



## Santa Cruz County CA

### Agenda Item DOC-2022-206

Approved as  
recommended  
Mar 8, 2022 9:00 AM

**Accept and file the Women's Commission report for calendar years 2020 and 2021, and take related actions, as recommended by Chair Koenig**

#### Information

<b>Department:</b>	Board of Supervisors: Administration	<b>Sponsors:</b>	Chair, Board of Supervisors Manu Koenig
<b>Category:</b>	BOS Administration - Board Letter	<b>Functions:</b>	General Government

#### Attachments

[Board Memo](#)  
[Women's Commission 2020-2021 Biennial Report](#)

#### Board Letter

##### Recommended Action(s):

- 1) Accept and file the report prepared by Women's Commission highlighting their activities during calendar years 2020 and 2021; and
- 2) Direct the chair to thank the members of the Women's Commission for their work on behalf of County government.


##### Executive Summary

Accept and file the report prepared by the Women's Commission highlighting their activities during calendar years 2020 and 2021.

##### Background

The purpose of this report is to highlight the activities, accomplishments and future goals of the board during calendar years 2020 and 2021.

#### Meeting History

<b>Mar 8, 2022 9:00 AM Video</b>	<b>Board of Supervisors</b>	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	 <b>Draft</b>
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]</b>		
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bruce McPherson, Fifth District Supervisor		
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Greg Caput, Fourth District Supervisor		
<b>AYES:</b>	Manu Koenig, Zach Friend, Ryan Coonerty, Greg Caput, Bruce McPherson		

#### Discussion

 [Add Comment](#)



# Santa Cruz County Women's Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711  
commissions@santacruzcounty.us  
www.sccwc.org

## Santa Cruz County Women's Commission 2020 - 2021 Biennial Report

### 1. The Role of the Commission

The Women's Commission is an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors on issues affecting women and girls in Santa Cruz County. The Commission was established to:

- a. Advise the Board of Supervisors on matters affecting any current inequalities suffered by citizens of this County
- b. Make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to rectify any such inequalities;
- c. Make available to the public information and resources concerning equal rights and opportunities. The Commission shall also maintain a current file of services and resources useful to the community;
- d. Review Santa Cruz County's equal employment opportunity plan and policies and recommend to the Board of Supervisors and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission any revisions which may be necessary to eliminate employment discrimination against women;
- e. Review Santa Cruz County's rules and job descriptions and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and to the Civil Service Commission, as necessary, to assure that any unnecessary barriers to the employment of women are removed;
- f. Study the present and projected needs of women. Develop comprehensive goals to achieve present solutions and effective future planning;
- g. Review pending Federal and State legislation which would impact upon women and, where appropriate, advise the Board of Supervisors of its recommendations;
- h. Exercise any other responsibilities related to the needs and concerns of women and as set forth in the Commission's bylaws as approved by the Board of Supervisors.

### 2. Meetings Dates, Time, and Location

Women's Commission regular meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of every month except July and December, from 6:30 until 8:00 PM. During the reporting period, the Commission met remotely or at the County Government Building (701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060).

- During 2020, three regularly scheduled meetings were canceled for health and safety reasons during the pandemic immediately following Governor Newsom's initial Stay-at-Home order, two meetings were canceled for lack of quorum, two meetings were held in person and four meetings were held remotely, including a special meeting in July to address ongoing projects impacted by regular meeting cancellations.

- During 2021, one regularly scheduled meeting was canceled for lack of quorum, and all other meetings were held remotely.

### 3. Commission Structure

The Women's Commission is composed of ten voting members; two appointed by each of the five County Supervisors. New officers are elected each year during the April regular meeting.

On December 31, 2021, the Women's Commission membership was as follows:

District	Commissioners
1 <sup>st</sup> District	Theresa Cariño <b>Jillian Ritter (Co-Chair)</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Laurel Schonfield Jennifer Murray
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Maryanne Campbell Maria Boutell
4 <sup>th</sup> District	<b>Vanessa Quiroz-Carter (Co-Chair)</b> Vacancy
5 <sup>th</sup> District	Sheila De Lany Rachel Bickert

The Commissioner(s) who completed their terms, resigned, or were replaced during the reporting period were Carrie Beaton, Luci Basor and Jenny Sarmiento. Commissioners who were appointed during the reporting period were Jennifer Murray, Maryanne Campbell, Maria Boutell, Vanessa Quiroz-Carter and Sage Leibenson, who was appointed on January 14, 2020 but resigned her seat before her first meeting. Commissioners Cariño, Ritter, Schonfield, Murray, De Lany and Bickert were reappointed during the reporting period.

In April 2020, Jillian Ritter and Theresa Cariño were elected Co-Chairs. In April 2021, Jillian Ritter and Vanessa Quiroz-Carter were elected Co-Chairs.

### 4. Commission Staff

Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*) staffed the Commission for the entirety of the reporting period.

Between Commissions meetings, County Staff was available by phone, email, or in person for information and referrals. The County EEO Commissions Office is located in the County Government Center (701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060).

### 5. Attendance

Please see attached *Santa Cruz County Women's Commission 2020-2021 Attendance Report*.

### 6. Commission Activities and Accomplishments

The Commission's priorities and subsequent activities are determined by the Commission's mandate and emerging needs as expressed by the community and identified by the Commissioners.

#### **During the reporting period, Commissioners conducted the following business:**

- Held fourteen regular meetings and one special meeting, including thirteen remote meetings

- Increased Commission social media outreach via Facebook and Instagram
- Maintained a current, informative Commission website to support Commission outreach and advocacy efforts
- Reviewed new County position descriptions as they became available
- Received reports and reviewed correspondence from members of the public about issues of interest to women in Santa Cruz County

**During the reporting period, Commissioners monitored the following emerging issues:**

- 2020 Election civic engagement and voter participation particularly with women representing underrepresented groups.
- County Covid-19 Homeless response including the establishment of the Shelter & Care Task Force, emergency shelters, quarantine, testing and vaccination efforts.
- County COVID-19 rates, vaccine distribution and County and community pandemic response efforts, particularly as they related to unsheltered women and women in the farm-working community
- CZU Lightning Complex wildfire impact, aftermath and County response efforts including reports from the EOC Liaison on the development of a County Emergency Operations Center and Recovery Resource Center, permitting efforts, and potential debris flow evacuation.

**During the reporting period, Commissioners participated in the following events/activities:**

- 2020 Election District 5 Candidate Forum
- Association of California Commissions for Women Annual Bootcamp event
- August 2021 Monarch Femicide Informational Event
- Commission Chairs were interviewed on the KSQD radio program “Talk of the Bay” representing the Commission
- COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall Events
- October 2021 Diverse Representation Forum.
- Party with a Purpose Monarch Services Fundraiser (activity)
- Valley Women’s Club activities
- Virtual Redistricting Community Meetings
- Watsonville International Women’s Day Celebrations in 2020 and 2021

**During the reporting period, the Commission heard reports on the following community agencies, County programs, and other organizations of interest to women:**

- Annrae Angel (Defense Attorney and Superior Court Judicial Candidate) on the importance of civic engagement and political representation for women in Santa Cruz County
- Co-Chair Jillian Ritter (EOC Liaison and Recovery Resource Center Manager) on County CZU Wildfire status, impact, and recovery efforts
- Co-Chair Theresa Cariño on the Justice and Gender Task Force and subsequent establishment of the Santa Cruz County Justice and Gender Commission
- Commissioner Rachel Bickert on State Senators’ office assistance for women having difficulty receiving their EDD benefits
- Dr. Gail Newel (County Health Officer) as part of the Women and Homelessness speaker series
- Dr. Robert Ratner (County Director of Housing for Health) on County efforts to address homelessness

