



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 8th, 2026
5:00pm – 7:00pm
Regular Meeting

**Simpkins Family Swim Center
Community Rooms**
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Introductory Items

1. **CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL** Meeting called to order by Chair de Sieyes at 5:01 PM.

Present: Nick de Sieyes (District 2), Jeremy Sanford (District 3), Elizabeth Hernandez (District 4) & Anne Less (District 5)

Absent: Alexis Konevich (District 1)

Staff: Jeff Gaffney, Juan Perez Alvarez, Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha

2. **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS** No modifications.
3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** 3 members of the public.
4. **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA** (items 8-9)

Approved consent agenda – Motion/Second: Sanford/Hernandez

AYES: 4

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

Regular Agenda

5. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

District 1: Absent.

District 2: Reported continued involvement with the organized youth sports community in South County as President of the Aptos Soccer Club. Shared that the spring season concluded successfully, with approximately 200 local youth using County Parks fields exclusively. Noted that financial assistance was provided to all families who requested it and expressed appreciation to Parks staff and the maintenance team for their work maintaining the fields. Looking forward to the upcoming summer season.

District 3: Reported visiting Davenport Landing Beach after receiving concerns from a resident about reduced sand coverage in one area. Observed that the conditions have made beach access more challenging and could create safety concerns for surfers. Shared photos and observations with Parks staff and expressed hope that the area can be evaluated for potential improvements.

District 4: Reported that the second Valle del Pájaro County Park community workshop was held successfully, with a third workshop scheduled for June 23rd. Noted that the district has otherwise

been quiet and looks forward to increased community engagement opportunities during the summer.

District 5: Reported several recent milestones, including the opening of the Pace Trail and the groundbreaking for the Felton Covered Bridge Pump Track project in partnership with Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship. Shared that community feedback on the pump track has been overwhelmingly positive. Also noted participating in a meeting organized by the District 5 Supervisor, Monica Martinez, that brought together commissioners from multiple County commissions, providing an opportunity to identify areas for collaboration on shared issues. Lastly, reported receiving community feedback expressing concerns about the proposed parking pilot program.

6. PARKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gaffney reported that recreation and aquatics programming revenue is exceeding previous years, helping support free community programs. He shared updates on the restoration of Greyhound Rock County Park and the plans to expand outdoor education programming at the site. Additional updates included the opening of the Pace Wilderness Property, improvements to the soccer fields at Polo Grounds County Park, removal of the gates at Ben Lomond County Park, and more consistent hot water at the Simpkins Family Swim Center locker rooms.

Director Gaffney shared that the Moran Lake Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan is scheduled for a public hearing before the Board of Supervisors in August. The Planning team continues work on the Coastal Lagoons & East Cliff Drive Resiliency Study, with ongoing stakeholder engagement and upcoming community outreach events. He noted that the next Valle del Pájaro County Park community workshop is scheduled for June 23. County Parks hired 27 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Workers (PRCW) to support summer programming. He also briefly discussed and reminded the commission of the upcoming Budget Hearing at the Board of Supervisors.

7. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. County Parks Summer Activities – Sarah Shea, Parks Superintendent

Sarah Shea provided an overview of the various programs going on at County Parks this summer. She highlighted activities of the arts program, aquatics, reservations and recreation teams.

b. Valle del Pájaro County Park Master Plan Activity – Rob Tidmore, Principle Planner

Park Principle Planner, Rob Tidmore, led commissioners through a “design your own park” activity. Commissioners were provided a map of Valle del Pájaro County Park and various amenities. County Parks Planning staff have been doing the same activity with constituents at the workshops. Results of this activity will be used to inform the park’s Master Plan.

Consent Agenda

Consent items include routine business that does not call for discussion. One roll call vote is taken for all items. Only a Commissioner may pull items from Consent to Regular Agenda. Members of the public must request that a Commissioner pull an item from the Consent Agenda prior to the start of the meeting.

8. Approve minutes from April 13th, 2026..... page 3.

9. Consider Reports:

- a. Aquatics Section Report..... page 7.
- b. Arts and Cultural Services Report..... page 8.
- c. Maintenance Section Report..... page 10.
- d. Planning Section Report..... page 12.
- e. Recreation Section Report..... page 16.
- f. Reservations Section Report..... page 17.
- g. Volunteer Section Report..... page 18.

Written Correspondence Listing

- I. [Letter from Lynn Dunn – Santa Cruz County EEO Officer & ADA Compliance](#)

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

5:00 PM Monday, August 10th, 2026

Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms