



# Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711  
commissions@santacruzcounty.us  
www.scccod.net

## Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE: Thursday April 13, 2023  
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM  
LOCATION: **County Government Building, Fifth Floor, Board Chambers**  
**701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

**\*\*As a courtesy to those who are affected, kindly attend the meeting *scent-free* and *smoke-free*.\*\***

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Approve *February 9, 2023 Minutes*
5. Public Comment: *Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed five minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission.*
6. Administration of the Oath of Office
7. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:
  - 7.1. Election of Officers
  - 7.2. METRO ParaCruz Advocacy Letter
  - 7.3. Commission Priorities
8. Commission Reports
  - 8.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report
  - 8.2. Housing Element Community Stakeholder Group Report
9. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports
  - 9.1. Recreation Subcommittee Report
  - 9.2. Legislative Subcommittee Report
  - 9.3. Commission History Report
10. Staff Report
11. Emerging Matters
12. Adjournment

**Next Regular Meeting:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 from 12:30 – 2:00 PM

*The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact 454-2772 or TDD/711 at least 72 hours in advance to make arrangements.*



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## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, February 9, 2023  
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM  
LOCATION: Remote Meeting  
PRESENT: Rebecca Haifley (*1<sup>st</sup> District*), Stacie Grijalva (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Fay Levinson (*2<sup>nd</sup> District*), Becky Taylor (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*), Brenda Gutierrez Baeza (*Vice Chair - 4<sup>th</sup> District*), David Molina (*Chair - 5<sup>th</sup> District*), Riley Hartmann (*5<sup>th</sup> District*)  
EXCUSED: John Daugherty (*1<sup>st</sup> District*), Richard Gubash (*3<sup>rd</sup> District*)  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)  
GUESTS: 2 members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order  
Meeting convened at 12:36 PM.
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Approve January 12, 2023 Minutes  
**Motion to Approve Minutes As Written**  
Motion/Second: Taylor/Levinson  
**Motion passed unanimously.**
5. Public Comment
6. New/Continuing Business:
  - 6.1. Vista Center Title VII Grant Application Support Letter  
Commission considered a letter supporting Vista Center's grant application.  
**Motion to approve the letter of support for Vista Center**  
Motion/Second: Molina/Haifley  
**Motion passed unanimously.**
  - 6.2. Ad Hoc Subcommittees  
Commission made the following changes to their ad hoc subcommittee structure and membership:
    - Public Awareness: Grijalva removed, Taylor added and named Lead
    - Kudos: Gutierrez Baeza named Lead
    - Resource Directory: Subcommittee dissolved
    - Accessibility Awareness: Hartmann appointed and named Lead
    - Legislative: Taylor appointed and Haifley named Lead
    - Housing: Haifley appointed and named Lead. Hartmann and Gubash nominated but not yet appointed
    - Emergency Preparedness & Crisis Response: Taylor removed, Levinson appointed, and Molina named Lead

- Voter Accessibility: Levinson named Lead
- Recreation: Gutierrez Baeza named Lead
- Commission History: Taylor appointed and Daugherty named Lead
- Executive Committee will consider and prioritize opportunities to collaborate with other Commissions

#### 6.3. METRO ParaCruz ADA Complementary Paratransit Service

Commission discussed accessible public transit issues, including accessibility coordinator staffing, failure to prioritize people with disabilities for Paracruz rides during evacuations, scheduling barriers, lack of sufficient room for wheelchairs on METRO buses. Haifley and Grijalva will work with staff to draft an advocacy letter for the Commission to consider.

#### 6.4. Housing Element Community Stakeholder Group

Commission discussed representation on the Housing Element Community Stakeholder Group to advocate for ADA accessibility in housing decisions.

