

# **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

September 23, 2024

Agenda Date: September 25, 2024

Planning Commission County of Santa Cruz 701 Ocean Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Subject:** Approve Final Draft of the Planning Commission Bylaws on Consent as recommended by the Planning Commission on September 11, 2024

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

- 1) Approve the Planning Commission Bylaws (Exhibit A); and
- 2) Recommend that the Board of Supervisors Adopt the Planning Commission Bylaws.

#### **Executive Summary**

Based on guidance from the Office of the Clerk of the Board, the Planning Commission considered revised Bylaws at its last meeting on September 11, 2024. As you recall, the Planning Commission Bylaws were revised to clarify the responsibilities of the Planning Commission and format of hearings, including changes to align the Bylaws with recent updates to the Santa Cruz County Boards and Commissions Ordinance, the Brown Act, and with the Board of Supervisors practices and procedures.

Following consideration of the Bylaws, your Commission recommended the Board of Supervisors adopt the Bylaws pursuant to the staff recommendation with additional revisions, as noted in the draft minutes of the September 11, 2024 meeting, including a recommendation that the final draft of the Bylaws be approved on the Planning Commission Consent Agenda prior to adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

Thus, included in this packet are the final Planning Commission Bylaws, including a strike-out and clean copy (Exhibit A) reflecting the Planning Commission action taken, as noted in the attached draft minutes of the Planning Commission meeting September 11, 2024 (Exhibit B).

Sincerely,

Sheila McDaniel

Secretary to the Planning Commission

Shoila McDaniel

- A. Final Planning Commission Bylaws (strike out and clean versions)
- B. Draft September 11, 2024, Planning Commission Minutes

## PLANNING COMMISSION BYLAWS (STRIKE-OUT)

These bylaws are to assist the County of Santa Cruz Planning Commission ("Commission") in conducting business in an orderly and efficient manner and are adopted pursuant to County Code Section 2.38.140.

#### 1. COUNTY COMMISSION ORDINANCE; PLANNING COMMISSION ORDINANCE.

- 1.1 The Commission is subject to the Commission Policy Ordinance of Santa Cruz County (SCCC Chapter 2.38).
- 1.2 The Commission is also subject to the County's Ordinance establishing the Commission (SCCC Chapter 2.74) and has all the powers and duties enumerated in SCCC 2.74.050.

#### RULES OF PROCEDURE; BROWN ACT; QUORUM.

- 2.1 All meetings shall be conducted pursuant to Rosenberg's Rules of Order, except as may otherwise be set forth in these Bylaws or expressly dictated by applicable provisions of law.
- 2.2 All Commission meetings are subject to, and shall be conduct pursuant to, the Ralph M. Brown Act (Govt. Code § 54950 *et seg.*).

# 2.3 QUORUM.

- 2.3.1 Quorum for the Commission shall be three regular or alternate members.
- 2.3.2 The Commission may not take any action without a quorum.
- 2.3.3 The affirmative vote of three members is required to approve any Item, unless a larger percentage of members is required by applicable law. The affirmative vote of the majority of members present is required to approve an item, unless a larger percentage of members is required by applicable law.
- 2.3.4 <u>Moved to Item 10.3.</u> If fewer than five members are present and the Commission is unable to reach any decision on an application or appeal, that item will be continued to the next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Commission. If no action is taken at such a continued hearing, the application or appeal shall be deemed denied.

# 3. <u>OFFICERS; ALTERNATES.</u>

3.1 Officers Enumerated. The officers of the Commission shall be:

- 3.1.1 A Chairperson.
- 3.1.2 A Vice-Chairperson.
- 3.1.3 A Secretary.
  - 3.1.3.1 The Secretary shall be the Director of the Community Development and Infrastructure Department ("Director"), or designee.
  - 3.1.3.2 The Director may appoint such other County staff as necessary to ensure the efficient conduct of Commission business.
- 3.2 <u>Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson</u>.
  - 3.2.1 The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the members of the Commission at the first Commission meeting in April, and their terms of office shall be one year.
- 3.3 Powers and Duties of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
  - 3.3.1 The Chairperson shall control the conduct of meetings of the Commission. Subject to applicable laws, the Chairperson may do all of the following:
    - 3.3.1.1 Set times for public comment.
    - 3.3.1.2 Call for votes on items.
    - 3.3.1.3 Act as the Commission's parliamentarian.
    - 3.3.1.4 Conduct the meeting, including opening and closing public comment and opening and closing Commissioner's questions.
    - 3.3.1.5 Call special meetings of the Commission.
    - 3.3.1.6 Determine the order in which items on the agenda are considered, unless such items are set for specific times on that agenda.
    - 3.3.1.7 Continue any item on the agenda that is not a noticed public hearing, unless overruled by a vote of the Commission.
  - 3.3.2 The Vice-Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.
- 3.4 <u>Election of Chairperson *Pro Tem.*</u>
  - 3.4.1 On motion of any member present, the members of the Commission may elect a Chairperson *pro tem* in the absence of both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. This action shall implicitly be the first item on any agenda where the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are both absent, or immediately prior to or after

the departure of either in the event that they have to leave a Commission meeting early.

