



# County of Santa Cruz

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## COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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### MINUTES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Board of Supervisors Chambers – 701 Ocean Street

Time: 5:00 p.m.

#### I. ROLL/CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Johnson at 5:03 p.m.

Present: Virginia Johnson, Sharon Sarris, Laura Kasa, Robert Stokes; Alan Schlenger; Len Beyea; Kenneth Adelman; and Dan Haifley and

Absent: Betsy Herbert and Tom Rosewall

Staff: Nancy Gordon

Other County staff: John Presleigh; John Ricker; Kasey Kolassa; and Tim Goncharoff.

#### II. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

none

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – upon motion of Stokes, second by Kasa, minutes of December approved unanimously.

#### IV. PUBLIC INPUT/ORAL COMMUNICATION

none

#### V. BUSINESS MATTERS

A. Presentation by Dr. Daniel Press, Department Chair, Environmental Studies, UCSC, was given regarding the development and political challenges of carbon cap and trade and renewable energy credits/certificates.

B. UCSC Committee on Sustainability and Stewardship (Schlenger)

Schlenger explained interest of UCSC committee in having a County representative participate in their efforts; time commitment is one meeting a month. Invitation to join anticipated to be formally directed to County for action.

C. Single Use Bag Ban (Schlenger)

Schlenger provided overview on Integrated Waste Management Task Force to look at other jurisdictions' efforts. Staff are taking a cautious approach in view of numerous law suits filed opposing ordinances. DPW Director John Presleigh affirmed his openness to coordinating with other agencies, and has set aside funds for potential EIR. Item will return after DPW and County

Counsel input with a final action draft for commissioners to consider at the March 24 regular COE meeting.

D. Updates from Commissioners

- (1) Fish and Game Advisory Commission (Haifley) – attended Fish and Game Commission meeting. Mutual interest in following information associated with impacts of climate change. FGAC will track COE agendas and Haifley will provide an update to them next year.
- (2) Green Building Task Force (Sarris/Johnson) – Sarris reported on related collaboration between AMBAG and US Green Building Council in obtaining grant for a regional electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Also extended discussion regarding the implementation of Cal green code items that are in effect January 2010.
- (3) Climate Action Compact Working Group (Johnson)- Johnson reported that more Monterey County jurisdictions are participating, with particular interest in establishing local off set fund for local green projects and the status of ARRA funds for energy planning.
- (4) Monterey Regional Development Committee (Johnson/Gordon) – report under item VE.

E. Status of ARRA funding requests (Johnson/Gordon)

County's CEC Block Grant application to upgrade energy systems in County facilities - still awaiting decision, due between March and May 2010.

County/Regional participation in CEC proposal to establish a local Special Finance District through the CaliforniaFIRST Pilot Program – funded as top ranked entry.

County/Regional participation in AMBAG's CEC proposal to perform deep energy retrofits for Monterey Bay area residential properties - not recommended for funding.

F. Consideration of draft 2009 annual report to the Board

Upon motion of Haifley, second by Stokes, 2009 annual draft report approved unanimously. Gordon will submit to Board on Thursday.

G. Consideration of proposed 2010 Commission work plan. In discussion, changes suggested:

- (1) Add a climate presentation by Dr. Lisa Sloan of UCSC and invite the Fish & Game Commission and the Water Advisory Commission to that presentation in the Fall.
- (2) Discuss with Commissioner Herbert whether the COE should be considering amendments to local logging protocols.
- (3) Amend item (4) to reflect that the COE is working with the Integrated Waste Management Task Force to develop a draft ordinance versus a proposal to the Board to the reduce the use of single use bags within the County.
- (4) Add a presentation by John Ricker regarding the Integrated Regional Water Management Program.

Upon motion of Haifley, second by Sarris, 2010 work plan as amended approved unanimously.

H. Set March 24, 2010 agenda.

Possible presentations on AMBAG programs (Work plan 2F) and impacts of climate change/feasible local mitigation (Work plan 2C), status on CEC block grant submission, discussion of draft single use bag ordinance and commissioner activities updates.

I. Commissioner Announcements

Johnson – official groundbreaking on new site/building remodel on March 19. Ecology Action named Organization of the Year by CA Air Resource Board. Haifley – Save Our Shores receiving three small grants. Sarris – Cabrillo College Watsonville Campus development seeking LEEDS Platinum rating, includes 7 wind turbines. Schlenger – Earth Day is April 17, local event sponsored by City, County and Ecology Action.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 7:10 pm. Next regular meeting is March 24, 2010.