



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION 2018-2019 BIENNIAL REPORT

This report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the Santa Cruz County Water Advisory Commission (Commission) during 2018 and 2019.

ROLES OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Commission was established in 1975 to serve as a policy advisory body to the Board of Supervisors (Board) on issues relating to the use and protection of the county's water resources. The roles of the Commission, as outlined in its bylaws, are as follows:

1. Advise the Board on all policy issues impacting water resources in Santa Cruz County, including but not limited to the following categories:

- a. Water quality and conservation.
- b. Water supply development, storage and distribution.
- c. Forestry and watershed management.
- d. Preservation of fish, wildlife, and riparian habitat.
- e. Groundwater extraction.
- f. On-site sewage disposal systems.
- g. Recreation.
- h. Water reclamation.
- i. Public health and safety.
- j. Monterey Bay preservation.
- k. Local agency water management plans.
 - l. Water resource development proposals.
- m. Santa Cruz County Water Master Plan/General Plan.
- n. County ordinances, and departmental policies and regulations.

2. Staffing, funding, and other resources available to the Commission necessarily limit the duties and responsibilities outlined above. Therefore, the Commission will utilize discretion in devoting time to those activities that are most important to achieving its overall goal of enhancing and preserving Santa Cruz County water resources. County departments (Planning, HSA-Environmental Health (EH), and Public Works (DPW)) will assist the Commission in its work, by including the Commission in water related correspondence, and by having staff provide timely oral reports on pending issues.

MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION

Starting in fiscal year 2010-2011, commission meetings were reduced from monthly to quarterly (March, June, September and December). In 2018-19 meetings were generally held at 4-6 pm on the first Wednesday of even numbered months, with meetings cancelled or rescheduled depending on special circumstances. Meetings are generally held in the County Governmental Center at 701 Ocean Street in the fifth floor (Redwood) Conference Room. Other rooms are used for special meetings. Agendas are posted at least five days in advance of meetings, and are distributed electronically to local water districts and interested persons. Agendas and attachments are posted on the County website: <http://sceeh.com/Home/Programs/WaterResources/WaterAdvisoryCommission.aspx>

COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Commission consists of seven members, five of whom are concerned citizens nominated by individual supervisors and two that are appointed at-large. The two at-large positions represent public water purveyors and private or mutual water companies in the county. From the beginning of 2018, Carol Hamilton-Monkerud was the Chair and Chris Berry was the Vice-Chair. On June 6, 2018, Chris Berry was elected Chair, with Linda Wilson as Vice-Chair. On June 5, 2019, Chris Berry was elected to continue to serve as the Commission Chair and Cherie Bobbe was elected to serve as the Vice-Chair.

Membership during 2018-2019 was as follows:

- 1st District: Vacant in 2018, Cherie Bobbe appointed January 15, 2019
- 2nd District: Carol Hamilton-Monkerud
- 3rd District: Linda Wilson
- 4th District: Antonio Gregorio until April 16, 2019, when Brian Lockwood was appointed
- 5th District: Mark Edgemon until July 29, 2019; Bryan
- Public Water: Chris Berry-City of Santa Cruz Water Dept.
- Mutual Water: Owen Sharp, San Andreas Mutual Water Company

COMMISSION STAFF

John Ricker, the Water Resources Division Director in the EH division of the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, served as administrative secretary to the Commission throughout 2018 and 2019, and attends most meetings.

ATTENDANCE

2018	1ST DISTRICT	2ND DISTRICT	3RD DISTRICT	4TH DISTRICT	5TH DISTRICT	PUBLIC WATER	SMALL SYSTEMS	
	SPENCER	HAMILTON-MONKERUD	WILSON	GREGORIO	EDGEMON	BERRY	SHARP	
Feb 7, 2018	A	P	P	A	P	P	A	
Apr 4, 2018	Resigned	P	P	*	A	P	A	No quorum
Jun 6, 2018	VACANT	P	P	P	A	P	P	
Aug 1, 2018	VACANT	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Oct. 3, 2018	VACANT	P	P	A	P	P	P	
Dec. 5, 2018	VACANT	P	P	P	A	P	P	
2019	BOBBE	HAMILTON-MONKERUD	WILSON	GREGORIO/LOCKWOOD	EDGEMON / LARGAY	BERRY	SHARP	
Feb. 6, 2019	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	
Apr. 3, 2019	Meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum							
Jun 5, 2019	P	P	P	E	A	P	P	
Aug 7, 2019	P	P	P	P	VACANT	P	A	
Oct. 2, 2019	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	
Dec. 4, 2019	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	

