

- (3) The Advisory Board shall do all of the following:
- (a) Conduct hearings and receive public input on allocations related to this Act.
 - (b) Receive reports annually from the County on projects funded pursuant to SCCC 4.65.040(B)(1) and (B)(3).
 - (c) Receive reports annually from each of the incorporated cities on projects funded pursuant to SCCC 4.65.040(B)(2).
 - (d) Receive reports annually from the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County and the land stewardship implementation partner on projects funded pursuant to SCCC 4.65.040(B)(4).
 - (e) Report to the Board annually on the outcomes of the projects and programs funded through the Act as well as how the Act was used to leverage other public and private funds. Annual reports by the Advisory Board may also provide suggested direction on the types of projects to prioritize in the coming year.
 - (f) Approve a five-year vision plan to support grant criteria and awards.
 - (i) The plan shall be published by ~~July 1~~October 15, 2025, and updated every five years thereafter.
 - (ii) The Advisory Board may provide recommendations on the development of the plan by the Office and the Department. The Office and the Department shall also consult the incorporated cities, the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County, and the land stewardship implementation partner in the development of the plan.
 - (iii) The vision plan shall identify the activities and geographies prioritized for investment throughout the County in a concise format primarily based on content derived from existing plans, such as, but not limited to, the Santa Cruz County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy, Santa Cruz County Parks Strategic Plan, Santa Cruz County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, California Water Plan, California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, California Outdoors for All Strategy, California Pathways to 30x30 Strategy, California Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, Santa Cruz County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, city climate adaptation plans, city parks and open space plans, or similar County, State, or local plans.

(g) Select the land stewardship implementation partner by July 1, 2025, who shall serve in this role for a period of five years. After this initial period, the Advisory Board shall renew the land stewardship implementation partner or select another partner.

(h) Utilize the following criteria for selecting the land stewardship implementation partner:

(i) The land stewardship implementation partner shall have a mission generally consistent with the purposes of the Act and the capacity and expertise to implement projects in the public benefit related to land, habitat, ecosystem, and natural resources management and protection.

(ii) The land stewardship implementation partner shall be a nonprofit organization as defined in SCCC 4.65.010(M) that owns and stewards private lands on which eligible projects in the public benefit can be implemented.

(iii) The land stewardship implementation partner must be headquartered in Santa Cruz County with at least 10 years of experience working primarily in Santa Cruz County.

(iv) The land stewardship implementation partner must be able to submit annual reports to the Advisory Board and contribute to the development of the five-year vision plan.