

**Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club - Executive Committee
Minutes of the February 11, 2026**

1. Greetings/Introductions

Present: Mike Guth, Kristen Sandel, Stevan Leonard, Steve Bakaley, Cynthia Denny, Micah Posner, Lani Faulkner, and Jim Danaher.

2. Announcements

Micah mentioned he is working with another group to keep the tracks on the right-of-way. A short discussion about the rail line followed. Micah mentioned he will be reconstituting the Political Committee. Cynthia stated that State Parks received a letter regarding the final EIR. Mike discussed a hearing for a 60 unit tall unit in Capitola, and the reason why the County approved

3. Changes to the Agenda

Mike adds committee assignments to the agenda. Passes unanimously.

4. Steve B Treasurer's Report

Steve Leonard was voted as the new treasurer. Greg McPheeters, Trician Comings, and Mary Odegard previously had authority to write checks. The authority of previous appointees to write checks is withdrawn. New appointees for check writing authority are Steve Leonard, Steve Bakaley, and Lani Faulkner. These new appointments are effective February 11, 2026.

5. ExCom Office elections

- a. Chair: Steve Bakaley nominates Mike Guth for Chair. Lani seconds. 6-0 in favor.
- b. Vice Chair: Kristen nominates Steve Bakaley. 6-0 in favor.
- c. Secretary: Mike nominates Jim Danaher; 6-0 in favor.

6. Consideration by Executive Committee of selecting member for vacant seat

- a. Jerry Busch, returning after hiatus; discuss. Steve B nominates, Lani seconds. 6-0 in favor for the vacant two-year term.

7. March fundraising appeal (Steve B)

Update: Steve says the envelope and the letter has been approved. A discussion followed about the contents of the letter. In addition, the Chapter is being pushed, or required, to hire a professional fundraiser.

8. Political Committee.

Micah is nominated as chair. Ethan is nominated as co-Chair. Members include Kristen, Cynthia, Lani, Ethan Q, Ron Pomerantz, Henry Hooker, Mike Guth, Lani Faulkner, Cynthia Denny. Passes 6-0.

9. Transportation Committee:

All the current members are re-nominated. Approved 5-0.

10. Conservation Committee:

Mike nominates Kristen and Mike as co-chairs. Also nominated as committee members are all the current members. Passes 6-0.

12. Forest Issues:

Mike attended Coastal Committee meeting for San Mateo and Santa Cruz County. The California Coastal Commission meeting for February had agendaized large forest projects. He gave a history of the situation about large scale tree removal and bulldozing. The proposed projects in Santa Cruz and San Mateo County tier under previously certified Public Works plans, which came from Cal Fire plan that was de-certified. Also other groups, including John Muir Project have put in letters of record.. In light of significant public input prior to the hearing, the Coastal Commission decided to postpone their planned hearing.

13. Vandenberg Launch Site:

Mike discussed the proposal to greatly expand the use of the Vandenberg Launch Site with launches possibly every two days, and launches with larger space craft. This is being tracked by Sierra Club National as well as Santa Lucia Chapter, and SCC Coastal. He will contact Assemblyman Panetta on the subject.

14. Outings Committee:

Steve Bakaley started a discussion about ways to expand the Sierra Club outings program by reducing the paperwork burden on hike leaders.

15. Parks/Public Lands Sub-Committee report (Cynthia D)

Mike proposed re-constituting the Parks/Public Lands Sub-Committee with the same members. Passes 6-0

16. Conservation Meeting in Two Weeks

Mike said the Conservation Committee meeting in two weeks regarding the forest thinning proposal would be producing more evidence against the plan, and invited everybody to attend.