



County of Santa Cruz

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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

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MINUTES

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Meeting Location

Watsonville Public Library

Robert & Elayne Stein Meeting Room

275 Main Street, Suite 100

I. .INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:15pm

B. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Weiss, Woonink, Nakahara, Culbertson, Damhorst, Burns

Absent: Commissioners Hunt, Ramon, Perez

II. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

III. BUSINESS MATTERS

A. Presentation from 3CE Sophia Schwirzke – Clean Energy Tax Credits and Rebates

Representatives from 3CE gave a presentation on expiring federal tax credits and continuing 3CE rebates for energy efficiency and electric vehicles

No action taken

B. Presentation from David Carlson – Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment Project

The Commission received a presentation on an ongoing planning project including a sea level rise vulnerability assessment technical study and Local Coastal Program Amendment planning effort.

Commissioners discussed the project and provided comments

Two members of the public provided comments

No action taken

C. Proposed 2026 COE meeting and presentation schedule for Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Goals

The Commission received a tentative schedule of departmental presentations on CAAP goals, objectives, and strategies implementation.

No action taken

D. Discussion on Recommendation letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding Battery Energy Storage Systems to assist Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

Seven members of the public provided comments to the Commission

Motion by Commissioner Nakahara to form an ad hoc committee to draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors synthesizing the proposed recommendations shared by Chair Damhorst at the meeting with additional considerations for establishing a higher standard using the Kern County presentation as a template as what needs to be included and supported by testing and maintenance; ongoing environmental monitoring before, during and after project implementation; and updates to the facility with new technologies as they are developed in the future. Seconded by Commissioner Woonink

IV. PUBLIC INPUT/ORAL COMMUNICATION ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30pm