



County of Santa Cruz

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 330, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

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COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT 2011 and 2012 BIENNIAL REPORT

1. **Role of the Commission on the Environment**

The Commission on the Environment acts as an advisory body to, and resource for, the County Board of Supervisors. The Commission is charged with recommending policies and action programs designed to improve and protect the environment. In accordance with its purpose as presented in Chapter 2.54.050 of the County Code, the Commission shall:

- A. Advise the Board of Supervisors and make recommendations on ways to improve and protect the environment to ensure the long term environmental sustainability of the County;
- B. Advise the Board of Supervisors and work with other commissions in reviewing the updating County policies to provide a comprehensive course of action to support these goals in both the public and private spheres;
- C. Serve as an information clearing house to the Board of Supervisors and other county commission about proposed and pending legislation, both state and federal, which may impact the environment;
- D. Advise the Board of Supervisors on potential areas of cooperation with other public and private agencies and organizations to plan and implement effective environmental policies in Santa Cruz County; and
- E. Exercise any other responsibilities that may be set forth in the commission's bylaws, or may be directed by the Board of Supervisors.

2. **Meeting Dates, Time and Location**

The Commission met in 2011 on January 26, March 23, May 25, July 27, September 28, and December 7 at 701 Ocean Street. The Commission met in 2012 on January 25, March 28, May 23, July 25, and December 5. The Commission generally met on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers located at 701 Ocean Street, Fifth Floor, Santa Cruz, CA. As directed by the Board of Supervisors, the Commission now meets six times a year, with the schedule set each December for the following calendar year.

3. **Commission Structure**

The Commission is composed of ten members who are residents of the County. Each member of the Board of Supervisors appoints two commissioners.

They are as follows:

In 2011:

- District 1 Mr. Len Beyea, term expires April 1, 2013
Mr. Dan Haifley (Chairperson), term expires April 1, 2013
- District 2 Ms. Sharon Sarris, term expires April 1, 2013
Mr. Kenneth Adelman, term expires April 1, 2013
- District 3 Mr. Alan Schlenger (Vice-Chairperson), term expired April 1, 2011
Ms. Laura Kasa, term expires April 1, 2015
Mr. Ross Clark, term began April 1, 2011
- District 4 Mr. Tom Rosewall, term expires April 1, 2015
Mr. Robert Culbertson, term began June 15, 2011
Mr. Robert Stokes, term expired April 1, 2011
- District 5 Ms. Virginia Johnson, term expires April 1, 2013
Dr. Betsy Herbert, term expires April 1, 2013

In 2012:

- District 1 Mr. Len Beyea, resigned May 2012
Mr. Dan Haifley, term expires April 1, 2013
Mr. Greg Pepping, term expires April 1, 2013
- District 2 Ms. Sharon Sarris, resigned December 6, 2012
Mr. Kenneth Adelman, term expires April 1, 2013
- District 3 Mr. Ross Clark (Chairperson), term expires April 1, 2015
Ms. Laura Kasa, term expires April 1, 2015
- District 4 Mr. Tom Rosewall, resigned May 2012.
Mr. Robert Culbertson, term expires April 1, 2015
Mr. Robert Ketly, term expires April 1, 2015
- District 5 Ms. Virginia Johnson, term expires April 1, 2013
Dr. Betsy Herbert (Vice Chairperson), term expires April 1, 2013

4. Commission Staff

The Commission is staffed by the General Services Department.

5. Attendance

Commissioner attendance for 2011 and 2012 is itemized on the last pages.

6. Annual Goals and Accomplishments

In 2011-12, the Commission continued to focus on issues pertaining to climate change within the County and the Monterey Bay Region by instigating and/or participating in several regional meetings and development activities. This participation served to educate, promote a collaborative dialogue and encourage the development of cooperative projects among local government staff, businesses, academic institutions and non-profit organizations involved with climate change policies and programs within the Monterey Bay Region.

Regular Commission meetings throughout the year provided informational opportunities on topics relevant to building awareness and context for the adoption of appropriate local policies and programs to address climate change. Presentations to the Commission also identified existing resources as well as opportunities for State and Federal funding and local cooperation.

Milestones are listed below. Commission minutes already submitted to the Board and provided to the public reflect actions taken by the commission.