**Motion to authorize Haifley and Gubash to represent the Commission in the group.**

Motion/Second: Molina/Taylor

**Motion passed** unanimously.

#### 7. Commission Reports:

7.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report: No Report

#### 8. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Updates:

##### 8.1. Recreation Subcommittee:

Gutierrez-Baeza reported that Shared Adventures is sponsoring swimmers' fees for low-stim swim hours and shared an update on the ParkRx program in which health care providers prescribe parks, nature, and programming to improve health. Currently, Salud Para La Gente providers are participating and Santa Cruz County Park Friends volunteers are working with providers at the new Live Oak Community Health Center to set up a similar arrangement.

##### 8.2. Legislative Subcommittee: No Report

##### 8.3. History Project Report

Staff reported that the research internship has been offered to a candidate, and we are awaiting response.

#### 9. Staff Report:

Staff reported that all County advisory boards will be returning to in-person meeting in March and the Board Chambers has been reserved for the rest of the year to allow for socially-distanced seating. A new County policy will require all Commissioners to take an oath of office and representatives from the CAO's office will attend a future meeting to collect signatures.

#### 10. Emerging Matters: None

#### 11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*



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April 13, 2023

Santa Cruz Metro Transit District Board of Directors  
110 Vernon Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Accessible Public Transportation

Dear Chair Koenig and Members of the Board,

The purpose of this letter is to express the *Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities'* concerns regarding the provision of accessible, affordable public transportation as well as services historically provided by SCMTD staff related to accessibility services coordination and eligibility determination.

To the best of our knowledge, Metro's former *Accessible Services Coordinator* retired in 2020 and more recently, the former *Eligibility Coordinator* retired in 2022. As a result, the provision of accessible, affordable public transportation to Santa Cruz County residents with disabilities has suffered both in terms of quality and availability. Some concerns brought to the attention of the Commission are as follows:

- Too few spaces for wheelchairs on METRO buses, resulting in buses simply leaving riders with wheelchairs at the bus stop;
- ParaCruz rides frequently arriving more than 30 minutes after scheduled pick-up times, resulting in riders missing important appointments (e.g., medical, court dates, job interviews etc.);
- Riders requesting eligibility determination experiencing delays of more than a month to receive confirmation of ParaCruz eligibility;
- ParaCruz reportedly handling evacuation requests on a first-come, first-served basis rather than prioritizing evacuations for people with disabilities during the recent weather events; and
- Removal of a number of bus stops resulting in riders being denied eligibility for ParaCruz services because of their lack of proximity to remaining bus stops.

The accessibility of Metro services determines the accessibility of our entire community by providing access to jobs, health care, the legal system, shopping, entertainment, and social and political events for seniors and people with disabilities, particularly the most economically vulnerable members of these communities. Maintaining full-time staff to determine eligibility, coordinate access to services, and advise SCMTD staff who draft policy related to accessible public transit services is crucial to the overall accessibility of Metro services. Today we once again advocate for Metro to maintain full-time staff in this capacity and prioritize recruitment efforts with a view to filling the position as soon as is practicable.

We appreciate your consideration on behalf of the disabilities community in Santa Cruz County.

Respectfully,

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David Molina  
*Commission on Disabilities Co-Chair*

cc: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission  
Santa Cruz County IHSS Commission

Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities		
2023 Strategic Action Plan		
Objective #1: Monitor, Assess and Advocate for the Eradication of Barriers and Inequities Impacting Santa Cruz County Persons with Disabilities.	Leads	Activities and Accomplishments
<b>ACTION 1A:</b> Research and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on issues that impact persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.	ALL	
<b>ACTION 1B:</b> Receive and review communications from the community on matters of interest to persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County and make recommendations as needed.	ALL	
<b>ACTION 1C:</b> Review the provision of access for persons with disabilities to public places within the County and recommend improvements as needed.	ALL	
<b>ACTION 1D:</b> Monitor regional plans, programs, and legislation that affect persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County and make recommendations as needed.	ALL	

Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities		
2023 Strategic Action Plan		
Objective #2: Promote the Interests of Santa Cruz County Persons with Disabilities through Community Outreach and the Provision of Resources.	Leads	Activities and Accomplishments
<b>ACTION 2A:</b> Provide resources and referrals to services that support persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.	ALL	
<b>ACTION 2B:</b> Invite community partner reports and presentations on matters of interest to Santa Cruz County persons with disabilities.	ALL	
<b>ACTION 2C:</b> Maintain an online and social media presence to promote Commission activities and community events of interest to persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.	ALL	
<b>ACTION 2D:</b> Host, sponsor, or participate in community events and collaborate with other Commissions to promote Commission activities and address emerging issues for persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.	ALL	

Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities		
2023 Strategic Action Plan		
Objective #3: Monitor and Promote Equal Opportunity Employment for Persons with Disabilities in Santa Cruz County.	Leads	Activities and Accomplishments
<b>ACTION 3A:</b> Monitor implementation of the County EEO Plan and make recommendations as needed.	ALL	
<b>ACTION 3B:</b> Review County policies and position descriptions make recommendations as needed to ensure that any unnecessary barriers to the employment of persons with disabilities are removed.	ALL	
Objective #4: Develop and Implement Special Projects to Advance the Interests of Persons with Disabilities in Santa Cruz County.	Leads	Activities and Accomplishments
<b>ACTION 4A:</b> Host the Kudos Awards to honor individuals who have advanced accessibility for persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.		
<b>ACTION 4B:</b> Create a comprehensive Commission history (with the assistance of an intern) available in a variety of visually appealing and easily accessible formats.		
<b>ACTION 4C:</b>		
<b>ACTION 4D:</b>		

## **Commission on Disabilities – Strategic Action Plan Match**

### **2.72.060 Powers and duties.**

The Commission shall exercise the following responsibilities in its efforts to serve persons with disabilities within this County:

- (A) Review existing County policies that affect persons with disabilities and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding any proposed changes; **(3B)**
- (B) Review Sections 503 and 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations and advise the Board of Supervisors on any actions necessary to bring the County into compliance with the Federal requirements and to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities; **(1D)**
- (C) Review the provision of access for persons with disabilities to public places within the County and recommend improvements where needed; **(1C)**
- (D) Review the County's equal employment opportunity plan and policies, and recommend to the Board of Supervisors and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission any revisions which may be necessary to eliminate employment discrimination against persons with disabilities; **(3A) and (3B)**
- (E) Review the County's personnel rules and job descriptions, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, and to the Civil Service Commission, as necessary, to ensure that any unnecessary barriers to the employment of persons with disabilities are removed; **(3B)**
- (F) Advise the Board of Supervisors on any other appropriate programs and actions which would increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities; **(3A), (3B), and (1D)**
- (G) Evaluate services provided to persons with disabilities in the County and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors based on their conclusions; **(1A), (1B), and (1D)**
- (H) Review requests by persons with disabilities or organizations for County assistance, and advise the Board of Supervisors on appropriate actions; **(1B)**
- (I) Investigate citizen complaints related to concerns of persons with disabilities and recommend appropriate actions to the Board of Supervisors; **(1B)**
- (J) Review Federal and State legislation of interest to persons with disabilities and advise the Board of Supervisors of their recommendation; and **(1D)**
- (K) Exercise other responsibilities related to the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities in the County. **(1A), (2A), (2B), (2C), (2D), (4A) and (4B)**





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### Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified below, regularly scheduled Commission on Disability meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Thursday\*  
MONTH: Every month except July and December  
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM  
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor – Board Chambers\*  
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**\*Unless noted otherwise below**

Changes to the schedule, including special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations, will be listed on the website at [www.scccod.net](http://www.scccod.net) as soon as information becomes available.

2023 MEETING DATES		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 12, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Remote
February 9, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Remote
March 9, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers
April 13, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers
May 11, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers
June 8, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers
August 10, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers
September 14, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers
October 12, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers
November 9, 2023	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Board Chambers

### Public Participation

- Please check the meeting agenda to learn details about how to participate in the commission meeting.
- If you need special accommodations, please call 454-2935 or TDD: 711 (California Relay Service) at least 48 hours before the meeting.