- Irene de Barraicua on *Lideres Campesinas* (Women Farmworker Leadership Network) COVID-19 response efforts for women in the farmworker community
- Irene O'Connell and Maria Ramos Bracamontes on the *Campesinx Womb Care Project's* COVID-19 response efforts for women in the farmworker community
- James Russel (County Behavioral Health) as part of the Women and Homelessness speaker series
- Jenni Veich-Olson (Planned Parenthood) on Planned Parenthood service delivery and access to women's reproductive health care during the pandemic.
- Juan Hidalgo, (County Agricultural Commissioner) on County COVID-19 response in the agricultural community
- Kim Walker (*Santa Clara County SART Program Manager*) as part of the Women and Homelessness speaker series
- Nancy Breneau (Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women and Association of California Commissions for Women (ACCW) member) reported on recent and upcoming activities of both organizations.
- Patricia Fernandez-Torres (Executive Director, Girls Inc., of the Central Coast) on Girls Inc., membership, activities and impact
- Rosemary Brogan (Cabrillo Women's History Professor) on the important role that diversity played in California's early adoption of women's suffrage
- Sarah Leonard (Mental Health Client Action Network) as part of the Women and Homelessness speaker series
- Sven Stafford, County Administrative Analyst, on the status of the County's Operational Plan development including specific information on equity principles and the County's commitment to embedding equity into objectives and strategic goals.
- Sylvia Nieto (*County Victims Services Program Manager*) as part of the Women and Homelessness speaker series
- Tory Del Favero (US Census Bureau) on 2020 Census data collection and community outreach efforts

## 7. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

**During the reporting period, Commissioners served on or were affiliated with the following commissions or organizations:**

- 100 Women Who Care
- Bonny Doon Neighbors
- Boulder Creek Business Association
- Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- Democratic Women's Club of Santa Cruz County
- Highlands Park Senior Center
- Model United Nations of the Far West, Inc.
- Salud y Cariño
- San Lorenzo Rotary Club
- Santa Cruz County Community Coalition to Overcome Racism (SCCCOR)
- Santa Cruz Mountains Art Center
- Santa Cruz Women's March

- Valley Women's Club
- Women in Leadership for Diverse Representation (WILDR)

## **8. COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEES**

**During the reporting period, the Commission authorized the following subcommittees to conduct business within their subject matter jurisdiction:**

### **Executive Committee**

Consists of Commission Co-Chairs and two executive members and is convened as needed to strategize on issues related to overall Commission development (e.g., Commission Retreat planning, etc.). As of December 31, 2021 subcommittee members included Co-Chairs Ritter and Quiroz-Carter and Executive Member Schonfield.

### **Ad Hoc Community Outreach Subcommittees**

Subcommittees tasked with raising the Commission's public profile in the Community and sharing information to advance the interests of women in Santa Cruz County

#### **Social Media Subcommittee**

Authorized to maintain the Commission's social media accounts. As of December 31, 2021, subcommittee members included Commissioners Bickert, Cariño, Boutell and Campbell

#### **Art Wall Subcommittee**

Authorized to design and install an annual community art wall in the County Building. As of December 31, 2021, subcommittee members included Commissioners Campbell, Ritter, Cariño, and Boutell.

#### **Trailblazer Awards Subcommittee**

Authorized to plan and implement the Commission's semi-annual Trailblazer Awards Ceremony, including recommending awardees to the Commission and planning the presentation of awards, and coordinating with the Art Wall Subcommittee as needed to celebrate awardees with an exhibit whenever possible. As of December 31, 2021, subcommittee members included Commissioners Campbell, Ritter, Cariño and Boutell.

#### **Community Resource and Partner Database Subcommittee**

Authorized to collect, vet, curate and share resources with the community and to establish and maintain a community partner database for collaborative purposes. As of December 31, 2021, Co-Chair Ritter was the only subcommittee member.

### **Ad Hoc Advocacy Subcommittees**

Subcommittees tasked with advocating for the advancement of women's interests in Santa Cruz County

#### **Political Participation and Civic Engagement Subcommittee**

Authorized to advocate for and promote the political participation and civic engagement of women in Santa Cruz County, to stimulate women's interest in candidacy, identify barriers to women running for office, educate young women on the political process and identify partner organizations. As of December 31, 2021, subcommittee members included Commissioners Bickert, Schonfield, De Lany and Quiroz-Carter.

#### **Policy and Legislation Subcommittee**

Authorized to review policies and legislation and bring advocacy opportunities to the Commission for consideration. As of December 31, 2021, subcommittee members included Commissioners De Lany, Schonfield, and Ritter.

**COVID-19 Response Subcommittee**

Authorized to monitor County and community pandemic response efforts in support of disproportionately impacted women and families and to bring advocacy and impact opportunities to the Commission for consideration. As of December 31, 2021 subcommittee members included Commissioners Cariño and Bickert.

