



Santa Cruz County Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board

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Approved 05/06/2026
Citizens Oversight Advisory Board



701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
MeasureQ@santacruzcountyca.gov
www.santacruzcountyca.gov/MeasureQ

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 18th, 2026
5:30pm – 7:30pm
Special 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: Julie Howard (District 1), Dennis Webb (District 2), Sandy Brown (District 3), Julissa Espindola (District 4), Mark Correira (District 5), Scott Harway (City of Capitola), Rachel Dann (City of Santa Cruz), David Sanguinetti (City of Scotts Valley), Celeste DeWald (City of Watsonville)

Staff: Dave Reid (Director – OR3), Rebecca Hurley (Deputy Director – Parks), Clare Peabody (Senior Analyst – OR3), Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha (Admin Aide/COAB Liaison – Parks)

2. **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS** No modifications.
3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** 1 member of the public.
4. **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA** (item 10)

Approved consent agenda – Motion/Second: Brown/Dann

AYES: 9
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

Regular Agenda

5. **COUNTY STAFF REPORT**

Deputy Director Hurley introduced the new Senior Analyst, Clare Peabody, working on the Measure Q program. Clare made a brief introduction to the COAB.

Information Items

6. **Review of Measure Q Grant Program**..... page 3.

Clare Peabody provided an overview of the progress of the inaugural Measure Q Grant Program. She reported that the first application cycle closed on March 13, with a total of 54 applications submitted across both funding tiers. She also discussed key challenges and opportunities identified during the application process and outlined the anticipated timeline for the evaluation phase, noting that it remains subject to change.

COAB Discussion

Chair Dann asked if the four city applications represent all cities.

- County staff clarified that the City of Watsonville submitted two applications, the City of Capitola and City of Santa Cruz each submitted one, and the City of Scotts Valley did not apply.

Commissioner Correia asked if the challenges presented were from applicants or staff and if there would be an opportunity for applicants that used the portal to provide feedback.

- Clare clarified that the challenges arose from both sources. Questions submitted by applicants highlighted areas that require further development, and staff also identified challenges during their review of applications. There will be an opportunity to receive feedback.

Commissioner Howard asked if the list of 54 applicants was going to be made available.

- Deputy Director Hurley confirmed that all applications will be made available when the County releases preliminary recommendations on or shortly after April 22nd.

Director Reid asked the COAB whether they would be interested in considering a two-year funding cycle. If a longer cycle was decided, he noted that some contracts would begin after the start of the new fiscal year, and that applications submitted during this period would be considered for both funding cycles.

- **Commissioner Correia** emphasized the importance of maintaining transparency and consistency, noting concerns with changing program rules after the application period has closed. He also noted that future funding cycles could see the same issue of oversubscription as more organizations learn about the program.
- **Commissioner Brown** agreed, stating that modifying rules after the grant deadline could be problematic and potentially disadvantage organizations that planned to apply in a future cycle. She also noted the importance of addressing habitat and environmental protection priorities within the evaluation criteria sooner than later.
- **Commissioner Webb** also agreed and asked how this program's funding request compares to other Counties' grant programs.
 - Commissioner Howard provided insight that the oversubscription of this program is low in comparison to State grant programs.
- **Commissioner Howard** asked for clarification that there would be no solicitation the following year or a reduced funding amount.
 - Director Reid clarified if the COAB and Board of Supervisors do not want to proceed with a longer contract term; there would be another solicitation in January.

Commissioner Correia suggested that in the future the application asks if the applicant has applied or received a grant for the project proposed.

Public Comments

- One member of the public commented.

Action Items

7. Review and Approve COAB Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2026..... page 7.

Approved the proposed 2026 meeting schedule, with no meeting scheduled in April –
Motion/Second: Correira/De Wald

AYES: 9
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

8. Review and Approve Amendments to COAB Bylaws..... page 9.

Approved the proposed amendments to the bylaws and directed staff to submit a staff report to the Board of Supervisors for ratification of the amendments – Motion/Second: Correira/Brown

AYES: 9
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

9. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair for Calendar Year 2026..... page 27.

Postpone election of Chair and Vice-Chair to May 27th – Motion/Second: Brown/Correira

AYES: 9
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

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.

10. Approve minutes from January 14th, 2026..... page 28.

Written Correspondence Listing

- I. [Letter from Sierra Club – Potential Adverse Effects of Measure Q Project Grants on Wildlife Habitat](#)

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Wednesday, May 6, 2026
Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms
979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062