



## Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711  
commissions@santacruzcountyca.gov  
www.scccod.net

### Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE: Thursday, January 8, 2026  
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM  
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Coastlines Conference Room  
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**\*\*As a courtesy to those who are affected, kindly attend the meeting *scent-free* and *smoke-free*.\*\***

#### AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Agenda Review
3. Approve *November 13, 2025 Minutes*
4. Public Comment: *Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed three minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission.*
5. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:
  - 5.1. Consider County Strategic Planning Focus Area Priorities Follow-up
  - 5.2. Consider Commission's 2026 Strategic Action Plan
6. Commission Priority Reports
  - 6.1. Accessibility Awareness Report
  - 6.2. Accessible Recreation Report
  - 6.3. Affordable Accessible Housing Report
  - 6.4. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report
7. Correspondence
8. Staff Report
9. Announcements/Emerging Matters
10. Adjournment

**Next Regular Meeting:** Thursday, February 12, 2026, from 12:30 – 2:00 PM

*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. If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact 454-2772 or TDD/711 at least 72 hours in advance to make arrangements.*



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## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, October 09, 2025  
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM  
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor – Coastlines Conference Room  
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
PRESENT: John Daugherty (*1<sup>st</sup> District*), Becky Taylor (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*), Brenda Gutierrez Baeza (*4<sup>th</sup> District Co-Chair*), Jessica Liddy Hayford (*4<sup>th</sup> District*), David Molina (*5<sup>th</sup> District Co-Chair*), Mitali Weiglein (*5<sup>th</sup> District*)  
EXCUSED: Tymothie Hale (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*)  
ABSENT: Jonathan Zinnanti (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Richard Gubash (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*)  
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)  
GUESTS: Sven Stafford (*CEO Principal Administrative Analyst*) and no members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call  
Meeting convened at 12:43 PM.
2. Agenda Review
3. Approve October 9, 2025 Minutes  
**Motion to approve minutes as written**  
Motion/Second: Taylor/ Gutierrez Baeza  
**Motion passed unanimously.**
4. Public Comment: None
5. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:
  - 5.1. County Strategic Plan Presentation  
Stafford provided an overview of the County’s strategic planning outreach efforts and invited the Commission to offer feedback on priorities for the disabilities community. The Commission identified health and access to healthcare, housing, and economic justice as key priorities and discussed existing infrastructure that either supports or hinders access to programs and services in these areas. Highlights included the need for expanded mental health care and services addressing isolation, enhanced care management, issues related to immigration enforcement, the scarcity of healthcare providers—particularly in South County—and recent challenges with federal food service funding (e.g., SNAP). The Commission requested that staff return in January to continue brainstorming strategies to address these priorities.

5.2. Santa Cruz County Employment Services Awards Report

Liddy Hayford and Molina Then shared information about the 18<sup>th</sup> annual *Santa Cruz County Employment Services Awards* ceremony multi-agency event held at the Aloha Grill, hosted by several community partners, including Community Life, Santa Cruz City Schools, Pajaro Valley Unified Transitions Program, Hope Services, the Department of Rehab, and San Andreas Regional Center (SARC), to name a few. Eleven employers were recognized for their efforts to employ people with disabilities, including New Leaf Market, CVS, SLV Unified School District, and Freedom Elementary School among others. The event was reportedly well attended, and the ceremony is expected to air on public television eventually.

6. Commission Priority Reports:

6.1. Accessibility Awareness Priority Report: No Report

6.2. Accessible Recreation Priority Report

The Treasure Cove accessible playground at Jade Street Park held its groundbreaking ceremony, marking the official start of construction on the project.

6.3. Affordable Accessible Housing Report: No Report

6.4. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report: No Report

7. Correspondence: None

8. Staff Report: None

9. Announcements/Emerging Matters:

Weiglein serves on the Community Advisory Council for Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). They are interested in learning more about the Commission and collaborating on public-focused (versus school-related) events. They host an accessible Easter Egg Hunt for children in disabilities, which might be a good opportunity. Molina suggested inviting representatives to attend a Commission meeting to share more about their efforts.

Gutierrez Baeza shared that County Park Friends has not been funded in a while and County Parks has told them not to fundraise on their own or to host events outside of County Parks' programs. At the same time, Parks has not been able to host any events or programs for lack of funding. Wheelchair basketball had to be canceled because Parks could not fund it and County Park Friends were not allowed to seek private funding for the event.

Staff reported a County Government hiring freeze and emphasized the recent funding cuts to safety net programs that address essential community needs, such as food insecurity. Commission was encouraged to consider aligning their priorities to match the current fiscal climate in an effort to maintain their relevance with the Board of Supervisors.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*

# Santa Cruz County Strategic Plan 2032 — Focus Areas

## 1. Housing & Infrastructure

Focuses on supporting *affordable housing* and the basic infrastructure that makes stable communities possible. This includes implementing Regional Housing Needs Allocation goals, improving roads, water and sewer systems, enhancing permitting processes, and aligning efforts across jurisdictions to support housing stability. [Santa Cruz County](#)

### Alignment with County work & plans

- Built Environment Departments: Community Development and Infrastructure, Environmental Health, General Services
- Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) targets and implementation.
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for roads, water, sewer, and permitting modernization.

### What we are hearing from community

- Housing affordability is foundational; roads, water, and permitting are critical enablers.
- Desire for visible progress on basic systems that people experience every day.
- Stronger alignment across jurisdictions to support stable, affordable homes.

## 2. Community Care and Resilience: Access to Services & Support

Aims to ensure people can *access safety-net programs and support systems* that keep them housed, fed, and connected to care. Key elements include connecting residents with services like food support, healthcare access, and homelessness response while reducing barriers like language and transportation. [Santa Cruz County](#)

### Alignment with County work & plans

- Safety Net Departments: Human Services, Child Support Services
- Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz (H4H) and homeless response coordination.
- Safety-net programs: Medi-Cal, CalFresh, IHSS, APS/CPS; Master Plan on Aging.

### What we are hearing from community

- Keep people housed, fed, and connected to care; reduce barriers across systems.
- Improve service navigation and language access, especially in South County and rural areas.
- Make support visible and reliable for families, older adults, and people experiencing homelessness.

### 3. Health, Wellbeing & Connection

Prioritizes *community health and social connection*. This includes streamlining access to health services (including behavioral health), promoting affordable care, improving wait times, and creating welcoming public spaces (parks, community centers) that foster wellbeing and connection across all ages. [Santa Cruz County](#)

#### Alignment with County work & plans

- Health and Wellbeing Departments: Health Services Agency, Parks and Cultural Services.
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Plan.
- Master Plan on Aging; Parks' inclusive spaces that support social connection.

#### What we are hearing from community

- Access, wait times, and affordability are key concerns, particularly in South County and rural areas.
- Wellbeing depends on connection: safe, welcoming places (parks, libraries, community centers).
- Pro-social supports for youth; reduced isolation for older adults.

### 4. Safety & Justice

Emphasizes *fair, preventative, and community-focused public safety*. This involves supporting diversion and reentry programs, enhancing trust between communities and law enforcement, and balancing accountability with compassion. Encourages practices that reduce harm and increase fairness in the justice system. [Santa Cruz County](#)

#### Alignment with County work & plans

- Public Safety Departments: District Attorney, Probation, Public Defender, Sheriff-Coroner
- Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Annual Plan; diversion, reentry, alternatives.and

#### What we are hearing from community

- Safety is about fairness, prevention, and connection—not enforcement alone.
- Compassion with accountability; rebuild trust in communities.
- Support for survivors, youth diversion, and neighborhood problem-solving.

