



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Board of Supervisors - First District

Subject: Approve the Nomination of Supervisor Koenig to the California Coastal Commission

Meeting Date: March 25, 2025

Formal Title: Approve the nomination of Supervisor Koenig to the California Coastal Commission, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Approve the nomination of Supervisor Koenig to the California Coastal Commission; and
2. Direct the Chair to submit the nomination to the Speaker of the Assembly within the 45-day application period.

Executive Summary

Approve nomination of Supervisor Koenig as a representative of San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey County on the California Coastal Commission.

Discussion

The California Coastal Commission has the responsibility for implementing the California Coastal Act within the state's coastal zone. The Commission is composed of 15 members, 12 of whom are appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the President of the Senate. There is one designated seat on the Commission representing elected officials from the Central Coast Counties of San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey. The appointment is made by the Speaker of the Assembly and can be a member from either a City Council or a Board of Supervisors. There is a 45-day period where local officials can be nominated to fill the vacancy.

Many land use decisions made by our Board and the County's cities involve policies and projects in the coastal zone requiring approval by the Coastal Commission. Santa Cruz County would benefit from having a member of the Commission with in-depth knowledge of the range of local issues.

Supervisor Koenig has a deep understanding of coastal policy and the Coastal Act, with a proven track record of advancing coastal resilience projects, expanding public access to the coastline, and supporting sustainable land use policies that align with the Coastal Act. Additionally, much of his supervisorial district falls within the Coastal Zone, giving him direct experience with challenges such as sea level rise, erosion, and public access. As a County Supervisor, he has consistently advocated for policies that protect coastal resources while ensuring the vitality of local economies. Supervisor Koenig's appointment would provide Santa Cruz County and the Central Coast with dedicated representation on the Coastal Commission, ensuring local priorities are effectively advocated at the state level.

Financial Impact

The recommended actions do not have a financial impact.

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Attainable Housing, Sustainable Environment

Climate Action - Energy, Natural & Working Lands

Submitted By:

Manu Koenig, First District Supervisor

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.