



# 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@santacruzcountyca.gov  
www.scccod.net

## Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE: Thursday, September 11, 2025  
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM  
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Coastlines Conference Room  
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/Roll Call
2. Agenda Review
3. Approve *August 14, 2025 Minutes*
4. Public Comment: *Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed three minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission.*
5. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:
  - 5.1. Consider Revised SB-239 Advocacy Letter to the Board of Supervisors
  - 5.2. Consider Ad Hoc Collaborative Event Subcommittee Recommendation
6. Commission Reports
  - 6.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report – Gutierrez Baeza
7. Commission Priority Reports
  - 7.1. Accessibility Awareness Report
  - 7.2. Accessible Recreation Report
  - 7.3. Affordable Accessible Housing Report
  - 7.4. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report
8. Correspondence
9. Staff Report
10. Announcements/Emerging Matters
11. Adjournment

**Next Regular Meeting:** Thursday, October 9, 2025, 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, August 14, 2025  
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 (1<sup>st</sup> District), Tymothie Hale (2<sup>nd</sup> District), Becky Taylor (3<sup>rd</sup> District),  
Brenda Gutierrez Baeza (4<sup>th</sup> District Co-Chair), David Molina (5<sup>th</sup> District Co-Chair),  
Mitali Weiglein (5<sup>th</sup> District)  
EXCUSED: Jonathan Zinnanti (2<sup>nd</sup> District), Richard Gubash (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Jessica Liddy Hayford  
(4<sup>th</sup> District)  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)  
GUESTS: Gina De Martini Kuhns (*CEO Sr. Administrative Analyst*) was present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call  
Meeting convened at 12:32 PM.
2. Agenda Review
3. Approve June 12, 2025 Minutes  
**Motion to approve minutes as written**  
Motion/Second: Taylor/Hale  
**Motion passed unanimously.**
4. Public Comment
5. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:
  - 5.1. 2025 Kudos Debrief and Follow Up  
Commission discussed successes and opportunities for improvement including allowing for more lead time, more Commissioner engagement, better technology for speakers, uploading the event video to the County's YouTube channel. Staff will invite a speaker to present to the Commission on youth advocacy engagement, and work with BOS staff to develop a proclamation if the individual is willing to accept it.  
**Motion to draft a proclamation pending the individual's consent.**  
Motion/Second: Molina/Gutierrez Baeza  
**Motion passed unanimously**
  - 5.2. Santa Cruz City Affordable Housing Measures  
Commission discussed two Santa Cruz City housing measures that will be on the November ballot. While this topic is adjacent to the Commission's to the scope and purpose, it does not fall directly under their subject matter jurisdiction.

6. Commission Reports

6.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report:

Gutierrez Baeza reported a great turnout at the last meeting and agreed with the request made at the last Commission meeting to invite the Cultural Center's director to present to the Commission on how disability culture is being represented in the center.

6.2. Ad Hoc Collaborative Event Subcommittee Update

De Martini Kuhns gave an overview of her project on fostering a neuroinclusive County workplace using a targeted universalism approach to increased equal access for candidates and employees. Subcommittee will review De Martini Kuhns' proposal and the Autism Workplace Playbook and return to the September meeting with feedback. Subcommittee members will serve on the taskforce once established.

**Chair appointed Weiglein and Taylor to the Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

6.3. Ad Hoc Kudos Planning Subcommittee Report: **Commission dissolved.**

6.4. Ad Hoc Legislative Priorities Subcommittee Report

Staff reported that the pending legislation related allowing remote meetings for Brown Act Commissions (SB-239) was placed in the Inactive File by the bill's author. Commission will consider an advocacy letter at the September meeting.

