- The study does not include private wells
- Commissioner Wilson asked if any of the agencies were unhappy with the recommendations. Joe says they were not, that was part of the reason he reached out it advanced.
- Some of the LAFCO commissioners asked to postpone a decision on the Soquel Creek sphere included areas not served by the district but may be perceived as possibly slated for development. LAFCO decided to move that recommendation to the next meeting.
- Report will be finalized now, as will letters of introduction to the private water systems. One of the recommendations is to dissolve CSA 54, so that is an example of another next step.
- Adopting service reviews and sphere boundaries are exempt from CEQA. If there is an effort to annex a system based on the recommendations, boundary changes are subject to CEQA.

2. Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency's Request for County Support Regarding the "Watsonville Slough System Managed Aquifer Recharge & Recovery Projects" Struve Slough Water Right Application
Consider recommending the Board of Supervisors adopt a Resolution of Support. Item postponed at the June WAC meeting.

- The purpose of this project and the College Lake project is to find supplemental water supply to help maintain agriculture in the Pajaro Valley while reducing seawater intrusion. That supplemental water is sold to customers on the coast through the coastal distribution, causing them to pump less water. The water will be diverted into the existing basin and recharged, then extracted.
- Commissioner Lockwood explains that the SWRCB application says water could be diverted from January 1-December 31st, while it is expected to only be used from November 1- May 31st - the water rights application was meant to be more comprehensive to allow for more flexibility. They have been working with the Land Trust and Watsonville Wetlands Watch to ensure habitat protection.

Motion by Lego, seconded by Wilson, approved unanimously

3. County planned response to Governor's Executive Order N-7-22 regarding non-de minimis, non-domestic well permits.

Received an update on County approach and reviewed near-final draft form

Fred Yukic provided public comment requesting that the County consider broadening the qualifications required to provide the report analyzing impacts to nearby wells. Staff and the WAC agreed to that suggestion.

4. SB 552 Compliance Subcommittee Update

Received an update on the SB 552 Drought Response Working Group. Reviewed the draft table of recommendations that will be discussed at the August 16th Working Group meeting and considered if any related activities may be of interest to WAC. Materials from past and upcoming meetings can be found at: <https://sceh.com/NewHome/Programs/WaterResources/SenateBill552Compliance.aspx>

- Add "other counties, agencies, and drought response groups" to item 1.
- Add upcoming state forum to DWWG website
- Commissioners and working group members should be invited to comment on the draft.

5. Grand Jury report on drought response/water supply collaboration

Not expecting there to be much change based on the report.

6. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies Update

Oral reports outlining updates from the three GSAs in the County.

- RWMF was hired to provide planning and administrative support to both MGA and SMGWA
- MGA starting construction of monitoring wells
- SMGWA refining PMAs for grant funding
- PV Water Certified the addendum to the College Lake EIR, some changes were made during the design process that had to be changed. No new environmental impacts, and overall impacts slightly less than originally designed. Still working on the permits and precuring property rights. For the Watsonville sloughs project, an RFP is out for design services. Goal is to get both projects up and running by 2025. May be able to increase yield of the Harkins slough project by 20% with additional wells.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

I. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTION ON ITEMS AFFECTING WATER:

No discussion

J. ITEMS OF INTEREST

- No discussion

K. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Recording meetings
2. County response to chrome 6
3. Drought response standing item

L. ADJOURNMENT (5:59)

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



County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency

Water Advisory Commission

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**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 held its initial teleconference meeting under AB 361 and subsequently met on February 2, April 6, June 1, and August 3, 2022 via teleconference; 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 5 day of October , 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