P – Indicates attendance at that meeting, E – Excused from Meeting, A – Absent from meeting

Membership Attendance Notes:

- Jan. 15, 2019: Cherie Bobbe appointed as first District Representative
- Apr 16, 2019: Brian Lockwood appointed as Fourth District Representative
- July 29, 2019: Vacancy in 5th District Position due to excessive absences
- Sept.10, 2019: Bryan Largay appointed as 5th Dist rep

GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

All information regarding the Commission activities is available on the internet. The website facilitates data access and makes the Commission's work more available to the public. The Commission website address is:

<http://sceeh.com/Home/Programs/WaterResources/WaterAdvisoryCommission.aspx>

In addition to preparing an agenda and minutes from the previous meeting, staff regularly includes pertinent water related articles in the Commission agenda packets to stimulate discussion on related topics.

Listed below are the principal issues and events that were discussed by the Commission during the past two years:

1. **Pajaro Valley Groundwater Management Issues**

- The Pajaro River flood control project
- Managed Aquifer Recharge
- Basin Management Plan Update and Implementation, including acceptance by the State of the BMP as an alternate Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- Extension of recycled water pipeline along San Andreas Road
- College Lake Project

2. **Santa Margarita Groundwater Issues**

- Initial steps for development of a groundwater sustainability plan

3. **Update on County Water Resources Management Efforts**

- Annual Water Resources Reports to Board of Supervisors
- Connecting the Drops: community water discussion
- Updates to County Septic System Ordinance and Management Program

4. **Mid-County Water Issues**

- Development of Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- Status of Soquel Creek Water Rights Adjudication and stream diversions.
- Relationships between groundwater, groundwater dependent ecosystems, streamflow, and fish
- PureWater Soquel Draft Environmental Impact Report

5. **Coordination with Commission on the Environment and Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission**

- Ongoing subcommittee to discuss coordination of effort with COE and Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission
- 2018 joint meeting with COE and FWAC to discuss priorities for climate change adaptation

6. **Update on Conjunctive Use and Groundwater Recharge Efforts**

- Water transfer project from City of Santa Cruz to Soquel Water District
- Possible recharge projects in mid-county

7. **Karst Protection and General Plan Updates**

- Possible updates of water policies in County General Plan, including addition of Karst protection polices, pursuant to the Board of Supervisors direction in response to the Water Advisory Commission 2017 letter.
- Water supply requirements for Accessory Dwelling Units

8. **Environmental Code Compliance and Cannabis**

- Submitted a joint letter with the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission to the Planning Commission (3/5/18), requesting that the Planning Commission consider comments that were made on the draft EIR regarding cannabis cultivation.

9. Water Advisory Commission Role and Work Program

- Periodic reports and discussion form a subcommittee to look at projects and priorities for the Commission and report back to the Commission.
- Considered information on County Strategic Plan and Operational Plan particularly as it relates to water
- Approved motion to support updates to Santa Cruz County Code 2.96, Water Advisory Commission (8/1/18)
- Determined to streamline the agenda, and consolidate and reduce topics for routine consideration. Commissioners volunteered to be responsible for specific topic areas, to investigate and bring information back to the commission

10. Riparian Corridor Protection and Management

- Letter from Commission to Board of Supervisors (3/1/18), requesting that riparian conservation be identified as a priority in the County Strategic Plan

Additional Significant Items

In addition to the list of principle issues discussed above, the Commission also discussed or followed the progress of the following issues and ongoing projects:

- Consideration of Implications Court Case Regarding Public Trust Impacts of Groundwater Extraction
- Commissioners were regularly updated on actions taken by the Board on items that affect water supply, water quality, fisheries and riparian habitat protection, groundwater recharge, flood control, drainage, reclaimed wastewater and other related issues.

FUTURE GOALS

In the coming years the Commission will be following-up on current endeavors. These endeavors include commenting on and providing recommendations to the Board on County Water Resource efforts and staying abreast of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation and conjunctive use projects. The Commission intends to continue its trend of soliciting information from various individuals and agencies as this information relates to water resources in the county. As always, the Commission will continue to evaluate important issues affecting the County's water resources, respond to requests by the Board and the public, and make timely recommendations on both policy and other appropriate matters.

Prepared by:

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