



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

March 4, 2021, 7:00 PM

This meeting will be conducted as a video conference -see link and call-in information on next page.

Please contact Kristen Kittleson kristen.kittleson@santacruzcounty.us if you have questions.

Agenda Item #	Start Time	End Time	Description
1	7:00	7:15	Call to Order
2			Roll Call and Guest Introductions
3			Approval of Minutes
4			Public Comments
5	7:15	8:00	Discuss the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)
6	8:00	8:30	Discuss 2021 Work Plan
7	8:30	9:00	Staff Reports
8			Review Correspondence
9			Commissioner Reports and Announcements
		9:00	Adjourn

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Please see Fish and Game commission for regulatory announcements

<https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/2021-New-and-Proposed>

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. This online meeting is available to anyone with a telephone. 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.

Commissioner and Public Participation Information and Guidelines

The meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission will take place on a video conferencing system, Microsoft Teams, with a call-in option. If you have questions, please contact Kristen Kittleson at kristen.kittleson@santacruzcounty.us

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 916-318-9542,,285822357#](#) United States, Sacramento

Phone Conference ID: 285 822 357#

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Click on the Microsoft Teams icon. If you are asked to join in the Teams with an application, click on “No thanks” and open in the browser. You should not need to download the application to join the meeting.

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** 7:00 pm so that we can start at 7:00 pm. Staff will open the video conference at 6:50 pm. Feel free to chat and say hello before 7:00 pm.

Meeting Roles and Rules:

All meeting attendees should keep their microphones on mute unless they are speaking.

Chris Berry, Chair, will lead the meeting. Chair Berry will announce each agenda item, identify who will be leading an item and introduce discussion and public comment periods.

Kristen Kittleson, 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. Kristen will monitor both her email and her text messages 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.

If you are having trouble joining the conversation, you can send a message to Kristen (email kristen.kittleson@santacruzcounty.us) and she will call on people who want to comment.



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Meeting Minutes February 4, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:00 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**
 - Present: Commissioners Berry, Morrow, Baron, Somerton, Alter, Jankovitz, Wise, Buchwald, Gómez, Michelsen
 - Excused: none
 - Absent: none
 - Guest Introductions: Edward Browne, District Attorney; Steve Schindler, Lieutenant, CDFW; Sean Cochran, Fisheries Biologist, CDFW
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Commissioner Somerton made a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Buchwald seconded the motion. All aye, the minutes were approved.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.** None.
5. **District Attorney Report.** Over the past year, the District Attorney's office has completed about 10-15 civil settlements. Through one of the settlements, a pole camera was purchased for California Dept of Fish and Wildlife to assist with enforcement. The pole camera can be mounted to utility poles and used for remote surveillance, such as in dumping cases. CDFW expects that other local agencies could borrow the camera. Mr. Browne reported that most cases become civil cases, instead of criminal cases. In this case, the defendants appreciated the opportunity to purchase this useful piece of equipment for CDFW.
6. **Report and Discussion: CDFW Low-Flow Fishing Closures.** Sean Cochran, Regional Fishery Biologist, presented information on the status of low-flow closures for the San Lorenzo and other Santa Cruz County streams. A general low-flow closure is listed in the regulations but has not been specified. Sean reviewed the work that has been completed by Region 3 to propose low-flow fishing closures for the San Lorenzo River, including fieldwork and a conclusion that low-flow closures could be justified at either 40 or 70 cfs. While the BOS wrote to the Fish and Game Commission, no action will be taken unless supported and proposed by the Fisheries Branch of CDFW. There was fishing community push back against low-flow closures in the Russian and Gualala Rivers, but San Lorenzo has smaller fishing community and substantial outreach effort was made already and in general, the local fishing community supported the low-flow closures. Low-flow closures combined with shifting the fishing season would be the best solution to reduce hazard to fish during December and reduce fishing days lost to low-flow closures.
7. **2021 Work Plan.** The work plan is intended to provide focus for the limited time that the commission has to consider items during their 7 meeting per year. The work plan is also intended to encourage commissioners to research and follow issues outside of the meeting time. Staff will put together a draft work plan that incorporates how the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) could include items of interest.
8. **Discuss possible action to comment on UCSC long-range plan EIR and use of groundwater that could affect San Lorenzo Lagoon.** Chair Berry provided information about this process; no action was taken. Comments are due March 8, 2021.
9. **Review and discuss draft biennial report.** Commissioners made several suggestions that staff will incorporate into the report.

10. **CZU Lightning Complex Fire.** The commission received a staff report on current post-fire issues, including the toxic runoff control program and progress with cleaning up structure debris.
11. **Discuss salmonella outbreak among songbirds.** The public is encouraged to remove bird feeders to reduce spread of salmonella among songbirds.
12. **Staff Reports**
13. **Review Correspondence**
14. **Commissioner Reports and Announcements.** Commissioner Gómez was concerned that flares, used for car accidents, were not getting properly cleaned up and disposed of. She contacted the responsible agencies to ensure compliance and is investigating how flammable flares might be replaced with reusable, non-flammable LED devices.
15. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.