3.4.2 The Chairperson *pro tem* may appoint a Vice-Chairperson *pro tem* to serve concurrently with the Chairperson *pro tem* as may be needed to conduct Commission business.

## 3.5 ALTERNATE MEMBERS.

- 3.5.1 The Board of Supervisors shall appoint an alternate for each member of the Commission pursuant to SCCC 2.74.
- 3.5.2 Alternates shall serve when requested by their corresponding regular Commission member.
- 3.5.3 The term of office for an alternate shall commence upon appointment and terminate with their corresponding member's term, unless terminated earlier by vacancy, resignation or removal.

## 4. NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS; ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA.

- 4.1 Each agenda for Commission meetings shall be posted prior to that meeting as required by the Brown Act.
  - 4.1.1 <u>Posting of Agenda.</u> Said agenda shall also be posted at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to a regular meeting at a location that is freely accessible to the public.
  - 4.1.2 <u>Posting of Agenda Online</u>. A direct link to the agenda shall also be posted at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the regular meeting on the primary home page of the County's website. The Director shall be responsible for posting the agenda online in compliance with the Brown Act.
  - 4.1.3 <u>Contents of Agenda.</u> The agenda shall contain a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting. Each agenda for regular meetings of the Commission shall also contain the following:
    - 4.1.3.1 Additions or corrections to the agenda.
    - 4.1.3.2 Declaration of *ex parte* information by members.
    - 4.1.3.3 General public comment (i.e., Oral Communications) for items not on agenda within the Commission's jurisdiction.

- 4.1.3.4 Consent calendar, for items not specifically requiring discussion or presentation.
  - 4.1.3.4.1 Approval of past meetings' minutes may be included on the consent calendar.
- 4.1.3.5 Discussion calendar, for items requiring discussion or presentation (including scheduled public hearing items and other non-noticed items)
- 4.1.3.6 Secretary's report on upcoming meetings and agendas.
- 4.1.3.7 Community Development Department Director's report.
- 4.1.3.8 County Counsel's report.
- 4.1.3.9 Written communications.
- 4.1.4 <u>Member's Packets</u>. Generally speaking, and subject to staff availability, agendas and supporting materials packets will be provided to Commission members and/or designated alternates approximately one-week prior to regularly-noticed Commission meetings.
- 4.1.5 <u>Special Meetings</u>. All special meetings shall be noticed and conducted pursuant to the requirements of the Brown Act. No business other than that listed on the agenda shall be considered at a special meeting.
- 4.2 <u>Action on Items Not on Agenda</u>. No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda except that members of the Commission may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights or ask a question for clarification, refer the matter to staff or to other resources for factual information, or request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter.
  - 4.2.1 Notwithstanding the foregoing, action may be taken on an item of business not appearing on the posted agenda pursuant to Government Code section 54952.2(b) and as provided for in that statute.
- 4.3 <u>Calling Special Meetings</u>.
  - 4.3.1 The Chairperson may call special meetings. In the absence or unavailability of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson may call special meetings. In the absence or unavailability of both, the Secretary may call special meetings.
  - 4.3.2 The Secretary shall provide notice of any called special meeting to Commissioners and/or their alternates, as applicable, at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the date of any special meeting by both email and telephone.

## 5. MEETING SCHEDULE

- 5.1 Meetings for the next calendar year shall be scheduled by Commission Action during the first Commission meeting in November, or at the first regularly scheduled meeting thereafter.
- 5.2 The Commission shall schedule two regular meetings each month. These shall generally fall on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month and shall commence at 9:30 a.m.
- 5.3 Regular meetings may be cancelled by the Secretary as warranted by special circumstances, such as holidays or lack of business.
- 5.4 The Commission as a body, or the Secretary, may schedule additional meetings as necessary to meet the needs of the community, the Board of Supervisors, or the Commission. Night and/or out-of-building meetings may also be scheduled at the discretion of the Chairperson or Secretary.
- 5.5 The Commission may also hold special meetings and adjourned regular and adjourned special meetings as it deems necessary.

