

27. Adopt an "Ordinance Amending Section 4.65.060(A)(3) of the Santa Cruz County Code relating to the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction, and Wildlife Protection Act," (Approved in Concept May 20, 2025) ()



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Clerk of the Board

Subject: Adopt an "Ordinance Amending Section 4.65.060(A)(3) of the Santa Cruz County Code relating to the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction, and Wildlife Protection Act"

Meeting Date: June 10, 2025

Formal Title: Adopt an "Ordinance Amending Section 4.65.060(A)(3) of the Santa Cruz County Code relating to the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction, and Wildlife Protection Act," (Approved in Concept May 20, 2025)

Recommended Action

Adopt "Ordinance Amending Section 4.65.060(A)(3) of the Santa Cruz County Code relating to the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction, and Wildlife Protection Act," as approved in concept on May 20, 2025.

Executive Summary

N/A

Discussion

On May 20, 2025, the Board of Supervisors approved the ordinance in concept and scheduled it for second reading/final adoption on June 10, 2025.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with the recommended action.

Strategic Initiatives

N/A

Submitted By:

Juliette Rezzato, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

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

ORDINANCE NO. _____

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4.65.060(A)(3) OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CODE TO AMEND THE DUE DATE FOR MEASURE Q'S FIVE-YEAR VISION PLAN

The Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County hereby finds and declares the following:

WHEREAS, in November 2024, Santa Cruz County voters approved Measure Q, the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction, and Wildlife Protection Act (the "Act"), which added Chapter 4.65 to the Santa Cruz County Code ("SCCC"); and

WHEREAS, SCCC 4.65.100 authorizes the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz to make administrative amendments to the Act without submitting the amendment to the voters for approval if such amendments are consistent with and in furtherance of the purposes of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has determined that it is appropriate to amend Chapter 4.65.060(A)(3) of the Santa Cruz County Code to extend the due date for publication of the five-year vision plan required under the Act for a short period, in order to allow the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board sufficient time to make recommendations on the development of the plan by County staff and approve the vision plan;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz ordains as follows:

SECTION I

Section 4.65.060(A)(3) of the Santa Cruz County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

(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 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.

SECTION II

This ordinance shall take effect on the 31st day after the date of final adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

FELIPE HERNANDEZ
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____
Juliette Rezzato
Clerk of the Board

Approved as to Form:

5/8/2025

Signed by:
Ann Jackson
52A1BA5EDCEAC6

Ann Jackson
Office of the County Counsel

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 20443042-BBFA-4A14-A753-411B2354D69A		Status: Sent
Subject: Complete with Docusign: DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING 4.65.060(A)(3).docx		
Source Envelope:		
Document Pages: 3	Signatures: 1	Envelope Originator:
Certificate Pages: 5	Initials: 0	Kelly Mercer-Lebov
AutoNav: Enabled		701 Ocean Street
Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled		Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)		Kelly.Mercer-Lebov@santacruzcountyca.gov
		IP Address: 63.194.190.100

Record Tracking

Status: Original 5/8/2025 10:46:35 AM	Holder: Kelly Mercer-Lebov Kelly.Mercer-Lebov@santacruzcountyca.gov	Location: DocuSign
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Signer Events

Ann Jackson
ann.jackson@santacruzcountyca.gov
Assistant County Counsel
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

Signed by:

52A16A3EBDCE4CC...

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Viewed: 5/8/2025 11:10:46 AM
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ID: 91dacd55-7b18-4ac8-8a46-5b525df71978

CBD eSignature
cbd.esignature@santacruzcountyca.gov
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Accepted: 6/20/2024 3:08:48 PM
ID: 4b7794de-1393-406f-a9a3-56a92d4b90d7

In Person Signer Events

Signature

Timestamp

Editor Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Agent Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Intermediary Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Certified Delivery Events

Status

Timestamp

Kelly Mercer-Lebov
kelly.mercer-lebov@santacruzcountyca.gov
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Sent: 5/8/2025 11:11:34 AM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
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ID: 5f799af8-b478-4b40-95e6-f1588570b327

Carbon Copy Events

Status

Timestamp

Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Kelly Mercer-Lebov kelly.mercer-lebov@santacruzcountyca.gov Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure: Accepted: 12/23/2024 2:47:20 PM ID: 5f799af8-b478-4b40-95e6-f1588570b327		

Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure
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How to contact County of Santa Cruz:

You may contact us to let us know of your changes as to how we may contact you electronically, to request paper copies of certain information from us, and to withdraw your prior consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically as follows:

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To advise County of Santa Cruz of your new email address

To let us know of a change in your email address where we should send notices and disclosures electronically to you, you must send an email message to us at nada.algharib@santacruzcounty.us and in the body of such request you must state: your previous email address, your new email address. We do not require any other information from you to change your email address.

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To inform us that you no longer wish to receive future notices and disclosures in electronic format you may:

- i. decline to sign a document from within your signing session, and on the subsequent page, select the check-box indicating you wish to withdraw your consent, or you may;
- ii. send us an email to nada.algharib@santacruzcounty.us and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

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- Until or unless you notify County of Santa Cruz as described above, you consent to receive exclusively through electronic means all notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you by County of Santa Cruz during the course of your relationship with County of Santa Cruz.

General Government

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Name: Becky Steinbruner

Comment - 06/08/2025 09:15 AM: (Against)

Dear Supervisors,

I recently completed the Measure Q survey and am HIGHLY concerned.

The questions asking to prioritize areas for projects completely left out ENORMOUS regions of the Santa Cruz Mountains - a majority of the mountain area, actually.

How can Measure Q claim to be servicing forest health and wildfire resilience and yet exclude a majority of the forested area from consideration?

Aptos has been included, but my rural Aptos Hills area is excluded. Fire knows no boundaries. Examples of areas completely left out of consideration include the Summit area (east of Hwy 17 and south of Summit Rd), all mountain areas south of the Summit area going down towards Santa Cruz/Soquel/Capitola, mountain areas north of Scotts Valley up to the county border, and the entire northwest region of the county (such as South Skyline and all areas north of Boulder Creek/Zayante).

People across the county who filled out the survey have realized the same issue and have the same concern, including the Firewise leaders of Santa Cruz county. I would highly encourage your team to communicate with the public regarding this topic, to reassess your regions, and most importantly to correct the issue.

Also, Question #3 in the Survey omits any option for "Wildfire" with "Forest Health", instead offering "Wildlife" protection only.

Please respond. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner