



County of Santa Cruz

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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Minutes

Bi-Annual Joint Meeting:

Commission on the Environment, Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission and Water Advisory Commission

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., September 27, 2017
Board of Supervisors Chambers
Optional meet and greet 4:45-5:00

Coordinating Advice on County Climate Action Strategy and other approaches to address Climate Change Adaptation

Chair: John Hunt

1. Introductions and Modifications to the Agenda

Meeting began at approximately 5:00 pm

Commissioner introductions, no modifications to the agenda

2. Public Comment

Seven members of the public spoke on the following topics:

- *Social justice and vulnerability to climate change*
- *The role of trees in mitigating climate change*
- *The role of land use planning in mitigating and adapting to climate change*
- *Water supply idea - Lochquifer*
- *Personal Rapid Transit (PRT)*
- *Climate change skepticism*
- *Evacuation planning*

3. Climate Issues Affecting Santa Cruz County and Potential Adaptation Strategies

- a. **Presentation: Dr. Gary Griggs, Distinguished Professor of Earth Sciences, UCSC** (30 min. presentation + 15 min for Q/A)
- b. Commission/staff presentations on key topics (15 min + 30 min for Q/A)
 - i. Ross Clark: Sea level rise impacts in Santa Cruz County
 - ii. Sierra Ryan: Water supply modeling and climate change
 - iii. Kristen Kittleson: Coho recovery overview

c. Commission coordination on climate change adaptation (30 minutes)

- i. Determining list of topics and how they fall within the jurisdictions of the three commissions
- ii. Identifying overlaps and gaps in commission foci
- iii. Identifying steps toward coordinated advice on County Climate Action Strategy and other approaches to address Climate Change Adaptation

Commissioner discussion covered the following topics:

- *Prioritize actions because Commissioners are volunteers with limited bandwidth*
- *Severe weather this past winter is a sign of current challenge and things to come*
- *Land use planning is important to prepare for climate change*
- *Need to implement a flood control project on the Pajaro River*
- *Prioritize addressing the biggest risk affecting the largest number of people – Santa Cruz wastewater treatment plant*
- *Collaboration and coordinating our efforts can increase funding availability*
- *Flooding, drought and fire are highest priority risks*
- *Each commission should review table 7-1 in the Climate Action Strategy and prioritize what their commission thinks are the top priorities*
- *Consider priorities that will be easier to implement now and will be much harder to implement in the future*

4. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 pm