- At the Commission's behest, the County Planning Department drafted a Climate Action Strategy, which was reviewed by the Board of Supervisors in 2012 and was the subject of a well-attended public meeting.
- Heard two presentations on Community Choice Aggregations, one in 2011 by advocate Chris Sentieri' and one in 2012 by Shawn Marshall of LEAN Energy.
- Held special meeting on issue of methyl iodide use.
- Heard presentations in 2011 on County water resource issues and water conservation programs and in 2012 on proposed desalination for the Santa Cruz City and Soquel Creek Water Districts.
- Hear a presentation by Dr. Daniel Press, UCSC on Cap and Trade.
- Monitored and made recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on ordinances regarding plastic bags and polystyrene foam.
- Heard a presentation in 2011 and monitored activities of the Climate Action Compact Working Group.
- Heard a presentation in 2011 from AMBAG on regional GHG emission reduction targets.
- Monitored progress on the Energy Upgrade California and California First programs.
- Hear a presentation by Dr. Gary Griggs, UCSC on climate change impacts and adaptation strategies.
- Heard a presentation by Terry Corwin, Santa Cruz County Land Trust, regarding development of the County Blueprint.
 - Heard a presentation by Anthony Brunello, formerly of the California Resources Agency, on statewide Climate Change strategies.
 - Monitored progress by AMBAG's Sustainable Communities Advisory Group and invited and received two presentations by AMBAG directors regarding the process.
 - Received a presentation on possible problems with a Pinto Lake disc golf course.

- Heard a presentation by Greg Pepping, Coastal Watershed Council, on climate action teams.
- Referred the matter of tire chip runoff at Highlands Park to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner participation in local community meetings

One or more Commissioners attended over twenty local community meetings to discuss cooperative opportunities that held potential for establishing local climate change policies and programs as well as identifying funding sources. These community groups included the Climate Action Compact Working Group, the Santa Cruz Region Green Building Task Force, the Monterey Region Development Oversight Committee, AMBAG meetings, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Meetings, UCSC sustainability meetings and various round table discussions with local government staff and community based organization stakeholders.

7. Future Goals -

The Commission's work plan reflects the Commission's intent to continue its efforts to inform the Board on the implementation of AB32 and related executive orders and legislation, impacts on the local environment due to climate change, and the ongoing work of various local community groups with specific recommendations for local policies and programs that are feasible and effective.

ATTENDANCE BY COMMISSIONERS – 2011

District 1	Commissioner Len Beyea Commissioner Dan Haifley
District 2	Commissioner Sharon Sarris Commissioner Kenneth Adelman
District 3	Commissioner Alan Schlenger (term expired 04012011) Commissioner Laura Kasa Commissioner Ross Clark (term began 04012011)
District 4	Commissioner Robert Stokes (term expired 04012011) Commissioner Tom Rosewall Commissioner Robert Culbertson (term began 06152011)
District 5	Commissioner Virginia Johnson Commissioner Betsy Herbert

DISTRICT	1	2	3	4	5
January	B – A Ha – X	Sa-X A-X	Sc-X K- X	St- X R - X	J-X Hb-X
March	B – X Ha – X	Sa- X A - A	Sc-X K- A	St-X R - A	J-X Hb-A
May	B –A Ha –X	Sa-A A- X	C- X K -X	V R - A	J- X Hb-X
July	B – X Ha – X	Sa- X A- X	C- X K- X	Cu - X R - X	J- X Hb- X
September	B – A Ha – X	Sa- X A - X	C- X K- A	Cu- X R - X	J- X Hb- X
December	B – A Ha – X	Sa-X A- X	C-X K-X	Cu -X R - A	J- A Hb-X

X Present at the meeting A Excused absence from the meeting
r Resigned a Unexcused absence from the meeting V Seat vacant

ATTENDANCE BY COMMISSIONERS – 2012

- District 1 Commissioner Len Beyea (resigned May 2012)
 Commissioner Greg Pepping (appointed June 2012)
 Commissioner Dan Haifley
- District 2 Commissioner Sharon Sarris (resigned December 2012)
 Commissioner Kenneth Adelman
- District 3 Commissioner Laura Kasa
 Commissioner Ross Clark
- District 4 Commissioner Tom Rosewall (resigned May 2012)
 Commissioner Robert Ketley (appointed June 2012)
 Commissioner Robert Culbertson
- District 5 Commissioner Virginia Johnson
 Commissioner Betsy Herbert

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DISTRICT	1	2	3	4	5
January	B – A Ha - X	S-X A-X	C-X K- X	Cu- X R - A	J-X Hb-X
March	B – X Ha – X	S- X A - A	C- X K- X	Cu- X R - A	J-A Hb- X
May	B – X/r Ha – X	S- X A- A	C- X K - A	Cu- X R - r	J- X Hb-X
July	P –X Ha – X	S- X A- A	C- X K- X	Cu- X Ke-X	J- A Hb-X
September	no quorum				
December	P- X Ha – X	S-X A- X	C-X K-X	Cu -X Ke-A	J-X Hb-X

X Present at the meeting A Excused absence from the meeting
r Resigned a Unexcused absence from the meeting V Seat vacant