



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, March 26, 2025

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers

701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

A. Call to Order: *Meeting called to order at 5:01pm*

B. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Weiss, Woonink, Hunt, Ramon, Takahara, Perez, Culbertson, Damhorst, Johnson

Absent: None

II. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of July 31, 2024, September 25, 2024, November 20, 2024, and January 29, 2025 meetings

Minutes of July 31, 2024: Motion by Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to approve the July 31, 2024 meeting minutes

Ayes: Commissioners Hunt, Ramon, Culbertson, Damhorst, Johnson

Abstain: Weiss, Woonink, Perez (not present at July 31, 2024 meeting)

Minutes of September 25, 2024: Motion by Commissioner Culbertson, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the September 25, 2024 meeting minutes

Ayes: Commissioners Ramon, Culbertson, Damhorst, Johnson, Weiss, Wooninck, Perez

Minutes of November 20, 2024: Motion by Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to approve the November 20, 2024 meeting minutes

Ayes: Commissioners Hunt, Ramon, Culbertson, Damhorst, Johnson, Weiss, Wooninck, Perez

Minutes of January 29, 2025: Motion by Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Perez to approve the January 29, 2025 meeting minutes

Ayes: Commissioners Hunt, Ramon, Culbertson, Damhorst, Johnson, Weiss, Wooninck, Perez

IV. PUBLIC INPUT/ORAL COMMUNICATION

One person spoke on the environmental generally

V. BUSINESS MATTERS

A. Presentation from Community Development and Infrastructure (CDI) – 30-minute presentation – 15-minute Questions & Answers

CAAP Objective 1: Eliminate fossil fuel use in new buildings. – By 2030, fossil fuel use in new building will be reduced by 8,018 MT CO₂e, as measured by GHG inventory

CAAP Objective 3: Eliminate fossil fuel use in residential buildings – By 2030, achieve a 15% (16,357 MT CO₂e) reduction in the consumption of natural gas in existing residential buildings, as measured by GHG Inventory.

CAAP Objective 4: Eliminate fossil fuel use in commercial buildings. – By 2030, achieve 15% (8,564 MT CO₂e) reduction in consumption of natural gas in existing commercial buildings, as measured by GHG inventory.

CAAP Objective 7: Reduce vehicle miles traveled through higher density zoning for housing development along transit corridors and optimize use of remote work – By 2028, reduce unincorporated vehicle miles traveled by 20%, as measured by overall county VMT

Staff from the Department of Community Development and Infrastructure presented information on the progress and status of the above CAAP objectives. The Commission received the presentation, discussed the information and took no action.

B. Presentation from Central Coast Community Energy– 30-minute presentation – 15-minute Questions & Answers

Rob Shaw, 3CE Chief Executive Officer and Das Williams, Senior Advisor, Policy and Legislative Affairs

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)– Informational presentation and overview of BESS and its relationship to renewable energy and decarbonizing the grid.

The CEO of 3CE presented information on the relationship between electrical grid infrastructure, renewable energy generation and battery energy storage systems (BESS). Several members of the public provided comments on the presentation and BESS. Commission discussed the presentation and took action to forward the information to the Board of Supervisors in the form of a letter from the Chair.

Motion by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Ramon

Ayes: Commissioners Weiss, Woonink, Hunt, Ramon, Takahara, Perez, Culbertson, Damhorst, Johnson

C. 3CE & Podcast Updates- Kris Damhorst

This item was continue to the next meeting

D. Biennial Report of the Commission on the Environment

The Biennial Report was presented to the Commission prior to the meeting. Commissioner Perez suggested an additional item be added to the report mentioning the additional outreach via social media and press releases has drawn additional public participation.

Next COE meeting date May 28, 2025

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00pm

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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