



Regular Public Session of March 24, 2026

Santa Cruz Port Commission MINUTES

Commission Members Present:

Reed Geisreiter	Chair
Robert DeWitt	Vice-chair
Stephen Reed	Commissioner
Toby Goddard	Commissioner
Bill Lee	Commissioner

REGULAR PUBLIC SESSION – 5:30 PM

Chair Geisreiter convened the regular public session at 5:30 PM at the Harbor Public Meeting Room, 365 A Lake Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA (hybrid meeting platform).

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Oral Communication

Commissioner Goddard suggested sending a letter to the California Fish and Game Commission reaffirming the Commission's opposition to Petition 2023-33MPA, a proposed Marine Protected Area (MPA) regulation change petition that would, in part, designate one new State Marine Reserve (SMR) and expand the boundary of one existing SMR affecting the Natural Bridges and Pleasure Point areas. He stated that the proposal lacks sufficient scientific support and would significantly restrict fishing activities. He noted that the Commission has previously expressed opposition to this same proposal in prior correspondence.

There was consensus from the Commission to submit a letter reaffirming prior opposition to the regulatory change requested in Petition 2023-33MPA.

Vice-chair DeWitt provided a brief overview of the inaugural meeting of the Santa Cruz and San Benito chapter of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), which he attended on March 30, 2026.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approval of Minutes
 - a) Special Public Budget Meeting of February 10, 2026
 - b) Regular Public Meeting of February 24, 2026
4. Approval of Long-Term Lease and Month-to-Month Sublease – 365B Lake Avenue (Tenant: Beacon Pointe Advisors, Subtenant: Boxine USA, Inc.)

5. Approval of Month-to-Month Rental Agreement for 413 Lake Avenue, Suite 101 & 102 (Tenant: Galaxy Ventures, LLC)

Discussion: In regard to Item 3b, Commissioner Goddard requested that the February 24, 2026, minutes be revised to clarify the structure of the installment sale agreement, prepayment terms, and the mechanisms that ensure compliance with existing bond covenants.

In regard to Item 5, Commissioner Goddard requested that the premises map be revised to more clearly delineate the boundaries of Suites 101 & 102.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve consent agenda items 3 through 5, with the suggested revisions to items 3b and 5.

- *Motion carried unanimously.*

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Award of Contract for Demolition and Reconstruction of G and X Dock Project (NTE \$10,402,612)

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie stated that a request for proposals for the Demolition and Reconstruction of G and X Dock Project was advertised, commencing March 1, 2026. She stated that one bid was received from Cushman Contracting Corporation ("Cushman") in the amount of \$9,456,920

Port Director MacLaurie stated that staff is recommending an increased contingency amount of 15 percent due to the scale and complexity of the project. She provided the figures below that represent the estimated construction budget based on Cushman's bid:

Contract Amount	\$ 9,456,920
<u>Contingencies (approx. 15%)</u>	<u>\$ 1,418,538</u>
Total Construction Cost	\$ 10,875,458

Port Director MacLaurie stated that the Waterboard has authorized a one-time allowance to exceed the annual 80-pile replacement limit to allow demolition and reconstruction of G and X Dock within the 2026 work window (June 15, 2026, through November 30, 2026).

Facilities & Maintenance Engineering (FME) Manager Wulf stated that the project scope includes the replacement of floating docks, piles, and associated utilities. He stated that all piles will be replaced, except for approximately 10-12 piles that were installed as part of the 2023 Pile Replacement Project.

Port Director MacLaurie stated that it is the District's expectation that a

substantial portion of the project costs (currently projected at approximately 75 percent) will be reimbursed by CalOES. She noted that non-storm damaged piles scheduled for replacement may not be eligible for reimbursement, but staff will work with CalOES and provide justification to support reimbursement to the fullest extent allowable.

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-chair DeWitt, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to award a contract with Cushman Contracting Corporation in the amount of \$9,456,920 for the Demolition and Reconstruction of G and X Dock Project; authorize the Port Director to execute the contract; authorize a 15 percent contingency (\$1,418,538) for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$10,875,458; and approve an appropriation in the FY27 budget for the contract amount plus contingency.

- *Motion carried unanimously.*

7. Consider Allocation of Slip F-19 and Authorization of a Public Benefit Discount for the Santa Cruz Yacht Club Junior Sailing Program

Discussion: Harbormaster Anderson provided an overview of the proposed allocation of slip F-19 to the Santa Cruz Yacht Club (SCYC) Junior Sailing Program and stated that the use of Slip F-19 by the Junior Sailing Program would provide several benefits to both the program and the harbor, including:

- Demonstrating District support for youth sailing and maritime education programs that help cultivate future harbor users.
- Reducing vessel congestion near the public FF-Dock hand launch and FF-Dock turning basin, an area that also supports the UCSC Sailing Program and multiple charter vessels.
- Reducing roadway congestion and pedestrian-vehicle conflicts associated with the current practice of transporting dinghies by hand on dollies from the junior yard to the hand launch facility.
- Improving safety by minimizing the need for young sailors to launch and retrieve boats at the public hand launch, which can pose challenges and limitations for younger participants.
- Providing operational flexibility in advance of the planned west side seawall improvement project. If Slip F-19 were assigned to a large catamaran from the waitlist, that vessel will potentially require relocation during construction, depending on vessel width.