**Black Lives Matter/Anti-Racism Subcommittee**

Authorized to monitor County anti-racism efforts and bring opportunities for advocacy related to race/ethnicity to the Commission for consideration. As of December 31, 2021, subcommittee members included Commissioners Schonfield, Boutell and Campbell.

**Ad Hoc Status of Women and Girls Subcommittees (SOWAG)**

Subcommittees tasked with monitoring issues related to the broad categories established by the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

**Homelessness Subcommittee**

Authorized to monitor the status of women experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County and bring opportunities for education, advocacy and impact to the Commission for consideration. As of December 31, 2021, subcommittee members included Commissioners Cariño, Ritter, Schonfield, and De Lany.

**Economic Justice Subcommittee**

Authorized to monitor financial disparities impacting women in Santa Cruz County and bring opportunities for education, advocacy and impact to the Commission for consideration. As of December 31, 2021, subcommittee members included Commissioners De Lany, Schonfield and Quiroz-Carter

**9. COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS****During the reporting period, Commissioners took the following actions to address emerging issues:**

- Actively recruited for Commissioners to fill vacant seats, resulting in all seats being filled for the majority of the reporting period.
- Completed and submitted the updated healthcare section of the SOWAG report to the Board of Supervisors
- Promoted participation in the 2020 Census, particularly with difficult-to-count groups
- Promoted women's civic engagement and voter participation, particularly for women in underrepresented groups during the 2020 elections
- Continued to monitor development of the County's Equal Employment Opportunity and Cultural Competence Plans
- Continued to expand the community partner database for outreach and collaboration efforts
- Reviewed the County's Equal Employment Opportunity and Cultural Competence Plan and provided detailed feedback
- Reviewed a draft of the County's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Employee Survey to provide feedback
- Advocated for Board of Supervisors support for the Equal Rights Amendment
- Advocated with the Board of Supervisors in support of 2020 Census participation
- Joined the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW)

- Voted to join the Association of California Commissions for Women (ACCW) when they begin accepting new memberships
- Discussed the impact that growing up in a culture that primarily recognizes men in its naming conventions (schools, hospitals, parks, etc.) has had on the aspirations of girls and women.
- Began research into the feasibility of implementing the same menstrual equity standards in County facilities as those provided for California schools in Assembly Bill 367

**During the reporting period, the Commission participated in the following special projects:**

- Designed a new logo for the 2021 Trailblazers project and established new award categories including Economic Justice Leadership, Crisis Response Leadership, Anti-Racism Leadership, Cultivating Youth Leadership, and the Phoenix Award recognizing women who lead despite significant challenges. Nominations were solicited, awardees and a hybrid in-person/virtual event was planned but ultimately cancelled for health and safety reasons during the pandemic. Awardees will be presented with their awards once it becomes safe to congregate again
- Hosted the *Women and Homelessness Speaker Series* although it was suspended early in 2020 for health and safety reasons during the pandemic.
- Celebrated the 2020 Centennial Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage with a multi-wall exhibit in the County Building. The “Be The Voice” art wall featured six commissions works of art from six local women artists re-creating vintage suffrage posters with modern, inclusive imagery depicting issues that continue to impact marginalized groups. The “Voices Through Time” timeline (in collaboration with Rosemary Brogan, Cabrillo Women’s History Professor) explored 100 years of California’s diverse history which proved foundational to California’s early adoption of women’s suffrage and created the momentum needed to support adoption of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. The exhibit remained open to the public for four months and a virtual tour of both the art wall and the timeline remain available on the Commission’s website.
- Completed the *Status of Women and Girls Report: Health Care Section Update*, a high-level review of the status of health care for women and girls in Santa Cruz County that draws on data from multiple national, State and local data sources including interviews with key stakeholders in the medical community, reports from 16 community partners, and articles and data from 40 additional sources. County Staff worked with Santa Clara University interns to collect and analyze data summarizing key health care issues for women and girls in Santa Cruz County.

