

**SAN BENITO COUNTY
FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Commissioners:

*Gregg Zanella (Chairman), Robert Scagliotti (Vice-Chairman), David Castro, Tom Nino,
Tim Scagliotti, Robert Earl Groeling, Scott Adessa, Marty Martinez,
Matt Kirkland, & Marty McCullough*

AGENDA

MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021

6:00 P.M.

San Benito County Administration Building
Board of Supervisors Chambers
481 Fourth Street, Hollister, California

Webinar ID: 929 6263 5770

Webinar Password: 179226

The meetings are open to the public, under the following conditions: All Attendees must comply with the State of California's face covering requirements. Fully vaccinated members of public attest that they are in compliance with the COVID-19 inoculation requirements set by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) (e.g. that they are fully vaccinated), by virtue of their entry into a County Building, including the Boardroom, without a mask. Fully vaccinated members of public are not required to wear a mask, unvaccinated individuals are required to wear a face covering (or alternative, as explained further below).

All attendees must comply with any other rules of procedures/instructions announced by the Commission and/or County Staff.

Any violations of the above may result in the Commission or the Chair closing the meeting, effective immediately, or clearing the room, as well as other enforcement actions. The meeting will be available through Zoom for those who wish to join or require accommodations with the instructions below:

Pursuant to California Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, relating to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Board of Supervisors are allowed to attend the meeting via teleconference and to participate in the meeting to the same extent as if they were present.

This meeting can be accessed in the following methods:

1. Public in-person attendance following the CDPH face covering guidelines; per instructions listed below.
2. Through Zoom (<https://zoom.us/join>) per the instruction stated below, and other methods as described further below; and
3. Remote live stream on the County's Social Media Page. (If available for the meeting).

Public Attendance in Person:

At the Board of Supervisors Chambers: 481 4th St, Hollister, CA, 95023

For the safety of public and County employees, please note the following. As of April 20, 2021, the Fish and Game Commission meeting will be open to the public, following the conditions listed below:

A. All attendees must comply with the June 15, 2021 California Department of Public Health face covering requirements, found at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>

B. Unvaccinated Members of the Public: Masks are required for unvaccinated individuals. If you are exempt from the CDPH face-covering guidance (above) and are not fully vaccinated, you must wear a face shield which will be provided to attend the meeting. If you cannot, or choose not to, wear a face covering or face shield, you may participate in the meeting by Zoom.

C. Fully Vaccinated Members of the Public: Masks are not required for fully vaccinated individuals.

D. All attendees must comply with any other rules of procedure/instructions announced by the Chair.

Participating by Zoom:

Three ways to attend Zoom meetings: on a web browser, through the Zoom App, or over the phone. Each webinar will have a webinar ID and password, which is a unique number associated with an instant or scheduled meeting (found at the top of this text). The chat feature is disabled for all participants. Additionally, the video function is not available to the public. Zoom regularly provides new versions of the Zoom desktop client and Zoom mobile app to release new security features and fix bugs. To ensure you can join the meeting and participate through public comment, please launch the web address to download the Zoom application: <https://zoom.us/support/download>. Furthermore, we recommend upgrading to the latest version of Zoom once it is available. Please visit <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362233-Upgrade-update-to-the-latest-version> to ensure you have the newest Zoom update.

A. Zoom on Web-browser:

a. If joining through web-browser, launch the address <https://zoom.us/join> or open the direct link listed below: <https://zoom.us>

B. Or launch the Zoom app on your Tablet or Smartphone:

b. Select "JOIN A MEETING"

c. The participant will be prompted to enter Webinar ID and Password listed above and name to join the meeting. The meeting agenda can be found at <https://www.cosb.us/>

d. The participant can launch audio through their computer or set it up through the phone.

e. Public Comment: Select the "Participants Tab" and click "Raise hand" icon, and the Zoom facilitator will unmute you when your turn arrives.

C. Zoom Audio Only (phone):

a. If you are calling in as audio-only, please dial US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968

b. It will ask you to enter the Webinar ID listed above, followed by the ""#"" key (pound key), then enter Webinar Password listed above at the top page of the agenda. The meeting agenda can be found at <https://www.cosb.us/>

c. It will then ask for a Participant ID, press the ""#"" key (pound key) to continue.

d. Once you enter the Zoom meeting, you will automatically be placed on mute.

e. Public Comment: If you are using a phone, please press ""9"" (star-nine) to raise your hand, and the Zoom facilitator will unmute you when your turn arrives.

Remote Viewing:

Members of the public who wish to watch the meeting can view a livestream of the meeting online through either the (if available)

San Benito County Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/sbccalifornia>

Written Comments & Email Public Comment:

Members of the public may submit comments via email prior to the Fish and Game Commission meeting to the Clerk of the Board at jfrechette@cosb.us

Public Comment Guidelines:

A. The Fish and Game Commission your comments.

B. If participating on Zoom, once you are selected you will hear that you have been unmuted: At this time, please state your first name, last name, and county you reside in for the record.

C. Each individual speaker will be limited to a presentation total of three (3) minutes, or such other time as may be designed by the Chair.

D. Please keep your comments, brief, to the point, and do not repeat prior testimony, so that as many people as possible can be heard. Your cooperation is appreciated.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE GUIDELINES:

1. The individual will be asked to leave the Board Chambers.

2. The Chair will call a recess of the Fish and Game Commission meeting.

3. If the recess does not result in the individual complying with the above requirements or leaving the meeting, the Commission may close the meeting to the public and resume the meeting exclusively through Zoom and phone-in participation, at any point during the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk of the Board Jennifer Frechette, at (831) 636-4000, Ext. 13 or email JFrechette@cosb.us

The San Benito County Fish & Game Commission welcomes you to this meeting and encourages your participation.

- *If you wish to speak on a matter that does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the Public Comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. When addressing the Commission, please state your name for the record. Please address the Commission as a whole through the Chair.*
- *If you wish to speak on an item contained in the agenda please seek recognition from the Chairman prior to consideration of the item.*

6:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
2. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT: *Opportunity to address the Commission on items of interest not appearing on the agenda. No action may be taken unless provided by Govt. Code Section 54954.2.*

REGULAR AGENDA

4. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 26, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.
5. BUDGET REPORT. Receive budget report on status of FY 2020-2021 budget, and the budget for FY 2021-2022.
6. DISCUSSION ON ZOOM AFTER COVID, LIMITING PUBLIC COMMENT TO INDIVIDUALS PRESENT AT THE MEETING, OR TO CONTINUE WITH HYBRID MEETINGS OFFERING ZOOM FOR STAFF/COMMISSIONERS/AND PRESETNERS AND GIVE STAFF DIRECTION.
7. DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION FROM COSTAL HABITAT EDUCATION ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION (CHEER) REGARDING THE RIVER AND WILDLIFE.
8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

AGENCY REPORTS

9. REPORTS:
California Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Pinnacles National Park Representatives, Fisheries, San Benito County Sheriff's Office or the San Benito Water District, Other Cooperative Agencies, and Grant Awardees are invited to make brief reports to the Commission.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the San Benito County Fish and Game Commission is Monday, October 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

As required by Gov. Code Section 54957.5 any public record distributed to the San Benito County Fish & Game Advisory Commission less than 72 hours prior to this meeting in connection with any agenda item shall be made available for public inspection at the office of the Clerk of the Board, San Benito County Administration Building, 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA 95023. Public records distributed during the meeting will be available for public inspection at the meeting if prepared by the County. If the public record is prepared by some other person and distributed at the meeting it will be made available for public inspection following the meeting at the office of the Clerk of the Board.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) the Board of Supervisors meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board's office at (831) 636-4000 at least 48-hours before the meeting to enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

**SAN BENITO COUNTY
FISH & GAME ADVISORY
COMMISSION**

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Pursuant to Government Code Section #59454.2(a), the agenda for the San Benito County Fish & Game Commission meeting of July 26, 2021 was posted on the 20th day of July, 2021 at the following locations, freely accessible to the public:

**The front entrance of the old County Courthouse, Monterey Street,
City of Hollister, County of San Benito, State of California**

and

**The front entrance of the San Benito County Administration
Building, 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA**

I, Jennifer Frechette, certify under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

For Vanessa Delgado, Deputy
**JENNIFER FRECHETTE, CLERK OF THE BOARD
COUNTY OF SAN BENITO**

**SAN BENITO COUNTY
FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Commissioners:

*Gregg Zanella, (Vice-Chairman), David Castro Bruce, Tom Nino, Tim Scagliotti,
Robert Earl Groeling, Robert Scagliotti, Scott Adessa, Marty Martinez*

**MINUTES
MONDAY APRIL 26, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

San Benito County Administration Building
Board of Supervisors Chambers
481 Fourth Street, Hollister, California

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Gregg Zanella in the San Benito County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, California.

6:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Lead by Vice-Chairman Gregg Zanella.
2. **ROLL CALL.** Commissioners T. Scagliotti, Adessa, Castro, R. Scagliotti, Nino, Martinez, Zanella, and Groeling were present.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no comments from the public.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN:**
Motion to elect Gregg Zanella as Chairman by Commissioner Groeling and seconded by Commissioner Nino. (8/0 vote)

Motion to elect Robert Scagliotti as Vice-Chairman by Commissioner Nino and seconded by Commissioner Zanella. (8/0 vote)
5. **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2020 REGULAR MEETING:**
Motion by Commissioner Scagliotti and seconded by Commissioner Zanella to approve the minutes as presented. (8/0 vote)
6. **BUDGET REPORT:**
The Clerk of the Board provided the final balance from the Final Budget Report.

7. **DISCUSSION OF ZEBRA MUSSELS AT RIDGEMARK:**

Commissioner Martinez gave information regarding the zebra mussels at Ridgemark. He suggested the water should be tested to make sure the zebra mussels are there and then a discussion can be had with the property owner on how to treat it.

Commissioner Zanella asked since it is private property, why is it their concern.

Management Analyst Graciela Rodriguez provided background information on the history and status of the San Justo Reservoir and what is needed to eradicate the Zebra Mussels from both the reservoir and the pump at Ridgemark.

Commissioner Martinez asked how the reservoir is monitored.

Ms. Rodriguez explained that the reservoir has been closed to the public so that there is no public contact with the zebra mussel. She also provided updates from the Bureau of Reclamation, San Benito County Water District and the office of Congressman Panetta.

Commissioner Nino asked what happens in 2035 when the agreement with the federal government ends. Does the federal government take back possession of the reservoir and not reopen it for recreation, because the reservoir is a great asset to the community.

Commissioner Martinez asked what the timeline is for funding to be available to eradicate the zebra mussels from the reservoir.

Ms. Rodriguez explained it is an ongoing process and the office of Congressman Panetta will be providing information soon.

Commissioner Zanella asked if the eradication would also include the zebra mussels at Ridgemark.

Ms. Rodriguez stated it would include Ridgemark because the San Benito County Water District doesn't want a re-infestation.

8. **DISCUSSION OF FUNDING AN OPERATION ON "TAKING OUT THE TRASH" USING EXPENDITURES TO REDUCE ILLEGAL DUMPING, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO CAMERAS, BATTERIES, AND SD CARDS. AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES FROM THE F&G FUND IF DESIRED, IN AN AMOUNT TO BE SPECIFIED:**

Commissioner Martinez provided background information regarding the illegal dumping that has been occurring across the county of San Benito and requested that 30 cameras be purchased and be disbursed around the county at popular dumping sites to catch the people who are illegally dumping.

Commissioner Zanella asked if this process would work with the Sheriff's office.

Commissioner Martinez stated he had spoken with the sheriff about getting cameras but Captain Eric Taylor hadn't been able to find any donations or funds for cameras.

Commissioner Zanella argued that this does not fall under propagation of wildlife.

Commissioner Martinez argued that thanks to the clean up at Buena Vista, there is now wildlife.

Commissioner Scagliotti stated he believes restrictions on farmers should be eased up so that they can clean up the dumping.

