



Santa Cruz County Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board



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MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025
5:30pm – 7:30pm
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 at 5:32 PM.

Present: Dennis Webb (District 2), Sandy Brown (District 3), Julissa Espindola (District 4), Mark Correia (District 5), Scott Harway (City of Capitola), Rachel Dann (City of Santa Cruz), David Sanguinetti (City of Scotts Valley), Celeste DeWald (City of Watsonville)

Absent: Julie Howard (District 1)

Staff: Dave Reid (Director – OR3), Rebecca Hurley (Deputy Director – Parks), Juan Perez Alvarez (Administrative Services Manager – Parks), Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha (Admin Aide/COAB Liaison – Parks)

2. **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS** No modifications.
3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** No oral communications.
4. **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA** (item 8)

Motion to approve the consent agenda: Brown/2nd: Correia/All in favor.

Regular Agenda

5. **COUNTY STAFF REPORT**

Deputy Director Rebecca Hurley provided two updates:

- The County has put together a draft version of a survey for the stakeholder regarding the grant program.
- The Parks and OR3 Directors recently participated in a County Head meeting to discuss potential projects for the County funding.

Action Items

6. **Review Draft Measure Q Five-Year Vision Plan**..... page 3.

Deputy Director Hurley provided an overview of the item, noting the COAB would have time to review and discuss the draft Vision Plan.

Chair Dann outlined the order of discussion: County staff comments, public comments, and then COAB comments.

County Staff Comments

- Priorities were moved to the beginning of the Vision Plan to emphasize their role in guiding the Grant Program.
- Consideration was given to the authority of the Vision Plan, with the goal of alignment with City programs.

Public Comment

- Two members of the public provided comments.

COAB Discussion

Commissioner Webb asked for clarification on guiding principles. He emphasized that funds are for local priorities and warned against overemphasis on matching funds, which could disadvantage smaller organizations.

- **Chair Dann** suggested clarifying that a match is not required.
- **Commissioner Brown** supported language affirming that matches are optional.

Commissioner Brown noted concern that the plan favors shovel-ready infrastructure. Suggested recognizing operational readiness and ongoing management/maintenance of open space. Requested stronger emphasis on wildlife and habitat protection.

Commissioner Correia called the draft a good starting point but noted redundancy and the need for consistency with County Code, the initiative, and other plans.

- Director Reid asked for clarification on whether the advisory board's role should be defined in the Vision Plan or referenced in existing documents (e.g., County Code, bylaws).

Vice-Chair Espindola praised community needs assessment but requested clarity on the reference to "investments in projects within high hazards communities" in the Parks section.

- Rob Tidmore: explained it refers to natural disaster hazards, but the placement in the document may cause confusion.

Commissioner Harway & Sanguinetti: No comments.

Commissioner DeWald raised concern that some language implies cities must align with the plan. Emphasized that the Vision Plan should remain a guiding, not mandatory, document. Stressed the importance of parks as a priority.

Chair Dann thanked staff for their work on the Vision Plan. She agreed with other COAB members that cities are not bound by the plan and emphasized the need for the Vision Plan's language to remain consistent with Measure Q and the ballot initiative.

County Staff asked for clarification on suggestions made by the COAB and summarized areas of improvement to be made in the Vision Plan:

- Clarifying that the Vision Plan is a guiding document rather than a requirement, with consistent language throughout.

- Strengthening language to highlight the habitat and wildlife benefits of wildfire, forest health, and water projects.
- Include some language about how the Vision Plan will inform the grant program but not be prescriptive.

7. Approve special meeting on Wednesday, October 8th, 2025..... page 5.

Motion to approve a special meeting on Wednesday, October 8th, 2025, to begin at 5:00 PM:
Brown/2nd: Espindola/All in favor.

Consent Agenda

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

8. Approve minutes from July 30th, 2025..... page 6.

Written Correspondence Listing

I. None

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

5:00 PM Wednesday, October 8th, 2025

~~5:30 PM Wednesday, October 15th, 2025~~

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