

10. Consider implementation update report for the Santa Cruz County Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction and Wildlife Protection Act, and take related actions (Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience)

Recommended Actions:

1. Accepted and filed the Santa Cruz County Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction and Wildlife Protection Act (WWWPA) implementation update report;
2. Accept notification of vacancy on the Citizens Oversight Advisory Board (COAB), with each board member submitting up to three nominations for appointments to be received in time to reviewed by the board at the March 11th meeting and then select one of their three nominations to be considered for appointment by the board at the March 25th meeting;
3. Approved transfer funds in the amount of \$160,000 from General Fund Contingencies to fund the County's unanticipated efforts to implement the WWWPA that will be repaid from WWWPA revenues once realized in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26;
4. Directed the County Administrative Office to include the General Fund repayment for WWWPA implementation in FY 2025-26 departmental supplemental budgets to be presented during budget hearings; and
5. Directed staff to return on or before April 29, 2025, with an update on WWWPA implementation.

Public Comment:

2 people addressed the Board in chambers

3 people addressed the Board via Zoom

Additional Direction:

Directed staff to submit a matrix showing where the nominees fall into categories of expertise that board members can use to select their final nominee for the March 25th meeting and have that matrix posted online when it's provided to the board at the March 11, 2025, Board meeting.

RESULT:

MOTION AND SECOND:

AYES:

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

Approved [5 to 0]

Martinez, Koenig

Koenig, De Serpa, Cummings, Hernandez, Martinez

De Serpa, Martinez

None

11. Consider options to allow cannabis consumption at retail locations and potential cannabis business tax revisions related to consumption and non-cannabis goods (County Administrative Office)

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Directed staff to pursue option one for onsite consumption at existing retail sites;
- 2) Directed staff to pursue option two for cannabis business tax changes as defining ancillary products as those produces that derive from cannabis or products containing cannabis and to allow for non-cannabis goods to be excluded from the cannabis business tax and to set the tax rate at 1% for cannabis products sold at lounges and receive an update on revenues from cannabis lounge sales during the annual cannabis; and
- 3) Directed staff to return with a scheduled public hearing to consider amendments to Santa Cruz County Code (SCCC) Chapter 7.130 and Chapter 4.06.

Public Comment:

3 people addressed the Board in chambers

7 people addressed the Board via Zoom

Additional Direction:

Substitute Motion (Motion Failed):

Direct the board to postpone any decisions on onsite consumption at retail outlets today and direct the Cannabis Licensing Officer to conduct several community based townhalls to explain the options of consumption lounges to the public and take input and to include input from our Health Director and staff in a report to the board and on future reports regarding cannabis ordinance changes. The next report to the board should be timed with the policy questions regarding onsite consumption at farms so collectively we can understand the differences and implications of all the policies that we are enacting.

Motion:

Directed staff to allow that the Health Services Agency provide additional feedback when the board considers a lounge ordinance and at the same or separate meeting date that the Health Services Agency also provide recommendations for reducing underage cannabis consumption in our community.

RESULT:

MOTION AND SECOND:

AYES:

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

Approved [3 to 2]

Cummings, Koenig

Koenig, Cummings, Hernandez

De Serpa, Martinez

None