## **10. FUTURE GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**In the coming year, the Women’s Commission will endeavor to accomplish the following:**

- Prioritize and promote political participation and civic engagement for women in Santa Cruz County, including updating the Political Participation section of the SOWAG report
- Recognize local women and organizations who are advancing the interests of women and girls in Santa Cruz County
- Continue monitor issues impacting unhoused women in Santa Cruz County and provide resources as appropriate



- Advocate for and monitor community efforts to address the disproportionate impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women in Santa Cruz County, particularly those in underrepresented groups
- Advocate for policies and legislation that support menstrual equity and monitor implementation efforts in County facilities
- Update Commission Bylaws to reflect changes in procedure and changes to Brown Act notice requirements, as well as consistency of language where appropriate
- Continue to monitor development of the County Equal Employment Opportunity and Cultural Competence Plan
- Further develop our community partner outreach database and develop an easily accessible library of resources for women in Santa Cruz County

**In the coming year, the Women's Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:**

- Actively recruit to fill the Commission vacancy in District 3
- Provide policy leadership requiring that all County data and data provided by County-funded organizations (as a condition of grant-funding) be disaggregated by gender so that gender disparities in services and outcomes can be identified and addressed
- Provide policy leadership and prioritize policies, programs and legislation designed to address racial/ethnic disparities and inequities impacting women in Santa Cruz County
- Provide policy leadership and prioritize implementation of menstrual equity in County facilities
- Address the scarcity of changing stations and restroom stall high-chairs in County restrooms

Approved by the Women's Commission on February 17, 2022 at their regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vanessa Quiroz-Carter  
 Co-Chair, Women's Commission

February 17, 2022  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jillian Ritter  
 Co-Chair, Women's Commission

February 17, 2022  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION													
2020 ATTENDANCE REPORT													
District/ Supervisor	Commissioner	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Aug 2020	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020
<b>1<sup>st</sup> District</b> Supervisor John Leopold	Theresa Cariño Co-Chair	P	P	MEETING CANCELED DUE TO PANDEMIC	MEETING CANCELED DUE TO PANDEMIC	MEETING CANCELED DUE TO PANDEMIC	P	P	MEETING CANCELED - LACK OF QUORUM	P	MEETING CANCELED - LACK OF QUORUM	P	NO MEETING SCHEDULED
	Jillian Ritter Co-Chair	P	P				E	P		P		E	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> District</b> Supervisor Zach Friend	Carrie Beaton	P	E				P	P		A		P	
	Laurel Schonfield	P	E				P	A		E		A	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> District</b> Supervisor Ryan Coonerty	Maryanne Campbell	-	P				P	P		P		P	
	Maria Boutell	-	P				P	P		P		P	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> District</b> Supervisor Greg Caput	Luci Basor	P	P				E	P		A		-	
	Jenny Sarmiento	E	P				E	P		P		P	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> District</b> Supervisor Bruce McPherson	Sheila De Lany	P	P				P	P		E		P	
	Rachel Bickert	-	E				P	P		P		P	

Attendance: P=Present A=Absent E=Excused ( - ) = Not Seated

2021 ATTENDANCE REPORT													
District/ Supervisor	Commissioner	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	April 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021
<b>1<sup>st</sup> District</b> Supervisor Manu Koenig	Theresa Cariño	P	P	P	P	MEETING CANCELED - LACK OF QUORUM	P	NO MEETING SCHEDULED	P	E	P	A	NO MEETING SCHEDULED
	Jillian Ritter Co-Chair	P	P	P	P		p		P	P	E	P	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> District</b> Supervisor Zach Friend	Carrie Beaton	A	-	-	-		-		-	-	-	-	
	Laurel Schonfield	P	P	E	P		A		E	P	A	E	
	Jennifer Murray	-	-	-	P		E		P	P	E	P	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> District</b> Supervisor Ryan Coonerty	Maryanne Campbell	P	P	P	E		E		P	P	P	P	
	Maria Boutell	E	P	P	P		P		P	E	P	P	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> District</b> Supervisor Greg Caput	Jenny Sarmiento	P	P	E	P		P		P	P	P	-	
	Vanessa Quiroz-Carter - Co-Chair	P	P	P	P		P		P	P	P	P	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> District</b> Supervisor Bruce McPherson	Sheila De Lany	P	P	P	P		P		E	P	P	P	
	Rachel Bickert	P	P	P	E		P		P	E	P	P	

Submitted by:



Kaite McGrew

Commissions Manager

December 31, 2021

Date