



County of Santa Cruz

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 400, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

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DRAFT MINUTES

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

This meeting was conducted as a video conference.

I. ROLL/CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Call to order 5:03 PM

Present: Commissioners Nuñez, Scholar, Wise-West, Hunt, Kippen, Clark, Culbertson, Damhorst, Bruce

Absent: Commissioner Gregorio

Introduction of Deirdre Scholar and Jackie Nuñez as new Commissioners for the District 1 replacing Greg Pepping and Jane Orbuch

II. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to approved the minutes with the addition of the complete description of the motion for item V.B. and a note that Commissioner Wise-West was recused from the item.

Ayes: Commissioners Wise-West, Hunt, Kippen, Clark, Culbertson, Damhorst

Abstain: Commissioners Bruce, Scholar, Nuñez

IV. PUBLIC INPUT/ORAL COMMUNICATION

V. BUSINESS MATTERS

A. Election of Officers (Commission, 15 minutes)

Motion by Commissioner Clark to nominate Commissioner Hunt as Chair, seconded by Commissioner Bruce

Ayes: unanimous

Motion by Commissioner Wise-West to nominate Commissioner Bruce as Vice-Chair, seconded by Commissioner Damhorst
Ayes: unanimous

- B. Equity and County Operational Plan update (County Administrative Office staff, 20 - 30 minutes)

The Commission received a presentation and discussed equity issues related to transportation infrastructure (rail trail), housing location and density, access to government services, racial profiling, and equity related to climate change adaptation.

- C. Introduction of the new Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience (OR3 staff, 20-30 minutes)

The Commission received a presentation and discussed the new office with respect to energy initiatives, fire safety, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- D. Proactive discussion regarding net new issues (Commission, 15 minutes)
 - Discussion of issues identified
 - Action on whether to agendaize for a future COE meeting
 - Possible future agenda topics:
 - Work Plan items
 - Staff reports back to the COE from prior COE actions
 - State and Federal legislation
 - Ad hoc Inter-Commission coordination

Items for future agendas include the Climate Action Strategy annual report, new energy pricing by 3CE, response from the Board on recent advisory letters, and a focus on equity in the Commissions activities.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM

Commissioner and Public Participation Information and Guidelines

The meeting of the Commission on the Environment will take place on a video conferencing system, Microsoft Teams. To join the meeting, you will need to receive an email with the meeting link. The meeting link will be distributed to commissioners and people on the public distribution email list. If you are not on these email distribution lists, please contact David Carlson, David.Carlson@santacruzcounty.us to request the meeting link.

Click on the Microsoft Teams icon in the email meeting notice. You will automatically be asked if you want to join the meeting. Commissioners are expected to join with a video camera. Public attendees may choose to have their cameras on or off.

Please join the meeting a few minutes before 5:00 pm so that we can start at 5:00 pm. Staff will open the video conference at 4:50 pm. Feel free to chat and say hello before 5:00 pm.

Meeting Roles and Rules:

All meeting attendees should keep their microphones on mute unless they are speaking.

The Chair of the Commission will lead the meeting. The Chair will announce each agenda item, identify who will be leading an item and introduce discussion and public comment periods.

County staff will assist with roll call, note taking, and tracking who wants to speak. Please allow time for staff to make notes about any decisions.

There will be a public comment period for each item and the Chair will invite the public to participate at the appropriate time.

During a discussion, if 2 or more people speak at the same time, please defer to the person who speaks first. In any moment where we have some confusion due to multiple people wanting to speak, please pause and let the Chair take the lead. The Chair will call on someone to speak.