## 6. <u>ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS</u>.

- 6.1 Every member shall notify the Secretary and that member's alternate member in advance of any Commission meeting they are not able to attend. That notification should occur at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting, unless dictated otherwise by circumstances beyond the member's control.
- 6.2 If any regular member is absent from two consecutive Commission meetings during any calendar year without their alternate member being present and without legitimate reason entered into the minutes, the Commission shall inform the Board of Supervisors that a vacancy exists, as provided in the County Code. <u>Unscheduled</u> vacancies, based on the absence of a member, shall be created pursuant to SCCC 2.38.200.

## 7. MEMBERS ABSENT FOR PORTIONS OF PUBLIC HEARINGS.

- 7.1 In the event a member is absent from all or a portion of a public hearing required by the County's Code or State law, the member may not vote or participate in the discussion on that item unless the member:
  - 7.1.1 Has reviewed the prior evidence and listened to the recording(s) of the prior testimony, and has so stated for the record;

- 7.1.2 Examines all of the documentary material received prior to or during the hearing, or portion of the hearing, from which the member was absent; and
- 7.1.3 Deems themself to be as familiar with the record and with the information presented at the hearing as the member would have been had they personally attended the entire hearing, and so states for the record.

#### 8. <u>CONTINUANCE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS</u>.

- 8.1 It is the policy of the Commission to attempt to accommodate persons on the scheduling of items.
- 8.2 The Commission recognizes the interest of both applicants and other interested persons to provide complete information to the Commission on items before it, as well as the public's interest in the timely resolution of Commission business. The Commission, therefore, has discretion to continue items subject to applicable legal requirements. Subject to a vote of the Commission, it may open a public hearing and:
  - 8.2.1 Continue the public hearing to the date requested, to the next available agenda, or to another future date at the discretion of the Commission, with or without taking public comment;
  - 8.2.2 Hear the staff presentation, and hear the testimony of those who are present and wish to speak, and then continue the hearing for the hearing of additional testimony; or
  - 8.2.3 Determine to proceed with the public hearing and take action despite a request for a continuance.

#### 9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / ORAL COMMUNICATIONS.

- 9.1 Public participation in Commission meetings shall be governed by the requirements of the Brown Act.
  - 9.1.1 Members of the public shall be given the opportunity to comment on any issue within the Commission's jurisdiction.
  - 9.1.2 Members of the public shall also be given the opportunity to comment on any item on the meeting's agenda prior to the Commission taking action on that item.

- 9.1.3 The Chairperson may determine when said public comment takes place, so long as the public has the opportunity to comment on agendized items prior to the Commission taking action on those items.
- 9.2 The Chairperson may determine reasonable limits on the duration of public comment for each speaker. The following are non-binding suggestions for allotments of time for various types of public comment:
  - 9.2.1 Two minutes for general public comment.
    - 9.2.1.1 In order to facilitate timely completion of Commission business, at the discretion of the Chairperson, general public comment may also be held at the end of the Commission's meeting, or be paused and resumed after the Commission takes action on the consent calendar and discussion calendar.
    - 9.2.1.2 Each person may only participate once in general public comment per meeting.
  - 9.2.2 Two minutes for public comment on any item on that meeting's agenda, provided that such public comment take place prior to the Commission taking action on that item.
    - 9.2.2.1 Each member of the public shall only be allowed to provide comment once per agenda item.

## 10. ACTIONS BY COMMISSION ON SPECIFIC ITEMS.

- 10.1 <u>Study Sessions</u>. Study sessions are non-noticed items on the discussion calendar where staff may provide information on ongoing projects to the Commission and solicit the Commission's input prior to bringing the final item to the Commission for action. The Commission may not take formal action on a study session item.
- 10.2 <u>Action on Minutes of Previous Meeting</u>. Any Commission member may vote to approve the minutes of any meeting at which they were present for the duration of that meeting.
  - 10.2.1 Commission members who were not present for the entire duration of a meeting, or were absent, may also vote to approve meeting minutes from that meeting so long as they can truthfully represent that they reviewed the audio recording of said meeting, are familiar with its contents, and that the meeting minutes are a fair and accurate representation of what transpired at that meeting.

10.3. If the Commission is unable to reach any decision on an application or appeal, that item will be continued to the next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Commission. If no action is taken at such a continued hearing, the application or appeal shall be deemed denied.

#### 11. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

- 11.1 The Commission holds public hearings on items requiring a public hearing by State law or the County Code. Evidence may or may not be required to be taken.
- 11.2 Public hearings should be noted on the discussion calendar (see Item 4.1.3.5) of agendas as scheduled items.
- 11.3 Public hearings on permits and appeals should be conducted as follows:
  - 11.3.1 The Commission Secretary reads the scheduled item description into the record and identifies the staff planner responsible for the item. The Chairperson opens the Public Hearing.
  - 11.3.2 Staff presents its proposal, staff report, and recommendations. Any written comments received before the hearing are summarized.
  - 11.3.3 Commission members may ask questions of staff in the order directed by the Chairperson.
  - 11.3.4 Applicant may make a presentation and provide pertinent information. Applicant shall be given 10 minutes for their initial presentation and may reserve a portion of that time for rebuttal.
    - 11.3.4.1 In the event that the hearing is on an appeal, and the applicant is not the appellant, the appellant shall speak first and shall be provided the same time to speak as the applicant.
  - 11.3.5 In the order directed by the Chairperson, Commission members may ask questions of applicant.
  - 11.3.6 The Chairperson opens public comment and public comment is received pursuant to Section 9.2.2 above.
  - 11.3.7 Applicant may rebut arguments presented by the public. Applicants shall be provided five minutes, plus any time reserved from their opening remarks.

- 11.3.7.1 In the event that the hearing is on an appeal, and the applicant is not the appellant, the appellant shall be provided the same time to speak as the applicant.
- 11.3.7.2 The applicant shall provide rebuttal comments last.
- 11.3.8 In the order directed by the Chairperson, Commission members may discuss the item and ask further questions of the applicant, staff or public.
- 11.3.9 The Chairperson closes the public comment period. Commission takes action by motion.
- 11.4 The Chairperson shall have the option of granting additional time as appropriate to address unique issues related to the proposed project.

## 12. <u>AMENDMENT OR REVISION OF BYLAWS</u>.

- 12.1 These Bylaws may be amended by the Commission at any time by three votes, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors.
- 12.2 No changes to the Bylaws shall be effective without approval of the Board of Supervisors. (SCCC 2.38.140.)

## 13. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.

- 13.1 All correspondence addressed to the Commission relating to general issues within the Commission's jurisdiction shall be identified in the "Written Communications" section of the agenda, provided to the members and included in the record for that Commission meeting if received prior to the date the agenda is published for that meeting.
- 13.2 If written communication relating to a specific agenda item is received prior to that item being heard, the Secretary or designee shall provide it to all members, make copies available to the public, and it shall become part of the record for that meeting. If it is received after the agenda is published for a specific meeting, it shall be labeled "Late Correspondence" and marked with the date and time it was received.

#### 14. CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

- 14.1 Each member shall comply with the conflict-of-interest requirements of State law and SCCC 2.38.270.
- 14.2 Commission members shall comply with SCCC 2.38.270(D). Any member that determines that they have a conflict of interest on an item under consideration shall recuse themselves from discussion and voting on the item.

## 15. RECEIPT OF INFORMATION EX PARTE BY MEMBERS.

- 15.1 A member who has met with applicants or others regarding a proposed project, or who has received oral or written information outside of a hearing or has viewed the subject property, or is familiar with the subject property, shall fully disclose such ex parte communications and disclose at the beginning of the hearing such information and his or her observations and familiarity with the property so that the applicant, opponents, interested persons, planning staff and other members of the Commission may be aware of the facts or information upon which they are relying and have an opportunity to support or controvert the facts or information.
- 15.2 All written information received outside of the hearing shall be filed with the Commission Secretary. This requirement shall not apply to broad policy issues applicable County-wide as distinguished from projects affecting individual parcels of property or to factual inquiries made to and received from County staff.

## 16. SUBCOMMITTEES.

- 16.1 Any subcommittees shall comply with the notice and agenda requirements otherwise applicable to the Commission by the Bylaws and Brown Act, as applicable.
- 16.2 Subcommittees shall be formed pursuant to SCCC 2.38.230.
- 16.3 Subcommittees shall be composed of less than a quorum of the members of the Commission.

## PLANNING COMMISSION BYLAWS (CLEAN COPY)

These bylaws are to assist the County of Santa Cruz Planning Commission ("Commission") in conducting business in an orderly and efficient manner and are adopted pursuant to County Code Section 2.38.140.

#### 1. COUNTY COMMISSION ORDINANCE; PLANNING COMMISSION ORDINANCE.

- 1.1 The Commission is subject to the Commission Policy Ordinance of Santa Cruz County (SCCC Chapter 2.38).
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#### RULES OF PROCEDURE; BROWN ACT; QUORUM.

- 2.1 All meetings shall be conducted pursuant to Rosenberg's Rules of Order, except as may otherwise be set forth in these Bylaws or expressly dictated by applicable provisions of law.
- 2.2 All Commission meetings are subject to, and shall be conduct pursuant to, the Ralph M. Brown Act (Govt. Code § 54950 *et seg.*).

# 2.3 QUORUM.

- 2.3.1 Quorum for the Commission shall be three regular or alternate members.
- 2.3.2 The Commission may not take any action without a quorum.
- 2.3.3 The affirmative vote of the majority of members present is required to approve an item, unless a larger percentage of members is required by applicable law.
- 2.3.4 Moved to Item 10.3.

## 3. OFFICERS; ALTERNATES.

- 3.1 Officers Enumerated. The officers of the Commission shall be:
  - 3.1.1 A Chairperson.
  - 3.1.2 A Vice-Chairperson.
  - 3.1.3 A Secretary.
    - 3.1.3.1 The Secretary shall be the Director of the Community Development and Infrastructure Department ("Director"), or designee.

- 3.1.3.2 The Director may appoint such other County staff as necessary to ensure the efficient conduct of Commission business.
- 3.2 Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
  - 3.2.1 The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the members of the Commission at the first Commission meeting in April, and their terms of office shall be one year.
- 3.3 Powers and Duties of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
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    - 3.3.1.3 Act as the Commission's parliamentarian.
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    - 3.3.1.5 Call special meetings of the Commission.
    - 3.3.1.6 Determine the order in which items on the agenda are considered, unless such items are set for specific times on that agenda.
    - 3.3.1.7 Continue any item on the agenda that is not a noticed public hearing, unless overruled by a vote of the Commission.
  - 3.3.2 The Vice-Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.
- 3.4 Election of Chairperson *Pro Tem*.
  - 3.4.1 On motion of any member present, the members of the Commission may elect a Chairperson *pro tem* in the absence of both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. This action shall implicitly be the first item on any agenda where the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are both absent, or immediately prior to or after the departure of either in the event that they have to leave a Commission meeting early.
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## 3.5 ALTERNATE MEMBERS.

- 3.5.1 The Board of Supervisors shall appoint an alternate for each member of the Commission pursuant to SCCC 2.74.
- 3.5.2 Alternates shall serve when requested by their corresponding regular Commission member.
- 3.5.3 The term of office for an alternate shall commence upon appointment and terminate with their corresponding member's term, unless terminated earlier by vacancy, resignation or removal.

## 4. <u>NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS; ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA</u>.

- 4.1 Each agenda for Commission meetings shall be posted prior to that meeting as required by the Brown Act.
  - 4.1.1 <u>Posting of Agenda.</u> Said agenda shall also be posted at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to a regular meeting at a location that is freely accessible to the public.
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- 4.1.5 <u>Special Meetings</u>. All special meetings shall be noticed and conducted pursuant to the requirements of the Brown Act. No business other than that listed on the agenda shall be considered at a special meeting.
- 4.2 <u>Action on Items Not on Agenda</u>. No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda except that members of the Commission may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights or ask a question for clarification, refer the matter to staff or to other resources for factual information, or request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter.
  - 4.2.1 Notwithstanding the foregoing, action may be taken on an item of business not appearing on the posted agenda pursuant to Government Code section 54952.2(b) and as provided for in that statute.

## 4.3 Calling Special Meetings.

- 4.3.1 The Chairperson may call special meetings. In the absence or unavailability of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson may call special meetings. In the absence or unavailability of both, the Secretary may call special meetings.
- 4.3.2 The Secretary shall provide notice of any called special meeting to Commissioners and/or their alternates, as applicable, at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the date of any special meeting by both email and telephone.

## 5. <u>MEETING SCHEDULE</u>

- 5.1 Meetings for the next calendar year shall be scheduled by Commission Action during the first Commission meeting in November, or at the first regularly scheduled meeting thereafter.
- 5.2 The Commission shall schedule two regular meetings each month. These shall generally fall on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month and shall commence at 9:30 a.m.

- 5.3 Regular meetings may be cancelled by the Secretary as warranted by special circumstances, such as holidays or lack of business.
- 5.4 The Commission as a body, or the Secretary, may schedule additional meetings as necessary to meet the needs of the community, the Board of Supervisors, or the Commission. Night and/or out-of-building meetings may also be scheduled at the discretion of the Chairperson or Secretary.
- 5.5 The Commission may also hold special meetings as it deems necessary.