## 5. Environment, Climate & Sustainability

Centers on *protecting and strengthening natural systems* and preparing for climate-related impacts like wildfire, flooding, heat, and water quality issues. Related work includes implementing the County's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan and hazard mitigation efforts to support long-term sustainability and quality of life. [Santa Cruz County](#)

### Alignment with County work & plans

- County Departments: Agricultural Commissioner, Agricultural Extension, Community Development and Infrastructure, Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience, Environmental Health, Parks
- Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Measure Q Vision Plan; Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### What we are hearing from community

- Wildfire, flood, water quality, and heat impacts—especially in rural and mountain areas.
- Value of parks, clean air and water, and preparedness for quality of life.
- Desire for investments that protect people and places over the long term.

## 6. Economy & Job Growth

Focuses on *building an inclusive, sustainable economy* with strong job opportunities and pathways. This includes workforce development, supporting small businesses, strengthening career pipelines (e.g., collaboration with Cabrillo College and UCSC), improving wage outcomes, and ensuring that economic growth connects with housing and transportation. [Santa Cruz County](#)

### Alignment with County work & plans

- County Departments: Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector, County Clerk-Elections, Human Services, Human Resources, Information Services
- Workforce Development Board Strategic Plan and County economic development.
- Career pathways with employers, Cabrillo, UCSC, COE; broadband and hubs.

### What we are hearing from community

- Close the gap between wages and cost of living; more local opportunities to live and work here.
- Support small businesses and entrepreneurs; strengthen job readiness.
- Grow pathways in high-demand sectors while connecting work to housing and transit.

Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities		
2026 Strategic Action Plan		
Objective #1: Monitor, Assess and Advocate for the Eradication of Barriers and Inequities Impacting Santa Cruz County Persons with Disabilities.	Leads	Team
<b>ACTION 1A:</b> Research and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on issues that impact persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.	ALL	All
<b>ACTION 1B:</b> Receive and review communications from the community on matters of interest to persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County and make recommendations as needed.	ALL	All
<b>ACTION 1C:</b> Monitor and promote equal opportunity employment for persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County, including monitoring implementation of the EEO/CR Plan and reviewing position descriptions and making recommendations as appropriate.	ALL	<u>Legislative Team</u> : Molina & Taylor
<b>ACTION 1D:</b> Monitor regional plans, programs, and legislation that affect persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County and make recommendations as needed.	ALL	<u>Legislative Team</u> : Molina & Taylor Other teams as appropriate

Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities		
2026 Strategic Action Plan		
Objective #2: Promote the Interests of Santa Cruz County Persons with Disabilities through Community Outreach and the Provision of Resources.	Leads	Team
<b>ACTION 2A:</b> Provide resources and referrals to services that support persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.	ALL	All
<b>ACTION 2B:</b> Invite community partner reports and presentations on matters of interest to Santa Cruz County persons with disabilities.	Molina Gutierrez Baeza	Commission Chairs
<b>ACTION 2C:</b> Maintain an online and social media presence to promote Commission activities and community events of interest to persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.	Taylor	<u>Public Awareness Team:</u> Taylor, Gutierrez Baeza & Daugherty
<b>ACTION 2D:</b> Host, sponsor, or participate in community events and collaborate with other Commissions to promote Commission activities and address emerging issues for persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.	Taylor	<u>Public Awareness Team:</u> Taylor, Gutierrez Baeza & Daugherty



Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities		
2026 Strategic Action Plan		
Objective #3: Evaluate services provided to persons with disabilities and access to public places within the County and recommend improvements as needed.	Leads	Team
<b>ACTION 3A:</b> Monitor and promote access to affordable, ADA-accessible housing in Santa Cruz County.		<u>Housing Team</u> : Taylor
<b>ACTION 3B:</b> Monitor and promote access to affordable, accessible transportation for persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.		<u>Accessibility Awareness Team</u> : Daugherty & Gutierrez Baeza
<b>ACTION 3C:</b> Monitor and promote participation in affordable, adaptive recreational activities for persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.	Gutierrez Baeza	<u>Recreation Team</u> : Gutierrez Baeza & Molina
<b>ACTION 3D:</b> Monitor safe access to public places within Santa Cruz County and recommend improvements as needed.		<u>Accessibility Awareness Team</u> : Daugherty & Gutierrez Baeza
Objective #4: Develop and Implement Special Projects to Advance the Interests of Persons with Disabilities in Santa Cruz County.	Leads	Team
<b>ACTION 4A:</b> Host the Kudos Awards to honor individuals who have advanced accessibility for persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.	Gutierrez Baeza	<u>Kudos Team</u> : Gutierrez Baeza, Daugherty & Taylor
<b>ACTION 4B:</b> Create a comprehensive Commission history (with the assistance of an intern) available in a variety of visually appealing and easily accessible formats.	Daugherty	<u>Commission History Team</u> : Daugherty & Taylor
<b>ACTION 4C:</b> Develop and implement opportunities to collaborate with other County advisory bodies to advance the interests of persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.	TBD	<u>Collaboration Team</u> : Taylor
<b>ACTION 4D:</b> TBD		

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES													
District/ Supervisor	Name	2024 ATTENDANCE REPORT											
		Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024
1 <sup>st</sup> District Supervisor Koenig	John Daugherty	Meeting Canceled - No Quorum	Meeting Canceled - No Quorum	Meeting Canceled - No Quorum	Meeting Canceled - No Quorum	P	P	No Meeting Scheduled	P	P	Meeting Canceled - No Quorum	P	No Meeting Scheduled
	Rebecca Haifley					-	-		-	-		-	
	Camille Summers					P	P		P	P		A	
2 <sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor Friend	Stacie Grijalva					-	-		-	-		-	
	Fay Levinson					P	P		P	P		P	
3 <sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor Cummings	Becky Taylor					P	P		P	P		P	
	Richard Gubash					-	E		E	E		P	
4 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Hernandez	Brenda Gutierrez Baeza					P	P		P	P		P	
	Seat Vacant					-	-		-	-		-	
5 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor McPherson	David Molina					P	P		P	P		P	
	Seat Vacant					-	-		-	-		-	
LEGEND:	P=Present	A=Absent		E=Excused		( - ) = Not Seated							
District/ Supervisor	Name	2025 ATTENDANCE REPORT											
		Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025
1 <sup>st</sup> District Supervisor Manu Koenig	John Daugherty	Meeting Canceled - No Quorum	P	P	Meeting Canceled - No Quorum	P	P	No Meeting Scheduled	P	P	P	P	No Meeting Scheduled
	Camille Summers		P	E		-	-		-	-	-	-	
2 <sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor Kim De Serpa	Fay Levinson		P	E		-	-		-	-	-	-	
	Jonathan Zinnanti		E	P		P	E		E	A	A	A	
	Tymothie Hale		-	-		P	P		P	P	P	E	
3 <sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor Cummings	Becky Taylor		P	P		P	P		P	P	P	P	
	Richard Gubash		E	P		P	P		E	A	P	A	
4 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Hernandez	Brenda Gutierrez Baeza		P	P		P	E		P	P	E	P	
	Jessica Liddy Hayford		-	P		P	P		P	E	P	P	
5 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Monica Martinez	David Molina		P	E		P	P		P	P	P	P	
	Mitali Weiglein		-	-		E	P		P	E	E	P	
LEGEND:	P=Present	A=Absent		E=Excused		( - ) = Not Seated							

Submitted:



Kaite McGrew  
Commissions Manager

December 31, 2025

Date



# Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

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## Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified below, regularly scheduled Commission on Disability meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Thursday\*  
MONTH: Every month except July and December  
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM  
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor – Board Chambers or Redwood Room\*  
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**\*Meetings will be held in either of these rooms unless noted otherwise below**

Changes to the schedule, including special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations, will be listed on the website at [www.scccod.net](http://www.scccod.net) as soon as information becomes available.

2026 MEETING DATES		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 8, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
February 12, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
March 12, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
April 9, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
May 14, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
June 11, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
August 13, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
September 10, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
October 8, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
November 12, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room

### Public Participation

- Please check the meeting agenda to learn details about how to participate in the commission meeting.
- If you need special accommodations, please call 454-2935 or TDD: 711 (California Relay Service) at least 48 hours before the meeting.