

SIERRA CLUB SANTA CRUZ COUNTY GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

September 9, 2021

6:30-8:00 PM

Meeting will be conducted via <https://zoom.us/> Link required to join the meeting and will be provided to Excomm members via separate correspondence. Others contact chair or Excomm members to register and join meeting

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Micah Posner, Sally Arnold, Mike Guth, Steve Bakaley, Jerry Busch, Kristen Sandel, Adam Scow, Jim Danaher.
2. **Check ins and announcements.**

3. **Requests to modify the Agenda**

Micah requests to add a discussion about the Club not supporting nuclear energy inclusion in the infrastructure bill.

Executive Committee

4. **Approval of Aug 11 meeting minutes**

Regarding Paragraph #9: Mike Guth states that the group voted to modify the letter in opposition. Change: remove the residential zone limitation from the Club's position. Kristen seconds. Passes.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (Steve B)

- a. Balances in checking and savings. Steve gave the report on balances.

Conservation Committee

6. **Report** (Mike Guth): Mike reports on the 8/5 Cons Comm meeting, where they discussed the Moran Lake plan, the Homeless Garden Project, and the urban limit line in south county. Mike will try to bring [Joni Janecki](#) to the ExCom/ConsCom to inform the

committee more thoroughly about the issues.

7. **Watsonville Urban Limit Line Initiative**(Adam): Adam completed a draft initiative. Proposes that the Club endorse the initiative to re-enactment of the urban limit line. Adam says the ConsComm gave unanimous support to bring the draft initiative to ExComm for approval, and will send the draft to ExCom members. He reports that Measure U passed in 2002, establishing the limit line. Measure T in 2013 sought to over-ride Measure U but failed badly. Jerry proposes a motion that the ExComm support the initiative, Steve B seconds. Passes unanimously.

7a. **Leaf Blowers.** Discussed briefly, and will be further discussed when Steve McGuirk is available.

8. **Pesticide Update** (Adam): Adam reports that 40% of land is farmed organically (from the Ag. Commission). High incidence of developmental problems with children in Watsonville. Mostly related to strawberries and raspberries. Campaign for Organic Regenerative Agriculture is forming, and is planning a town-hall meeting, probably in October 24th or November 7th (Sunday afternoons), possibly at Watsonville Community Center, both in-person and online.

9. **Letter on Homeless Garden in Pogonip**(Micah). The committee discussed the proposed relocation of the homeless garden project to Pogonip. Mike shared a draft letter to the city. Issues involved with the relocation included lead poisoning, increased traffic. Jerry proposed that the City investigate and consider remediation measures. Mike's letter was edited by the committee. Micah moves that the letter be sent to the City's Parks and Recreation Commission. Mike seconded. Passes unanimously. Micah discussed the process, and said a cover letter should be sent to the Homeless Garden Project, along with a copy of the letter to the City, indicating support for the relocation, but also expressing certain concerns. Jerry moves, and Steve B seconds. Micah proposes Jerry writes the letter, Mike seconds. Passes unanimously.

Transportation Committee

10. **Report** (Kristen) Kristen reports that the committee discussed the Greenway petition and the Club opposition to it. Kristen encourages everyone to read the petition, and states that it thoroughly disrupts any possibility of planning for rail transport. Reported that the committee discussed the downtown initiative, and was hoping to arrange a meeting with Manu Koenig, supervisor.

11. **Recommendation to oppose Greenway Petition** Sally Arnold will draft a _____, initiative support request to State Club and Micah and Steve will review it. Motion: Steve moves that the Club oppose the Greenway petition, and send relevant documents to Chapter and State for approval to oppose. Passes unanimously.

12. **Our Downtown, Our Choice initiative.** Rick Longinotti detailed his proposed initiative to provide affordable housing, preserve and improve the Farmer's Market site, provide funding to improve the library on it's current site, and avoid subsidies to build parking garages. Motion to request approval from State to oppose this initiative; passes unanimously.

More Executive Committee

13. **Norm for committee members conducting information gathering** (Steve B). A long discussion was held regarding whether the ~~a~~ procedure should be created before an ExCom member gathers information on any particular issue that might be of interest to the Club. Mike, _____, Micah and _____ Steve B will discuss the issue and make a proposal before the next meeting.

14. **Nuclear Power Plants.** Micah discussed the inclusion of funding for nuclear power in the federal infrastructure bill.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday October 13 6, 2021