



County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency
Environmental Health Division
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 6, 2021, 4pm

[Microsoft Teams Meeting:](#)

Please see information on meeting access and procedures on the page 3 of the Packet.

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 4, 2021

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on matters that are within the Commission's area of responsibility, but not on today's agenda.

D. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Opportunity for Commissioners to report on matters that are not on today's agenda.

E. STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation by Sierra Ryan on current drought response

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS and UPDATES

1. WAC Workplan Subcommittee Update
2. Pajaro Valley Groundwater Management
3. Santa Margarita Groundwater Management
4. Mid-County Groundwater Management
5. Coordination with Other Commissions

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email from Becky Steinbruner

I. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTION ON ITEMS AFFECTING WATER:

August 10, 2021

44. [DOC-2021-660 : Approve the First Amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency, and take related actions, as recommended by the Director of Health Services Approved By Consent Vote \[Unanimous\]](#) 

August 24, 2021

- [DOC-2021-738 : AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT- ZONE 6, Public hearing to consider formation of the Assessment District to fund the maintenance of the Rio Del Mar Flats Drainage Improvements, close the public hearing and continue the public hearing to September 14, 2021, to allow for tabulation and certification of the assessment ballot results, and take related actions as outlined in the memorandum of the Zone 6 District Engineer Adopted \[Unanimous\]](#)

45. [DOC-2021-721 : Authorize submittal of the proposed Local Area Management Plan for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems in Santa Cruz County to the California Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for consideration of approval at their October 14-15, 2021, meeting, as recommended by the Director of Health Services](#)

September 14, 2021

11. [DOC-2021-787 : AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT - ZONE 6: Continued Public Hearing to accept the certification of the vote results of the Rio Del Mar Flats Benefit Assessment District, and direct Zone 6 staff to retain the ballots for two years, as outlined in the memorandum of the District Engineer Approved \[Unanimous\]](#)

September 28, 2021

45. [11317 : Adopt resolution acknowledging a current state of drought emergency and request that the community reduce water use by 15% and cease unnecessary stream diversions, as recommended by the Director of Health Services](#)

[Agenda Item Board Memo](#)

[Resolution Acknowledging Drought Emergency \(eSign\)](#)

[Attachment 1 Local Streamflow](#)

[Attachment 2 Water Agency Drought Response Measures](#)

J. ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. Goodtimes Article "As Drought Worsens, Local Agencies Seek Ambitious Water Solutions" Sep. 14, 2021: <https://goodtimes.sc/cover-stories/santa-cruz-water-solutions/>
2. Santa Cruz Sentinel Article "Santa Cruz County Water Resources Division names Sierra Ryan as manager" Sep. 25, 2021: <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2021/09/25/santa-cruz-county-water-resources-division-names-sierra-ryan-as-manager/>
3. Santa Cruz Sentinel Article "State amps up funding commitment to rebuild Pajaro River levees" Sep 28, 2021: <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2021/09/27/state-amps-up-funding-commitment-to-rebuild-pajaro-river-levees/>

K. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Relationship between growth and water demand.
2. Presentation about the Regional Water Management Foundation.
3. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

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 as per Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 and N-25-20.

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](#)

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.

Or call in (audio only)

+1 916-318-9542

Phone Conference ID: 250 837 616#

United States, Sacramento

- 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.



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2022 FAX: (831) 454-3128

AGENDA

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Wednesday August 4, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

[Microsoft Teams Meeting:](#)

Please see information on meeting access and procedures on the page 3 of the Packet.

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order 4:04

In Attendance: Frank Cheap, Linda Wilson, Brian Lockwood, Chris Berry, Paul Lego
Absent: Bryan Largay
Staff: Marilyn Underwood, Heather Reynolds, Sierra Ryan
Public: Ray Perera

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 2, 2021

Brian Lockwood requests clarification that "City on surface water" was Santa Cruz
Chris Berry moves with that modification, Paul Lego seconds
Minutes approved unanimously

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Ray Perera, who will be appointed to the commission on August 10th, introduced himself

D. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

- Paul Lego met with Nathan Salazar and Sean Abbey on preparing a small water systems forum on reserve analysis planning
- Frank Cheap toured the City of Santa Cruz water facilities, was a very impressive facility. Newell dam re-piping was a highlight. It's an outstanding PR level, to explain what rates are going up.
- Lake is down around 60%, which is causing concern with predictions for an El Nino. They're in an exception year to their water rights diversions.
- The City of Santa Cruz is responding to comments on their water rights EIR.
- Brian Lockwood said that the Groundwater Resources Association of California recently held their Groundwater Sustainability Agency Summit
- AEM surveys will be happening statewide. There will be 2-mile flight lines. The State will not be in our area for some time.
- California Water Commission meeting today on water allocations and trading. Presentations about how water markets are working for groundwater for farms and ranches.
- Frank Cheap encourages commissioners to attend meetings of other water districts

E. STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Water Resources Manager job is posted, recruitment open right now.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation by Marilyn Underwood and Heather Reynolds providing an update on the Local Area Management Plan (LAMP), and possible action to provide a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors.
The presentation is available on the website.
Paul moves that the WAC endorse the LAMP, Chris Berry seconded. Passed unanimously.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS and UPDATES

1. Pajaro Floodplain Management – Update to the levee project, which has been ongoing since they were built in the 1940s. Recently secured a feasibility study, and directors report from the Army Corps that re-authorizing the congressional approval to move forward. Over the past 2 years the County received \$4.6 million to work on design of the project, which should cover the design phase of the first component of the project. Now working on design and simultaneously looking for implementation funds. Project includes setting back the levees in some areas and build them taller in other to increase the flood level protection. The cost share is a 65% Federal 35% local split. There is authorization for the State to cover 90% of the local share. That still leaves a gap of \$42 million to be filled locally. Trying to move forward legislation at the State that would allow coverage of the full implementation amount.

Recently formed a joint powers authority to coordinate the effort to maintain the new infrastructure, called the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency. The JPA includes Santa Cruz and Monterey counties, the City of Watsonville, Zone 7 flood control district of Santa Cruz County and The Monterey County Water Resources Agency. First meeting will be 9am on Sep 8th.

2. Pajaro Valley Groundwater Management – Continuing to make progress on the GSU process, they are almost done with the 5-year update. The Board has adopted all the items that the Committee recommended so far. Have received 60% designs for infrastructure at College Lake and the Pipeline plan is at 30%.
3. Santa Margarita Groundwater Management – The public comment period is open on the draft GSP. Sierra recommended the Commissioners particularly focus on Section 3.
4. Mid-County Groundwater Management
5. WAC Workplan Subcommittee Update
 - Linda Wilson recommends replacing “flood water” with recharge
 - Chris Berry: Where does flood control fit in this? Are these just umbrella topics? In the original workplan there was a lot of specificity, and this allows more flexibility.
 - Paul Lego: Likes this as an umbrella. When we talk about water supply and quality, the elephant in the room may be demand. Is there a place for the BOS in there?
 - Chris Berry: Does this capture the full scope of protecting all beneficial uses of water? Does it cover recreation and habitat or more focus on municipal water supply?
 - Brian Lockwood: After we develop the list, the Commission should evaluate priorities. These can change, for example now we are in a drought.
 - Frank Cheap: Strongly agree that recreation and fish and wildlife should be included. For the average person on the street, having the County focus on drought now will be what is important to people. Intent is to have some flexibility.
 - Next Step: The subcommittee can bring this back at the next meeting after writing up some descriptions of these items.
6. Coordination with Other Commissions – no update.
7. Brown Act Training, Commission to choose training date the week of August 30th – Sierra will

send out a doodle poll.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Invitation for water tour from Rosemary Menard

I. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTION ON ITEMS AFFECTING WATER:

June 8, 2021

[DOC-2021-550 : Public hearing to consider resolution confirming proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 assessment/service charge reports for County Service Area 12, Wastewater Management, as outlined in the memorandum of the Director of Health Services](#)

[DOC-2021-509 : As the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz County Zone 4 Flood Control and Water Conservation District, authorize annual cost shares in the amount of \\$30,000 to Mid-County Groundwater Agency and \\$20,500 to Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency for Fiscal Year 2021-22; accept and file a report on groundwater sustainability planning; approve amendment to agreement with the Santa Margarita Groundwater Agency for a total amount of \\$254,000 for groundwater and streamflow monitoring; and take related actions, as recommended by the Director of Health Services](#)

[Copy of Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report - City of Santa Cruz Water Department](#)

J. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Update work plan at the top of the agenda
- Drought related topic
- Santa Margarita GSP updates

L. ADJOURNMENT 6:09

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

From: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
To: [Chris Berry](#)
Cc: [Sierra Ryan](#); "[Brian Lockwood](#)"
Subject: Re: Item of Interest for Santa Cruz County Water Advisory Commission: Water Banking and Water Markets
Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 1:34:05 PM

******CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

Hi, Chris,

Thank you for letting me know you are no longer the Chair of the Water Advisory Commission. I have missed recent meetings, due to other commitments, but hope to participate on October 6.

Thank you for your good work.

Take care,
Becky

On Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 01:06:17 PM PDT, Chris Berry <cberry@cityofsantacruz.com> wrote:

Hi Becky – Thanks for reaching out. I do not set the agenda, since I am not the chair any longer. Should this fall within the parameters of the revised WAC work plan, I'm sure Brian and Sierra would be happy to add it at some point.

Hope all is well.

-Chris

From: Becky Steinbruner [<mailto:ki6tkb@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:22 PM
To: Sierra Ryan; Chris Berry
Cc: Becky Steinbruner
Subject: Item of Interest for Santa Cruz County Water Advisory Commission: Water Banking and Water Markets

Hi, Sierra and Chris,

I would like to ask that this issue be included in a future discussion by the County Water Advisory Commission as an agenda item.

<https://www.ppic.org/publication/improving-californias-water-market/>

I think it is an important issue to discuss and would welcome the opportunity to participate.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner