



# 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

### AGENDA

June 1, 2017

7:00 PM

Fifth Floor Conference Room, Room 510

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
5. PRESENTATIONS:
  - A. Joe Kiernan, NOAA Fisheries: Scott Creek Life Cycle Monitoring Station: Informing the Recovery of Southern Coho Salmon (30 minutes)
  - B. Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project, Chuck Backman: Update on MBSTP (15 minutes)
6. PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS (15 minutes)
7. BUSINESS MATTERS
  - A. Discuss funding decision on Riparian Corridor Enhancement Project (5 minutes)
  - B. Discuss Public Grants Program priorities and scoring (15 minutes)
  - C. Update on Juvenile Steelhead and Stream Habitat Monitoring Program (10 minutes)
  - D. Update on Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance EIR (5 minutes)
  - E. Share letter to the Board re: federal environmental regulations (10 minutes)
  - F. Winter storms update (5 minutes)
8. STAFF REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - A. Cannabis Cultivation EIR Public Meeting – June 26, 6:30-8:30
  - B. Cannabis Cultivation EIR subcommittee meeting with Planning – June 26; 1:30-3:30
  - C. Joint Meeting with Commission on the Environment and Water Advisory Commission will be September 27, 2017, 5-7 PM.
9. CORRESPONDENCE
  - A. Fish and Game Commission Notices
    - A. Notice of proposed regulatory actions re: conformance of federal and state fishing regulations

### 10. ADJOURNMENT

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. The Planning Department Conference Room is located in an accessible facility. If you are a person with a disability and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting, please contact Kristen Kittleson at (831)454-3154 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.



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Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

### MINUTES

Santa Cruz County Governmental Center  
Fifth Floor  
Santa Cruz, California

May 4, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM
2. ROLL CALL.

Present: Commissioners Berry, Robin, Johnson, Baron, Frediani, Freeman

Excused: Maridon, Shikuma

Absent: none

Commissioners Noyes and Grant have resigned.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Commissioner Baron made a motion to approve the March 2, 2017 minutes; Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. All aye, the motion passed.
4. PRESENTATIONS:
  - A. Ethan Rotman, CDFW – Trout in the Classroom. Trout in the Classroom allows teachers to hatch sterile trout eggs and release them to Loch Lomond. CDFW plans to hold a teacher training in December. Judy Cole, City of Santa Cruz, supports the program when students release the fry at Loch Lomond.
  - B. Riparian Corridor Enhancement Project – Kristen Kittleson. Kristen described a proposal to fund native riparian plants for small-scale, voluntary efforts on private property.
5. PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS.
6. BUSINESS MATTERS
  - A. Elect Vice Chair for remainder of term; Elect Chair and Vice Chair for coming year. Commissioner Frediani nominated Commissioner Berry as Chair for the coming year; Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. All aye, the motion passed. Commissioner Rogers nominated Frediani as Vice Chair for the remainder of the term and for next year; Commissioner Robin seconded the motion. All aye, the motion passed.
  - B. Discuss Public Grants Program priorities and scoring. The commission discussed grant program scoring and funding criteria. Commissioners expressed support for idea of scoring instead of ranking the proposals. Commissioner Baron offered to try draft score sheet, modified for 100 points and item will be discussed again in June.

- C. Discuss Letter to the Board re: federal environmental regulations. In March, the commission voted to send a letter to the Board expressing concern about federal environmental regulations. Chair Berry has drafted a letter. Commissioner Freeman and staff Kittleson will review the letter.
  - D. Discuss comment process for Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance EIR and consider sending letter to the Board recommending that the FWAC comment to the Planning Department. The EIR will be released in early June with a 45 day comment period. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to establish a sub-committee to review and comment on the Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance EIR. The subcommittee will include Berry, Freeman and Baron and staff Kittleson. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. All aye; the motion passed. Commissioner Johnson made a motion that the subcommittee is authorized to write the comment letter to the Planning Department; Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. All aye; the motion passed. Based on the commission's previous comments, the commission is expected to comment on the Draft EIR and does not need to request action from Board. However, in case there's a problem, Commissioner Freeman made a motion to request that the Board solicits the input of the FWAC on the EIR; Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. All aye, the motion passed.
  - E. Winter Storms Update. Due to the late start of the meeting, there was insufficient time to discuss this item.
- 7. STAFF REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS.
  - 8. CORRESPONDENCE
  - 9. ADJOURNMENT – 9:05 PM.

NOTE: The next meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2017.

Submitted by K. Kittleson; Water Resources/Fish and Wildlife/2017 FWAC Meetings



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## FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

(831) 454-3154 FAX: (831) 454-3128

May 23, 2017

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors:

The Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (FWAC) is extremely concerned about the weakening of federal environmental regulatory protections and proposed reductions of funding allocations for federal natural resource management agencies as proposed by the Trump Administration. These actions include changes to the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and a possible review of the oil and gas drilling prohibition within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Proposed weakening of these regulations could make it much easier to develop in environmentally sensitive areas or for development to indirectly impact these areas, harming not only our native ecosystems, but also our drinking water quality and overall health of our communities.

Recently, commissioners have communicated with our federal partners and inquired how we could support the work that they do and were told that we should communicate to our federal legislative representatives that we value our partnerships with them and appreciate the work that they do. While this sentiment won't come as any surprise to our federal representatives, it may help focus federal environmental regulatory protection and the limited remaining federal resources allocated for that purpose for environmental protection programs in our County. It will not only reaffirm Santa Cruz County's environmental values by going on the record on these issues, but also help counter the prevailing criticism that regulatory agencies are experiencing currently. While the ESA is not the only federal regulation or program of interest to the FWAC, the FWAC, County staff, other local agencies and non-profit organizations have worked hand-in-hand with the National Marine Fisheries Service and United States Fish and Wildlife Service on numerous ESA-related projects ranging from permitting to recovery planning and restoration project implementation - which have directly benefited the biodiversity and quality of life in Santa Cruz County. In addition, the County has received extensive funding from federal programs that provided essential match to state and local funding sources to complete a number of land protection and habitat restoration projects. Special status species recovery cannot be achieved without local expertise and local support. Similarly, recovery also cannot be achieved without the resources provided by our federal partners. While the ESA is far from perfect, it has proven to be the best tool for the difficult job of recovering species which are threatened or on the brink of extinction. Furthermore, it has been effective in protecting (and in some cases recovering) species which call Santa Cruz and the Monterey Bay region home including the bald eagle, southern sea otter, California condor, coho salmon, the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander and others.

The FWAC endeavors to keep the Board informed about natural resource conservation matters of interest to Santa Cruz County. The threats posed by the current administration to our natural resources are diverse and ever-changing but the FWAC is following these developments closely. We encourage you not to hesitate if there are matters before you that warrant our input.

Similarly, we will likely be contacting you in the future as specific matters arise that require our advocacy. Thank you for your consideration of these important matters and for your leadership on environmental protection issues. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Berry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Berry - Chair Santa Cruz County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission