

41. Accept nomination and approve appointment of Abel Sanchez to the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board, as an at-large representative of the City of Watsonville, for a term to expire March 25, 2029 ()



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Board of Supervisors

Subject: At-large Appointment to the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board (City of Watsonville Representative)

Meeting Date: March 25, 2025

Formal Title: Accept nomination and approve appointment of Abel Sanchez to the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board, as an at-large representative of the City of Watsonville, for a term to expire March 25, 2029

Recommended Actions

Accept nomination and approve appointment of Abel Sanchez to the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board, as the at-large representative of the City of Watsonville, in accordance with Resolution No. 67-25, for a term to expire March 25, 2029.

Executive Summary

Accept nomination and approve appointment to fill an at-large representative of the City of Watsonville for a term to expire March 25, 2029.

Discussion

Attached is a minute order from the March 11, 2025, Watsonville City Council meeting indicating that the City Council took action to nominate Mr. Sanchez for appointment as the representative of the City of Watsonville to the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board. Therefore, in accordance with Resolution No. 67-25, I recommend the appointment of Abel Sanchez to the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board, as a representative of the City of Watsonville, for a term to expire March 25, 2029.

Financial Impact

The recommended action does not have a financial impact.

Strategic Initiatives

N/A

Submitted By:

Felipe Hernandez, Chair

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 67-25 (CM)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE APPOINTING ABEL SANCHEZ AS THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE'S MEMBER FOR THE MEASURE Q CITIZENS OVERSIGHT ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of County of Santa Cruz adopted Resolution 143-2024 calling for an election for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the County of Santa Cruz a countywide measure to adopt an initiative petition submitted by voters ("The Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction, and Wildlife Protection Initiative" – Measure Q); and

WHEREAS, Measure Q was approved by voters in the November 2024 election; and

WHEREAS, through Measure Q, commencing with Fiscal Year 2025-26, an annual Special Parcel Tax in the amount of eighty-seven dollars (\$87) is imposed on each Parcel located within the County, generating approximately \$7 million annually; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors shall distribute the moneys in the Fund each fiscal year according to the following: (a) Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction, and Wildlife Protection Program - Forty percent (40%), on an annual basis, to Eligible Applicants for Eligible Projects in the county to be administered as a grant program by the County; (b) Neighborhood Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction, and Safe and Clean Parks Program - Twenty percent (20%), on an annual basis, to incorporated cities within the County for Eligible Projects conducted by the incorporated cities. The Board shall allocate funds to incorporated cities on a per capita basis. However, if any city does not achieve a minimum allocation of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) annually on a per capita basis, no less than

two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) shall be made available to that city and the remainder shall be allocated on a per capita basis to the other cities meeting the minimum allocation; (c) County Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction, and Safe and Clean Parks Program - Twenty percent (20%), on an annual basis, for Eligible Projects in the unincorporated parts of the County; and (d) Water Quality, Ecosystem Protection, and Fire Resilience on Undeveloped and Working Lands Program - Twenty percent (20%), on an annual basis, for Eligible Projects in the County; and

WHEREAS, section 4.65.060 of Resolution 143-2024 establishes a Citizens Oversight Advisory Board, composed of nine (9) members, five (5) appointed by the Board of Supervisors with one selection from each of the five (5) Board supervisorial districts, and four (4) appointed with one selection from each incorporated city; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board members shall not hold any elected office and shall have demonstrated expertise in the following areas: (a) Water quality, water supply, or flood protection management; (b) Wildfire or forest management; (c) Wildlife, parks, or natural resources stewardship; (d) Working Lands or agricultural expertise; (e) Environmental justice, park equity, or public health; and (f) Knowledge and expertise in evaluating financial transactions or program cost- effectiveness.

WHEREAS, 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, the incorporated Cities, the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County and the land stewardship implementation partner on projects funded through Measure Q; (c) 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; (d) Approve a five-year vision plan to support grant criteria and awards; and (e) Select the land stewardship implementation partner by July 1, 2025, who shall serve in this role for a period of five years; and

WHEREAS, members of the Advisory Board shall serve a term of four years at the pleasure of the Board or appointing city, and no member may serve more than two consecutive four-year terms; and

WHEREAS, costs associated with the Advisory Board shall be paid by revenues from the Special Parcel Tax.; and

WHEREAS, each member of the Advisory Board shall receive a stipend as compensation for their public service in an amount as determined by the Board of Supervisors annually by resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Adopting a Resolution appointing the City's Member to the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board does not meet CEQA's definition of a "project," because the action does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

2. That the Council hereby nominates Abel Sanchez for appointment to the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board (expires March 2029), representing the City of Watsonville.

3. That the Council hereby approves such appointment.

4. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the newly appointed member and to the Secretary of the Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County.

The foregoing resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Watsonville, held on the 11th day of March, **2025**, by Member Clark, who moved its adoption, which motion being duly seconded by Member Montesino, was upon roll call carried and the resolution adopted by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **Clark, Dutra, Montesino, Parker, Quiroz-Carter, Salcido, Orozco**

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **None**

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **None**

ATTEST:  Signed by:
Irwin Ortiz
City Clerk

 Signed by:
Maria Orozco, Mayor

3/13/2025 | 3:35 PM PDT
Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  Signed by:
Samantha Butler
City Attorney

I, Irwin I. Ortiz, City Clerk of the City of Watsonville, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 67-25 (CM) was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the Watsonville City Council at a meeting thereof held on the 11th day of March, 2025, and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of said Resolution.

 Signed by:
Irwin Ortiz
City Clerk

Date 3/13/2025 | 3:35 PM PDT



March 24, 2025

County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

To the Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County,

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Watsonville, I am writing to confirm Abel Sanchez as the City’s appointed selection for the Citizen’s Oversight Advisory Board for Measure Q, the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction, and Wildlife Protection Initiative. The appointment for this selection was approved by the Watsonville City Council through Resolution 67-25 during the City Council’s meeting on March 11, 2025.

Mr. Sanchez is more than qualified to serve in this capacity and to represent the City of Watsonville on this Advisory Board. Mr. Sanchez’s experience leading and representing the City in both elected and appointed capacities on matters related to this Advisory Board is extensive and includes serving as:

- Oversight Advisory Committee Member – City of Watsonville Oversight Advisory Committee for Measure R (2022 – Present)
- City of Watsonville Representative - Board of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (2021-2024)
- Parks and Recreation Commissioner and Chair – Parks and Recreation Commission for the City of Watsonville (2019-2023)

The City Council of the City of Watsonville requests that the Board of Supervisors accept nomination and approve appointment of Abel Sanchez to the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board, as an at-large representative of the City of Watsonville, for a term to expire March 25, 2029.

Sincerely,

Maria Orozco
Mayor, City of Watsonville