



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 ANNUAL REPORT – 2010

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 2010 on February 24, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 9, June 23, July 28, September 22, and December 8 at 701 Ocean Street. 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. In mid 2010, the Board directed County commissions to reduce the number of meetings. 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:

- 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 expires April 1, 2011
Ms. Laura Kasa, term expires April 1, 2011
- District 4 Mr. Robert Stokes, term expires April 1, 2011
Mr. Tom Rosewall, term expires April 1, 2011
- District 5 Ms. Virginia Johnson, term expires April 1, 2013
Dr. Betsy Herbert, term expires April 1, 2013

4. **Commission Staff**

The Commission is staffed by the General Services Department.

5. **Attendance**

Commissioner attendance for 2010 is itemized on the last page.

6. **Annual Goals and Accomplishments**

In 2010, 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.

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

February 24, 2010

Dr. Daniel Press, Department Chair, Environmental Studies, UCSC—
Carbon Cap & Trade and Renewable Energy Credits

March 24, 2010

Colin Clark, Ecology Action
CaliforniaFIRST Pilot Program—CEC-approved State Energy Program

April 28, 2010

John Doughty, ED, AMBAG
• *AMBAG regional program to develop greenhouse gas inventories for all Monterey govts*
• *AMBAG's planned process for assigning greenhouse gas reduction goals to each jurisdiction within the Monterey Bay Region*

May 26, 2010

Rachel Goodman, Staff for Assembly member Bill Monning
Update on environmental legislation currently authored, co-authored or tracked by Mr Monning, including AB 1217, AB6, AB3, AB 738, AB 2138, AB 2137, and AB 1963.

June 9, 2010

Special meeting - Discussion of proposed rule before the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) regarding methyl iodide.

June 23, 2010

• *Discussion of strategy for Climate Action Plan for Santa Cruz County*
• *Review and confirmation of COE mission*

July 28, 2010

John Doughty, Executive Director, AMBAG
AMBAG's planned process for assigning greenhouse gas reduction goals to each jurisdiction within the Monterey Bay Region

September 22, 2010

Kathy Previsich, Director, Planning Department, County of Santa Cruz
• *County Green Building Program—Status and recommendation to be forwarded to the BOS*
• *AMBAG Blueprint /SB 375 Planning Process in which KP is a key participant*
• *GhG Reduction Targets for the County*

December 8, 2010

George Dondero, Executive Director, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
Rachel Marconi, Senior Transportation Planner, SCCRTC
• *Regional Transportation Plan Update—Chapter Six, Reduction of GhG from the Transportation Sector*
• *STARS (Sustainable Transportation Access Rating System)*
• *SCCRTC perspective on the CARB GhG reduction "assignment " process with AMBAG*
• *Status of the SB 375 Planning Process in which the SCCRTC is a key participant*

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, and various round table discussions with local government staff and community based organization stakeholders.

Track pending state legislation, proposed regulations, and executive orders regarding climate change

During 2010, the Commission tracked legislation as requested by the Board, County staff or one of the members of the Commission. Recommendations to the Board by the Commission were forwarded on the following bills:

- Support AB 1998, SB 722, AB 2139, and SB 1100.

7. Future Goals -

The Commission's 2011 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 – 2010

District 1	Commissioner Len Beyea Commissioner Dan Haifley
District 2	Commissioner Sharon Sarris Commissioner Ken Adelman
District 3	Commissioner Alan Schlenger Commissioner Laura Kasa
District 4	Commissioner Robert Stokes Commissioner Tom Rosewall
District 5	Commissioner Virginia Johnson Commissioner Betsy Herbert

DISTRICT	1	2	3	4	5
February	B – X Ha – X	Sa- X A- X	Sc- X K- X	St- X R - A	J- X Hb- A
March	B – X Ha – X	Sa- X A - A	Sc- X K- X	St- X R - A	J- X Hb- X
April	B – A Ha – X	Sa- X A- X	Sc- X K- X	St- A R - X	J- X Hb- X

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May	B - X Ha - X	Sa- X A - X	Sc- X K - X	St- A R - X	J- A Hb- X
June 9	B - X Ha - X	Sa- X A - X	Sc-X K- A	St- A R - A	J- A Hb-X
June 23	B - A Ha - X	Sa- X A - X	Sc-X K- X	St- X R - X	J- X Hb-X
July	B - X Ha - A	Sa- X A-X	Sc- X K- X	St- X R - X	J- X Hb- A
Sept	B -A Ha - X	Sa-X A - X	Sc-X K-X	St- X R -X	J- X Hb- A
December	B - A Ha - X	Sa-X A- X	Sc-X K-X	St-A R -X	J-X Hb-X

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