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- 6.1 Every member shall notify the Secretary and that member's alternate member in advance of any Commission meeting they are not able to attend. That notification should occur at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting, unless dictated otherwise by circumstances beyond the member's control.
- 6.2 Unscheduled vacancies, based on the absence of a member, shall be created pursuant to SCCC 2.38.200.

#### 7. MEMBERS ABSENT FOR PORTIONS OF PUBLIC HEARINGS.

- 7.1 In the event a member is absent from all or a portion of a public hearing required by the County's Code or State law, the member may not vote or participate in the discussion on that item unless the member:
  - 7.1.1 Has reviewed the prior evidence and listened to the recording(s) of the prior testimony, and has so stated for the record;
  - 7.1.2 Examines all of the documentary material received prior to or during the hearing, or portion of the hearing, from which the member was absent; and
  - 7.1.3 Deems themself to be as familiar with the record and with the information presented at the hearing as the member would have been had they personally attended the entire hearing, and so states for the record.

## 8. CONTINUANCE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS.

8.1 It is the policy of the Commission to attempt to accommodate persons on the scheduling of items.

- 8.2 The Commission recognizes the interest of both applicants and other interested persons to provide complete information to the Commission on items before it, as well as the public's interest in the timely resolution of Commission business. The Commission, therefore, has discretion to continue items subject to applicable legal requirements. Subject to a vote of the Commission, it may open a public hearing and:
  - 8.2.1 Continue the public hearing to the date requested, to the next available agenda, or to another future date at the discretion of the Commission, with or without taking public comment;
  - 8.2.2 Hear the staff presentation, and hear the testimony of those who are present and wish to speak, and then continue the hearing for the hearing of additional testimony; or
  - 8.2.3 Determine to proceed with the public hearing and take action despite a request for a continuance.

## 9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / ORAL COMMUNICATIONS.

- 9.1 Public participation in Commission meetings shall be governed by the requirements of the Brown Act.
  - 9.1.1 Members of the public shall be given the opportunity to comment on any issue within the Commission's jurisdiction.
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- 9.2 The Chairperson may determine reasonable limits on the duration of public comment for each speaker. The following are non-binding suggestions for allotments of time for various types of public comment:
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    - 9.2.1.1 In order to facilitate timely completion of Commission business, at the discretion of the Chairperson, general public comment may also be held at the end of the Commission's meeting, or be paused and resumed after the Commission takes action on the consent calendar and discussion calendar.

- 9.2.1.2 Each person may only participate once in general public comment per meeting.
- 9.2.2 Two minutes for public comment on any item on that meeting's agenda, provided that such public comment take place prior to the Commission taking action on that item.
  - 9.2.2.1 Each member of the public shall only be allowed to provide comment once per agenda item.

#### 10. ACTIONS BY COMMISSION ON SPECIFIC ITEMS.

- 10.1 <u>Study Sessions</u>. Study sessions are non-noticed items on the discussion calendar where staff may provide information on ongoing projects to the Commission and solicit the Commission's input prior to bringing the final item to the Commission for action. The Commission may not take formal action on a study session item.
- 10.2 <u>Action on Minutes of Previous Meeting</u>. Any Commission member may vote to approve the minutes of any meeting at which they were present for the duration of that meeting.
  - 10.2.1 Commission members who were not present for the entire duration of a meeting, or were absent, may also vote to approve meeting minutes from that meeting so long as they can truthfully represent that they reviewed the audio recording of said meeting, are familiar with its contents, and that the meeting minutes are a fair and accurate representation of what transpired at that meeting.
- 10.3. If the Commission is unable to reach any decision on an application or appeal, that item will be continued to the next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Commission. If no action is taken at such a continued hearing, the application or appeal shall be deemed denied.

## 11. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

- 11.1 The Commission holds public hearings on items requiring a public hearing by State law or the County Code. Evidence may or may not be required to be taken.
- 11.2 Public hearings should be noted on the discussion calendar (see Item 4.1.3.5) of agendas as scheduled items.
- 11.3 Public hearings on permits and appeals should be conducted as follows:

