Santa Cruz County
Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board

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MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 27th, 2026
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 5:36 PM.

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

Participated remotely *due to just cause circumstances related to travel while on official business of another state or local agency pursuant to CA Gov. Code §54953*: Julie Howard (District 1) and Mark Correira (District 5)

Absent: Scott Harway (City of Capitola)

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

2. **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS** No modifications.

3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** 1 person addressed the COAB in person. No one addressed the COAB via Teams.

4. **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA** (item 7)

RESULT:	**Approved [8 to 0]**
MOTION/SECOND:	Brown/Sanguinetti
AYES:	Howard, Webb, Brown, Espindola, Correira, Dann, Sanguinetti, DeWald
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Harway

REGULAR AGENDA

5. **COUNTY STAFF REPORT** No report provided.

Action Items

6. **FY 25-26 Measure Q Grant Program Final Funding Recommendations** | page 4.

Senior Analyst Clare Peabody presented the final FY 2025–26 Measure Q Grant Program funding recommendations, incorporating feedback received from the COAB at its May 6th meeting. The presentation outlined the evaluation process, funding rationale, and recommended portfolio of 17 projects totaling $2.74 million, balancing project scores with geographic distribution, thematic representation, community impact, and institutional diversity. She also included an overview of Measure Q direct allocation investments and identified topics for future grant program improvements that will be further discussed in an after-action review on August 19th.

Public Comment:
4 people addressed the COAB in person.
No one addressed the COAB via Teams.

COAB Deliberations

Commissioner Howard thanked staff for incorporating the COAB's previous feedback and preparing the funding allocation information. She expressed surprise that a significant portion of City funding was directed toward park maintenance and staffing, and that wildfire and forest health represented a smaller portion of applications than expected. For Tier 1, she proposed reducing the awards for Vista Center and Black Surf Santa Cruz by $3,000 each to provide funding for the Truck Trail Emergency Response Navigation project. For Tier 2, she supported partially funding the Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association's proposal.

Commissioner Webb thanked staff for their efforts to incorporate the COAB's feedback but expressed discomfort with departing from Scenario A presented on May 6th. He noted that the Vision Plan and scoring criteria were developed through a thoughtful public process and provided applicants with clear expectations. While acknowledging the high concentration of recommended projects in Pajaro Valley, he viewed that as reflective of the area's demonstrated need.

Vice-Chair Correira commended staff for developing multiple funding scenarios and thoughtfully incorporating the COAB's feedback. He felt the staff recommendation balanced equity with the core purposes of Measure Q. He also expressed support for Commissioner Howard's proposal to fund the Truck Trail Emergency Response Navigation project.

Commissioner DeWald emphasized the significant need for investment in South County and questioned whether the recommended allocations adequately reflected that need. While acknowledging the importance of wildfire resilience as a funding priority, she noted that community priorities and reasons for voting for the Measure varied across different regions of the county.

Vice-Chair Correira acknowledged the need in South County but emphasized the importance of maintaining a fair and equitable funding process across all applications and project types. He stated that staff had done a good job synthesizing a recommendation that balanced multiple priorities, while noting that Scenario A reflected the Vision Plan in a more static manner.

Commissioner Brown agreed that Pajaro Valley could receive all available funding and still remain under-resourced. She discussed balancing geographic equity with overall project impact, noting she was comfortable adjusting recommendations based on both project themes and geographic distribution. She stated that multiple funding scenarios could align with the Vision Plan but emphasized the importance of remaining consistent with the Measure Q ballot language and voter intent. She also noted the County's significant wildfire risk and expressed support for prioritizing high-ranking wildfire resilience projects. She also indicated interest in exploring Commissioner Howard's recommendation to fund the Truck Trail Emergency Response Navigation Project.

Commissioner Sanguinetti recognized that no funding recommendation would satisfy everyone and appreciated the thoughtful work staff put into developing the recommendations. He supported the staff recommendations and indicated he could also support the proposed Tier 1 adjustment.

Commissioner Espindola stated that she did not support changes to the recommended funding allocations. She noted that comparing the Pajaro Valley Unified School District project with wildfire projects was not an equitable comparison, as community programs play an important role in connecting people to parks and nature. She emphasized that these experiences foster environmental stewardship and help inspire future careers in conservation and natural resource management.

Chair Dann stated that she could be in support of any of the funding scenarios, noting that all the proposed projects were worthwhile and that the funding decisions were difficult. She highlighted that projects such as restroom improvements promote equity and access. She also noted that the Board of Supervisors would make the final funding decision and that following their decision, the COAB could identify remaining funding gaps for consideration in future grant cycles.

<u>Tier 1 Action:</u>

Recommend the Board of Supervisors accept the final County Staff recommendation for Tier 1 and reduce the Vista Center and Black Surf Santa Cruz awards by $3,000 each to fund the $6,000 Truck Trail Emergency Response Navigation and Water Infrastructure Initiative Proposal, and accept the Scenario A preliminary County Staff recommendations for Tier 2.

RESULT: **Superseded by alternate motion**.
MOTION/SECOND: Webb/DeWald

Alternate Motion
Recommend the Board of Supervisors approve the final County staff recommendations for Tier 1 grant awards and direct County staff to find $6,000 in alternate funding for the Truck Trail Emergency Response Navigation and Water Infrastructure Initiative Proposal.

RESULT: **Approved [8 to 0]**
MOTION/SECOND: Brown/Howard
AYES: Howard, Webb, Brown, Espindola, Correira, Dann, Sanguinetti, DeWald
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Harway

<u>Tier 2 Action:</u>

(As amended) Recommend the Board of Supervisors accept the Scenario A preliminary County Staff recommendations for Tier 2 and reduce the PVUSD award by $60,000 to provide a partial award to the Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association for the purchase of a Type 6 Engine.

RESULT: **Approved [5 to 3]**
MOTION/SECOND: Correira/Brown
AYES: Webb, Espindola, Dann, Sanguinetti, DeWald
NOES: Howard, Brown, Correira
ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Harway

Alternate Motion
Recommend the Board of Supervisors approve the final County staff recommendations for Tier 2 grant awards and direct County staff to reduce one or more recommended awards, as necessary, to provide a partial award of $60,000 to the Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association for the purchase of a Type 6 Engine.

RESULT: **Failed [4 to 4]**
MOTION/SECOND: Correira/Brown
AYES: Howard, Brown, Correira, Sanguinetti
NOES: Webb, Espindola, Dann, DeWald
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Harway

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.

7. **Approve meeting minutes from May 6th, 2026** | page 25.

Written Correspondence Listing

I. None

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

5:30 PM Wednesday, August 19th, 2026

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