



Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, January 8, 2026
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor – Coastlines Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
PRESENT: John Daugherty (*1st District*), Tymothie Hale (*2nd District*), Becky Taylor (*3rd District*),
Richard Gubash (*3rd District*), Brenda Gutierrez Baeza (*4th District Co-Chair*), Jessica
Liddy Hayford (*4th District*), David Molina (*5th District Co-Chair*)
EXCUSED: Mitali Weiglein (*5th District*)
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)
GUESTS: No members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
Meeting convened at 12:35 PM.
2. Agenda Review
3. Approve November 13, 2025 Minutes
Motion to approve minutes as written
Motion/Second: Molina/Hale
Motion passed unanimously.
4. Public Comment: None
5. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:

Daugherty arrived.

5.1. Consider County Strategic Planning Focus Area Priorities Follow-up

Molina prefaced the conversation by expressing concerns about federal and state budget cuts potentially disproportionately impacting the disabilities community. Daugherty encouraged Commissioners to normalize consistent contact with their District Supervisors regarding potential budget cuts. Commission provided the following feedback in the following areas: Infrastructure and path-of-travel safety, promotion and community education on emergency response and preparedness services for people with disabilities, normalizing inclusion for persons with disabilities in County wellbeing programs and services, increased emphasis on affordable, accessible public transit particularly near new affordable housing developments, and exploring supports for increased employment opportunities for persons with disabilities specifically, particularly in the County workforce.

Motion authorizing Staff to compile and submit feedback to Sven Stafford via email

Motion/Second: Daugherty/Hale

Motion passed unanimously.

5.2. Consider Commissions 2026 Strategic Action Plan

Item pended to the March meeting.

6. Commission Priority Reports:

6.1. Accessibility Awareness Report: No Report

6.2. Accessible Recreation Report: No Report

6.3. Affordable Accessible Housing Report: No Report

6.4. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report: No Report

7. Correspondence: None

8. Staff Report: None

Staff reported that Commissioner Zinnanti's seat on the Commission has been automatically vacated pursuant to Santa Cruz County Code Chapter 2.38.200(A)(1). Commissioners are encouraged to share news of the new vacancy with potential applicants from District 2. Qualified applicants must either have a disability or an immediate family member with a disability.

9. Announcements/Emerging Matters: None

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*