Andreas Kesting, SCYC Junior Program Director, thanked the Commissioners for their consideration.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the SCYC Junior Program and thanked staff for providing a detailed report.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Goddard, seconded by Commissioner Reed, to authorize the allocation of slip F-19 for use by the Santa Cruz Yacht Club Junior

Sailing Program, authorize a public benefit discount reducing slip rent for F-19 by 50%, and authorize the execution of a slip license agreement with the Santa Cruz Sailing Foundation for the use of slip F-19.

- *Motion carried. Commissioner DeWitt abstained.*

8. Approval of Cash/Payroll Disbursements – February 2026 (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-chair DeWitt, seconded by Commissioner Goddard, to approve cash and payroll disbursements for February 2026, in the amount of \$1,246,922.88.

- *Motion carried unanimously.*

INFORMATION

9. Port Director's Report (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

10. Harbormaster's Report

Harbormaster Anderson stated that the City of Santa Cruz is supportive of funding an early start to the seasonal water taxi service, tentatively scheduled to begin the first weekend in May. He stated that seasonal recruitment, including water taxi operators and attendants, is currently underway.

Commissioner Lee requested that water taxi operating hours be clearly posted and updated as needed to reflect seasonal daylight savings changes.

Commissioner Goddard noted that the current five-year fishery report graph no longer includes 2021 data, which limits the ability to compare years with active salmon fishing seasons to more recent years without a salmon season (or limited salmon season). He stated that 2021 and 2022 represent strong salmon seasons and recommended retaining 2021 data in the graph to provide a more accurate comparison across years with and without salmon fishing activity.

11. Facilities Maintenance & Engineering Manager's Report

Facilities Maintenance & Engineering (FME) Manager Wulf stated that the dredge crew will conclude dredging in the AA – A Dock fairway by the end of the week.

Port Director MacLaurie stated that the Moss Landing Harbor District Board of Commissioners will consider the Port District's permit application to utilize space at Moss Landing Harbor for the *Twin Lakes* dredge haulout and maintenance project at its meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

A discussion ensued regarding the planned dredge haulout, including consideration of performing the work at the District's launch ramp as an alternative to transporting the dredge to Moss Landing Harbor District facilities.

Port Director MacLaurie stated that completing the work within Santa Cruz Harbor could result in an estimated cost savings of approximately \$300,000 and would require fewer regulatory permits.

In response to a question from Chair Geisreiter, FME Manager Wulf stated that DSC Dredge will manage the project, while harbor staff focuses on routine summer maintenance activities.

Port Director MacLaurie stated that staff will provide a haulout update at a future meeting, including a diagram of the proposed haulout location and additional details regarding containment measures and implementation.

12. Murray Street Bridge Seismic Retrofit & Barrier Replacement Project Update

Port Director MacLaurie provided the following updates regarding the Murray Street Bridge construction:

- Work continues on abutments 9 and 10.
- The east access road is anticipated to reopen to pedestrian and service vehicle traffic around April 6, 2026.
- The two-way traffic pilot program concluded after approximately 10 days and has reverted to one-way eastbound traffic.
- Sewer work has commenced, including an interim transition to a gravity-fed system in advance of the primary switchover scheduled for later this summer.

13. Annual Review of Business Use of Slips – 2025

Commissioner Goddard commended the annual review of the Business Use of Slips report and suggested that the medium charter category may no longer be necessary, given that the medium and large categories are subject to the same fee structure.

14. Santa Cruz Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) Update

Chair Geisreiter commended staff's successful coordination on the development of the Santa Cruz Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Goddard, Port Director MacLaurie stated that formal approval is anticipated at the April meeting and that any errors or suggested revisions may be submitted to the consultant as part of the final review process.

The Commission provided the following comments for clarification and revision:

- Page 105: The figure caption references transformer replacement but should reflect west jetty repair.
- Page 126: Additional detail was requested regarding the planning assumptions for sea level rise, including the projected year and amount of change.

- Page 138: The text indicates no civil engineer, while the corresponding graphic suggests otherwise; clarification was requested to note that civil engineering services are contracted.

15. Financial Reports
a) Comparative Seasonal Revenue Graph
b) LAIF & CLASS Statements

In response to a question posed by Chair Geisreiter, Port Director MacLaurie stated that the \$13 million in financing proceeds has been deposited into the District's CLASS account, bringing the total balance to just over \$28 million. She added that the funds are currently earning interest at a rate of 4.12 percent.

16. Delinquent Account Reporting

Harbormaster Anderson stated that delinquent accounts have risen to levels comparable to 2020 (COVID-19) and attributed the increase to current economic conditions.

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Goddard, Harbormaster Anderson stated that payment plans continue to be offered; however, participation has been inconsistent.

17. Harbor Patrol Incident Response Report – February 2026 (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

18. Written Correspondence
a) Letter from Don Lauritson to Port Director MacLaurie and the Port Commission
b) Letter from Harbormaster Anderson to the Honorable Jimmy Panetta

A discussion ensued regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety within the harbor and potential mitigation measures, including increased enforcement and additional traffic calming measures such as signage and physical controls to reduce bicycle speeds.

19. Port Commission Review Calendar / Follow-Up Items

Port Director MacLaurie stated that the Santa Cruz County Form 700 filing deadline is April 1, 2026. She stated that forms can now be filed electronically on the County's website.

Chair Geisreiter adjourned the regular public session at 6:35 PM.



Reed Geisreiter, Chair