- 11.3.1 The Commission Secretary reads the scheduled item description into the record and identifies the staff planner responsible for the item. The Chairperson opens the Public Hearing.
- 11.3.2 Staff presents its proposal, staff report, and recommendations. Any written comments received before the hearing are summarized.
- 11.3.3 Commission members may ask questions of staff in the order directed by the Chairperson.
- 11.3.4 Applicant may make a presentation and provide pertinent information. Applicant shall be given 10 minutes for their initial presentation and may reserve a portion of that time for rebuttal.
  - 11.3.4.1 In the event that the hearing is on an appeal, and the applicant is not the appellant, the appellant shall speak first and shall be provided the same time to speak as the applicant.
- 11.3.5 In the order directed by the Chairperson, Commission members may ask questions of applicant.
- 11.3.6 The Chairperson opens public comment and public comment is received pursuant to Section 9.2.2 above.
- 11.3.7 Applicant may rebut arguments presented by the public. Applicants shall be provided five minutes, plus any time reserved from their opening remarks.
  - 11.3.7.1 In the event that the hearing is on an appeal, and the applicant is not the appellant, the appellant shall be provided the same time to speak as the applicant.
  - 11.3.7.2 The applicant shall provide rebuttal comments last.
- 11.3.8 In the order directed by the Chairperson, Commission members may discuss the item and ask further questions of the applicant, staff or public.
- 11.3.9 The Chairperson closes the public comment period. Commission takes action by motion.
- 11.4 The Chairperson shall have the option of granting additional time as appropriate to address unique issues related to the proposed project.
- 12. AMENDMENT OR REVISION OF BYLAWS.

- 12.1 These Bylaws may be amended by the Commission at any time by three votes, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors.
- 12.2 No changes to the Bylaws shall be effective without approval of the Board of Supervisors. (SCCC 2.38.140.)

## 13. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.

- 13.1 All correspondence addressed to the Commission relating to general issues within the Commission's jurisdiction shall be identified in the "Written Communications" section of the agenda, provided to the members and included in the record for that Commission meeting if received prior to the date the agenda is published for that meeting.
- 13.2 If written communication relating to a specific agenda item is received prior to that item being heard, the Secretary or designee shall provide it to all members, make copies available to the public, and it shall become part of the record for that meeting. If it is received after the agenda is published for a specific meeting, it shall be labeled "Late Correspondence" and marked with the date and time it was received.

## 14. CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

- 14.1 Each member shall comply with the conflict-of-interest requirements of State law and SCCC 2.38.270.
- 14.2 Commission members shall comply with SCCC 2.38.270(D). Any member that determines that they have a conflict of interest on an item under consideration shall recuse themselves from discussion and voting on the item.

## 15. RECEIPT OF INFORMATION EX PARTE BY MEMBERS.

- 15.1 A member who has met with applicants or others regarding a proposed project, or who has received oral or written information outside of a hearing or has viewed the subject property, or is familiar with the subject property, shall fully disclose such ex parte communications and disclose at the beginning of the hearing such information and his or her observations and familiarity with the property so that the applicant, opponents, interested persons, planning staff and other members of the Commission may be aware of the facts or information upon which they are relying and have an opportunity to support or controvert the facts or information.
- 15.2 All written information received outside of the hearing shall be filed with the Commission Secretary. This requirement shall not apply to broad policy issues applicable County-wide as distinguished from projects affecting individual parcels of property or to factual inquiries made to and received from County staff.

# 16. <u>SUBCOMMITTEES</u>.

- 16.1 Any subcommittees shall comply with the notice and agenda requirements otherwise applicable to the Commission by the Bylaws and Brown Act, as applicable.
- 16.2 Subcommittees shall be formed pursuant to SCCC 2.38.230.
- 16.3 Subcommittees shall be composed of less than a quorum of the members of the Commission.



# **County of Santa Cruz DRAFT Planning Commission Minutes**

Planning Department, 701 Ocean Street, Suite 400, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 9:30 AM

**Location:** Board of Supervisors Chambers, Room 525

**County Government Center** 

701 Ocean Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060

#### **REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

#### 1. Roll Call

Commissioners present: Commissioner Barton, Commissioner Gordon, Commissioner Violante,

Commissioner Jimenez, Commissioner Shepherd

Commissioners Absent: None

## 2. Additions and Corrections to Agenda

#### Item 6

Updated staff report provided
Updated staff report with strikethrough changes

#### Item 7

Updated proposed bylaws (with revised staff report) dated 9/5/2024 Updated proposed bylaws dated 9/9/2024

#### 3. Declaration of Ex Parte Communications

#### 4. Oral Communications

#### **Action on the Consent Agenda**

**5.** To approve the minutes of the August 28, 2024, Planning Commission meeting as submitted by the Planning Staff.

ACTION: Approve minutes

MOTION/SECOND: Gordin/ Barton

AYES: Commissioner Barton, Commissioner Gordin, Commissioner Violante, Commissioner Jimenez

