



# Santa Cruz County Latino Affairs Commission

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## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, December 1, 2021

TIME: 6:05 PM

LOCATION: Meeting held remotely

PRESENT: Fe Silva-Robles (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Leo Gomez (5<sup>th</sup> District), Diana Alfaro (City of Santa Cruz), Rebecca Hernandez (City of Santa Cruz), Rebecca Garcia (City of Watsonville), Sylvia Mendez (City of Watsonville)

EXCUSED: None

ABSENT: Abbygale Gonzalez (2<sup>nd</sup> District), Christina Granados (4<sup>th</sup> District),

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager), Jenny Van Natta (Spanish Language Interpreter)

GUESTS: Sven Stafford (Principle Administrative Analyst) and no members of the public were present

### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:04 PM.

Commission welcomed Commissioner Fe Silva-Robles representing District Three.

### 2. Approve August 4, 2021 Minutes

**Motion to approve minutes**

Motion/Second: Garcia/Gomez

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### 3. Public Comment: None

### 4. New Business/Action Items

#### 4.1. CARES Justice Advisory Group Update

Stafford updated the Commission on the CARES Justice Advisory Group including their decision to continue as an advisory body rather than forming a Commission. Instead, they will focus on project-based work within the County Public Health Division, supporting the County Health Equity Officer's efforts to address health care inequities in Santa Cruz County. Community guidelines for projects are being established which may increase opportunities for Commission engagement.

#### 4.2. Consider Approving the 2020-2021 Biennial Report

Commission reviewed the 2020-2021 Biennial Report, amended to include December meeting attendance, revise language and modify the goals and recommendations.

**Motion to Approve the 2020-2021 Biennial Report as amended**

Motion/Second: Garcia/Hernandez

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 4.3. Consider Adopting the AB-361 Statement of Findings Allowing Remote Meetings

**Motion to approve statement of findings authorizing the Commission to hold their next meeting remotely under the provisions of Assembly Bill 361**

Motion/Second: Garcia/Mendez

**Motion passed unanimously.**

4.4. Consider Advocating for Implementation of Grand Jury's broadband Recommendations  
Commission considered advocating for implementation of the Grand Jury's broadband recommendations beyond the recommendation included in the Biennial Report.

**Motion authorizing the Chairs to send an advocacy letter to the Board advocating for implementation of the Grand Jury's broadband recommendations.**

Motion/Second: Garcia/Silva-Robles

**Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Ongoing Business:

5.1. Affordable Housing

Alfaro reported on recent unprecedented funding awards and tax credits (\$14M/year for 10 years) in the wake of the CZU Lightning Complex wildfires. Five affordable housing developments from Santa Cruz City to South County have been allocated the funds resulting in 300+ units of affordable housing starting construction in 2022.

6. Commissioner Reports

6.1. District 1 Report: No Report

6.2. District 2 Report: No Report

6.3. District 3 Report:

Silva-Robles reported that Senderos is recruiting for an Executive Director. Community continues to recover from the impact of the COVID-19.

6.4. District 4 Report (Granados): No Report

6.5. District 5 Report (Gomez):

Gomez reported that redistricting redrew the District 5 boundaries to include Scotts Valley.

6.6. Santa Cruz City Report (Hernandez):

Hernandez attended two events downtown welcoming UCSC students back. Staff will look into the possibility of creating Commissioner name tags to identify Commissioners at community events.

6.7. Santa Cruz City Report (Alfaro):

Alfaro reported that Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments gave a presentation on the process by which State leaders set the Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA: home-building minimums required for each region to address the state's housing shortage) for an eight-year period. Santa Cruz City is establishing design standards to streamline the permitting process for affordable multi-housing developments. New Santa Cruz City Manager Matt Huffaker was formerly Watsonville's City Manager. Chair Alfaro announced her resignation (effective December 2, 2021), expressed her appreciation for the Commission's work and encouraged Commissioners to continue monitoring affordable housing.

6.8. Watsonville City Report (Garcia):

Garcia provided an update on ongoing redistricting efforts in five jurisdictions: Santa Cruz County Office of Education, Cabrillo College, Pajaro Valley Unified School District, County Supervisors and Watsonville City.

6.9. Watsonville City Report (Mendez):

Mendez reported no large school outbreaks and Watsonville City beginning to allow outdoor community events including the annual tree lighting.

7. Staff Report:

The EEO/CC Plan data is being updated with estimated publication in Q1 2022. No meeting room for 2022 has been established. Staff is working with County staff to establish fundraising parameters.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*