7. Commission Priority Reports:

7.1. Accessibility Awareness Priority Report: No Report

7.2. Accessible Recreation Priority Report: No Report

7.3. Affordable Accessible Housing Report: No Report

7.4. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report:

8. Correspondence: None

9. Staff Report: None

10. Announcements/Emerging Matters:

Gutierrez Baeza announced that the Arts Council is seeking artists with disabilities to advise them on making their processes more accessible. Taylor announced that she is relaunching her book about her disability experience alongside the launch of a new book by another author with disabilities.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*



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September 11, 2025

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

Re: Support for SB-239 (Arreguín) – Teleconferencing for Subsidiary Bodies

Dear Chair Hernandez and Members of the Board,

The Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities respectfully requests that the Board of Supervisors communicate support to Senator Arreguín for reviving SB-239, which would update teleconferencing rules for subsidiary bodies under the Brown Act.

SB 239 addresses a critical barrier to civic engagement by ensuring that people who cannot attend meetings in person due to mobility limitations, chronic illness, immuno-compromised status, transportation challenges, or caregiving responsibilities can continue to participate fully in local public processes. While emergency orders during the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily removed these barriers, many of our community members have since lost that access.

As a body charged with advising the Board on issues affecting people with disabilities, we have consistently heard from constituents who benefited from remote participation options. For many, the availability of teleconferencing has meant the difference between being able to serve or not applying for a seat at all. Even among our seated commissioners, ongoing disability-related barriers have made in-person attendance difficult at times. SB-239 would make it easier for commissions like ours—and others focused on aging and disability issues—to meet and operate effectively, ensuring that a diverse range of voices and lived experiences remain represented in local decision-making.

Supporting SB 239 aligns with Santa Cruz County's commitment to equity, inclusion, and accessibility. It advances the goals of universal design and removes structural obstacles to civic participation—especially for those who have been historically marginalized or underrepresented. The bill advanced through the Senate earlier this year but was placed on the inactive file in June. We urge the Board to advocate with the author to bring the bill back this session if possible, and if not, to encourage its reintroduction in the next session.

Thank you for your time and consideration on behalf of the disabilities community in Santa Cruz County. Please feel free to reach out should you require any further information or clarification.

Respectfully,

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Brenda Gutierrez Baeza  
*Commission on Disabilities Co-Chair*

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David Molina  
*Commission on Disabilities Co-Chair*

*cc: Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission  
Santa Cruz County In-Home Support Services Commission*



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September 11, 2025

Santa Cruz County County Executive Office  
Attn: Gina De Martini-Kuhns, *Senior Administrative Analyst*  
710 Ocean Street, Room 520  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Support for the Autism in the Workplace Project

Dear Ms. De Martini-Kuhns,

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities, we want to thank you warmly for joining our meeting on August 14th to present on the Autism in the Workplace project. Your presentation was both inspiring and deeply informative, and we are truly excited about the important work you are leading.

The Commission is sincerely eager to be involved in this project. Commissioner Jessica Liddy-Hayford has graciously volunteered to serve as our liaison, and we request that she be included in any committees, work groups, or other opportunities where our Commission's voice may be helpful.

We also encourage you to share this presentation with the County's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) at their upcoming October 15th meeting, in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. We believe they will find your work as compelling as we did, and we recommend that they, too, designate a liaison to join in supporting the project.

To ensure we can continue to align our efforts with yours, we would love to invite you back to our Commission meetings on a quarterly basis to provide updates on the project's progress. This will allow us to explore additional ways to support you as the initiative develops. In the meantime, please know that we will be monitoring the project closely and stand ready to consult or collaborate whenever requested.

We are deeply grateful for your leadership and vision. The Autism in the Workplace project is a vital step forward for our community, and we are proud to stand alongside you in advancing its success.

With appreciation and enthusiasm,

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Brenda Gutierrez Baeza  
*Commission on Disabilities Co-Chair*

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David Molina  
*Commission on Disabilities Co-Chair*

*cc: Santa Cruz County Equal Employment Opportunity Commission  
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors*



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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 or Redwood Room\*  
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**\*Meetings will be held in either of these rooms 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.

2025 MEETING DATES		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 9, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room
February 13, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room
March 13, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
April 10, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
May 8, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
June 12, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
August 14, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
September 11, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
October 9, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
November 13, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room

### 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.