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Shepherd

## **Scheduled Items**

6. Public hearing on a recommendation to the board of Supervisors regarding the proposed Year 2025 Growth Goal

Public hearing to consider report on the Year 2-25 Growth Goal, adopt a resolution recommending a Year 2025 Growth Goal for the unincorporated portion of Santa Cruz County, and recommend filing of the CEQA Notice of Exemption with the Clerk of the Board.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT: County-Wide

PROJECT PLANNER: Fernanda Dias Pini, (831) 454-3119

EMAIL: Fernanda.DiasPini@Santacruzcountyca.gov

ACTION: Approve per Staff recommendation

EXHIBIT B

MOTION/SECOND: Shepherd/Jimenez

AYES: Commissioner Barton, Commissioner Gordin, Commissioner Violante, Commissioner

Jimenez, Commissioner Shepherd

7. Consider proposed amendment to Planning Commission Bylaws and provide a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

PROJECT PLANNER: SHEILA MCDANIEL, (831) 454-2255

EMAIL: Sheila.McDaniel@SantaCruzCountyca.gov

ACTION: Approve per Staff recommendation with following revisions:

Item 6.2 If any regular member is absent from two consecutive Commission meetings during any calendar year without their alternate member being present and without legitimate reason entered into the minutes, the Commission shall inform the Board of Supervisors that a vacancy exists, as provided in the County Code. Unscheduled vacancies based on the absence of a member shall be created pursuant to SCCC 2.38.200.

MOTION/SECOND: Gordin/Jimenez

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Commissioner Violante, accepted by Gordin/Jimenez

Item 2.33 revised to read: The affirmative vote of the majority of members present is required to approve an item unless a larger percentage of members is required by applicable law.

Item 2.34 moved to 10.3 and revised to read: If the commission is unable to reach any decision on an application or appeal, that item will be continued to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the commission. If no action is taken at such a continued hearing, the application or appeal shall be deemed denied.

Item 5.5 revised to read: The Commission may also hold special meetings and adjourned regular and adjourned special meetings as it deems necessary.

Bylaws to come back on the consent agenda at the earliest possible Planning Commission meeting.

AYES: Commissioner Barton, Commissioner Gordin, Commissioner Violante, Commissioner Jimenez

Noes: Commissioner Shepherd

- **8. CDI Directors Report –** Assistant Director Hansen, Replacement certification letter from the State on the Housing Element; still moving forward with first batch of rezonings; Low Impact Camping area ordinance failed at the state legislature and expect it back at the next session or so, but done with this item for now; housing project for 21 units passes at the board with requirement for development to do speed bumps in accordance with DPW approval.
- 9. Report on Upcoming Meeting Dates and Agendas

September 25th

Public Hearing to consider Rezoning of Batch A in accordance with 2023 Housing Element

EXHIBIT B

#### October 23rd

Public Hearing to consider well ordinance amendments

#### 10. County Counsel's Report – No report

#### **APPEAL INFORMATION**

Denial or approval of any permit by the Planning Commission is appealable to the Board of Supervisors. The appeal must be filed with the required appeal fee within 14 calendar days of action by the Planning Commission. To file an appeal you must write a letter to the Board of Supervisors and include the appeal fee. For more information on appeals, please see the "Planning Appeals" brochure located in the Planning Department lobby, or contact the project planner.

#### **APPEALS OF COASTAL PROJECTS**

- (\*) This project requires a Coastal Zone Permit which is not appealable to the California Coastal Commission. It may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors; the appeal must be filed within 14 calendar days of action by the Planning Commission.
- (\*\*) This project requires a Coastal Development Permit. Denial or approval of the Coastal Development Permit is appealable to the Board of Supervisors; the appeal must be filed within 14 calendar days of action by the Planning Commission. After all local appeal periods have ended (grounds for appeal are listed in the County Code Section 13.20.110), approval of a Coastal Development permit is appealable to the California Coastal Commission. The appeal must be filed with the Coastal Commission within 10 business days of receipt by the Coastal Commission of notice of final local action.

**Note regarding Public hearing items:** If any person challenges an action taken on the foregoing matter(s) in court, they may be limited to raising only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at or prior to the public hearing.

Agenda documents may be reviewed at the Planning Department, Room 420, County Government Center, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. The Board of Supervisors chambers is located in an accessible facility. If you wish to attend this meeting and you will require special assistance in order to participate, please contact the ADA Coordinator at 454-3137 (TDD/TTY number is 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements. As a courtesy to those persons affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent free.