



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

701 OCEAN STREET, FOURTH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4070
Planning (831) 454-2580 Public Works (831) 454-2160

October 9, 2025

Agenda Date: October 16, 2025

Agricultural Policy Advisory Commission
Aptos Village County Park Meeting Room
100 Aptos Creek Rd
Aptos, CA

Subject: Consider the 2026 Agricultural Policy Advisory Commission (APAC) public hearing location and provide a recommendation to the Community Development and Infrastructure Department.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- 1) Consider the 2026 APAC public hearing schedule and meeting location alternatives (Exhibit A); and
- 2) Recommend the Community Development and Infrastructure Department (CDI) schedule 2026 regular bi-monthly APAC meetings at the Westridge meeting room, located at 500 Westridge, Watsonville unless the State Governor does not sign legislation requiring hybrid meetings; in that case, recommend CDI schedule all APAC meetings at the Aptos Park Village Park meeting room except the June meeting, which will be located at the Westridge location.

Executive Summary

As your Commission may recall, your Commission acted to establish the Aptos Village Park meeting room as the APAC meeting room on October 17, 2024, as 2025 APAC public meeting space until further notice, aside from one meeting location in June at the County Westridge meeting location. Since that time, Commission Liaisons were directed by the Clerk of the Board at the most recent Boards and Commission training that there is prospective legislation pending consideration and signature on the Governor's desk now that would require hybrid public meetings to allow greater public involvement. Hybrid meetings include both an in-person component and a remote call-in component.

Currently APAC meetings are scheduled in an 'in person' format exclusively due to the lack of technology to provide a hybrid meeting at the Aptos Village Park meeting room location. Ordinarily, staff would wait until this legislation is signed by the Governor to follow up with recommended actions to your Commission. However, hybrid meeting space is extremely limited in the County and difficult to reserve with any regularity. Thus,

to plan ahead and reserve meeting room space should this legislation be signed, staff have identified that the Westridge meeting room, located at 500 Westridge, Watsonville, provides the required technology for hybrid functions. Exhibit A provides schedule and meeting location options, including either a required hybrid meeting technology location or non hybrid meeting technology location, with available meeting dates for the 2026 APAC hearings, depending on whether the legislation is signed by the Governor.

To clarify, as you are aware, public hearings are usually scheduled for the third Thursday bi-monthly February, April, June, August, October and December. Although the outcome of the legislation is uncertain, to ensure potential required hybrid meeting space, the Westridge location has been tentatively booked for all bi-monthly meetings except the April APAC meeting, when it is not available. An alternative September meeting has been selected at the Westridge location for that unavailable April meeting space. Final room reservation is completed after the Clerk of the Board establishes its 2025 meeting schedule for the Board of Supervisors and County Executive Office. The Calendar should be set within the next month or so. Should bookings be unavailable, an alternative meeting location will be provided for your Commission as necessary.

If the Governor does not sign the 'Required Hybrid Meeting' legislation, the Department has tentatively scheduled all APAC meetings at the Aptos Village Park meeting location with exception of June when local events preclude booking there. In that case, the June meeting would be located at the Westridge location.

Both locations are potentially feasible, as noted, and have been tentatively booked. Lastly, the APAC Public meeting trend these past few years has typically required only a few meetings a year at most. This past year was no exception with only one meeting scheduled for this year.

Sincerely,

Sheila McDaniel
Secretary to the Agricultural Policy Advisory Commission

A. 2026 APAC Public Hearing Schedule and Meeting Location Alternatives