Leutenant Heitzenrater explained that in cases of illegal dumping the Judge will determine if there will be a fine or not. He volunteered to speak with the sheriff and the District Attorney to see how willing they are to prosecute.

9. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

There were no commissioner reports.

AGENCY REPORTS

10. **BUREAU OF LAND MANGEMENT (BLM) REPORT:**

Field Manager Benjamin Bloom provided an update. San Benito County has had an increase of visitation. Campgrounds at Laguna Mountains have been full almost every weekend. Also a lot of increase of recreational target shooting. AmeriCorps crew went out to Laguna Mountain for two weeks, connecting the Laguna Mountain Trailhead and Sweet Water Trailhead. Condor Peak has been closed since the January storms, but the roads should be open in the next couple of weeks. A prescribed burn is scheduled at the corner of Clearcreek Rd. and Coalinga Rd. for the first week of June.

A large increase in new gun owners and target shooters at BLM land. BLM recently had a tour with the California Rifle and Pistol Association about what can be done to enhance the experience for everyone that goes out there. One thing they are working on is trying to establish shooting reference areas.

BLM is coordinating with County Public Works on a grant to do some road improvements in the area.

No questions or comments by the commissioners.

11. **PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK REPORT:**

Daniel Ryan from Pinnacles National Park reported that visitation has been really high. The campgrounds have been full every weekend and often times during the week. They

have not been able to collect any fees since last March. The park is building a new entrance, a fee collection station, to be able to collect fees in the future.

Since the precipitation has been low the grass has been at a low mark. Most wildlife populations have not seen a major issue because of the low precipitation. Everything seems pretty healthy right now.

There was an outbreak of canine distemper in the fox population but it has seemed to burn out and have not seen any more issues. Condors are nesting right now, so there are some climbing advisories.

Commissioner Martinez asked who decides when fees can begin to be collected.

Daniel Ryan stated that it has to do with internal policies and staffing, not having to do with federal COVID restrictions or the county but does not have a date when that will start.

12. **FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY REPORT.**

Jeff Heitzenrater provided an update in activities. Worked with land owners and caught some trespassers. A few saturation patrols in the county have given reports of nefarious activities happening in a certain area. They have had a few land use cases in creek beds and are working with the DA's office on those. They are also working with Hollister Hills and they are reporting that they are seeing condors at Hollister Hills.

They have a new Captain, Steve Shinler, he had been their Watsonville Warden close to 15 years. He will be covering San Benito, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo.

The San Justo Reservoir does get patrolled from time to time. They make it a point when they are in the area to stop and drive up there and take a look around. It has been relatively quiet from what they have seen.

13. **SAN BENITO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:**

Captain Eric Taylor gave an overview of the early planning stages of a homeless encampment clean up at Hospital Rd. to Highway 156 in the creek bed. They did a census and there are about 55 encampments, some are actual structures, down there. They have good legal opinion now to be able to clear up the riverbed for public and environmental health with public funds.

Captain Taylor will reach out to RMA regarding acquiring cameras and reach out to the District Attorney's office to come together with a plan regarding dumping in the county.

Commissioner Martinez asked if the homeless were red tagged.

Captain Taylor informed the Commission that they went to the encampment and gave people an eviction notice because they are trespassing on private property.

Commissioner Martinez asked if the county needs to be able to provide a place for the homeless.

Captain Taylor explained the precedent set by the decision of the case that came out of Boise, Idaho which limits what the police can do with people suffering from homelessness. Many actions that a regular person would be prosecuted for, like defecating in public, urinating in public, the people who are homeless cannot be prosecuted for. The homeless also can not be removed from public land.

Commissioner Nino thanked Captain Taylor and the sheriff's department for their work and their report.

14. **SAN BENITO COUNTY WATER DISTRICT:**

No one was present.

15. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Commissioner Martinez would like to put a presentation from CHEER for the next agenda regarding the river and wildlife.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Nino and seconded by Commissioner Groeling moved to adjourn to the July 26, 2021 meeting.

JENNIFER FRECHETTE, CLERK OF THE
BOARD, County of San Benito