



Santa Cruz County Women's Commission

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

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM
Location: County Govt Building, 701 Ocean Street, Fifth Floor Redwood Conference Room
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

*As a courtesy to those affected, kindly attend the meeting **scent-free** and **smoke-free**.*

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review
2. Approve *April 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes*
3. Public Comment:
Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed five minutes on matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission.
4. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:
 - 4.1. Western Service Workers Association (WSWA) Presentation - Carter Hill (WSWA Operations Manager), Olivia Sanchez (WSWA Workers Benefit Council Delegate), Camille Zaug (WSWA Canvass Captain)
5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports
 - 5.1. Ad Hoc 2026 Status of Women and Girls Report Subcommittee Update (Albert, Gordon)
 - 5.2. Ad Hoc Resource Directory Subcommittee Update (Rogers, Gordon)
 - 5.3. Ad Hoc EEO/CR Advocacy Subcommittee Update (Doty, Sanchez)
6. Priority Reports
 - 6.1. CEDAW Recommendation Implementation Status Report (Staff)
 - 6.2. Social Media Outreach Report (Gordon)
 - 6.3. Immigration Enforcement Activity Report
7. Staff Report
8. Correspondence
9. Emerging Matters
10. Adjournment

The next scheduled regular meeting will be on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you require special assistance to participate, please call (831) 454-2772 (TTY/TDD: 711) at least 72 hours in advance to make arrangements.



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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2026

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: County Government Building, 701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor Redwood Conference Room

PRESENT: Paige Gordon (1st District), Brenda Rogers (2nd District), Gail Michaelis-Ow (2nd District), Suzanne Doty (3rd District), Allison Albert (3rd District), Rita Sanchez (4th District), Ariel Young (5th District)

EXCUSED: Kate McGrath (5th District)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager)

GUESTS: Stephanie Barron (YARR Co-Chair) and no members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 6:06 PM.

2. Approve March 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve March 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes as written

Motion/Second: Young/Gordon

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment: None

4. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:

4.1. Your Allied Rapid Response (YARR) 101: Framed as a network of Women Supporting Women for and with Our Community Presentation.

Barron presented an overview of Your Allied Rapid Response (YARR), a grassroots, consensus-based network focused on protecting Santa Cruz immigrant communities. YARR provides education, rapid response coordination, and community support (distributing "Red Cards" to help individuals assert their constitutional rights, training educators and volunteers on appropriate responses to ICE interactions under current California law, dispelling misinformation, reducing fear, and building trust through ongoing trainings and community engagement. Key strategies include childcare safety plans, accompaniment to appointments, and verification to confirm enforcement activity before alerting the community. YARR relies on trained volunteers (mostly women) to serve as legal observers, documenting and de-escalating situations while maintaining lawful boundaries.

Commissioners can attend community events, promote safety planning resources, and help to normalize preparedness tools across all communities.

4.2. Consider 2026 Legislative Advocacy Priorities

The Legislative Priorities Subcommittee selected legislative priorities from those identified by the *California Legislative Women's Caucus* and the *American Association of University Women (AAUW)*. Priorities included AB-65 (*The Pregnancy Leave for Educators Act*), AB-788 (*Rehabilitation and Safety for incarcerated Women*), AB-1570 (*Healthcare Coverage: Diagnostic Imaging*), AB-1755 (*Ending CalWORKS Work Hour Restrictions*), AB-1981 (*The True Cost of Child Care Act*), AB-1876 (*Equitable Care for All Act*), AB-2066 (*Pregnancy – Qualifying Life Event*), and SB-1237 (*Pay Equity Enforcement*).

Motion to approve 2026 Legislative Priorities Advocacy Letter.

Motion/Second: Michaelis-Ow/Albert

Motion passed unanimously.

4.3. Officer Elections

Motion to re-elect Gordon and elect Albert as Commission Co-Chairs.

Motion/Second: Young/ Michaelis-Ow

Motion passed unanimously.

4.4. Consider 2027 Meeting Schedule

Motion to approve and adopt the 2027 Meeting Schedule.

Motion/Second: Gordon/Young

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports

5.1. Ad Hoc 2026 Status of Women and Girls Report Subcommittee Update (Albert, Gordon)

Albert and Gordon continue their research. The State's data isn't disaggregated by gender, so it has not been useful. Staff will share additional data sources that may be helpful.

5.2. Ad Hoc Legislative Priorities Subcommittee Report (Albert, Michaelis-Ow, Doty)

Subcommittee completed their work and has been dissolved.

5.3. Ad Hoc Resource Directory Subcommittee Report (Rogers, Gordon)

Subcommittee continues to collect resources, and Staff continues to update the Commission website with links to a variety of resources. Immigration resources will be added.

5.4. Ad Hoc EEO/CR Advocacy Subcommittee Report (Doty, Sanchez)

Subcommittee is reviewing the 2024-2027 EEO/CR report to provide feedback. Staff will schedule a meeting to check in. The CEO's CEDAW implementation report to the Board will be used to inform recommendations to departments.

6. Priority Reports

6.1. CEDAW Recommendation Implementation Status Report

Commission reviewed the CEO's report to the Board on County response to the CEDAW recommendations. While the Housing for Health response meets State/Federal standards only, Gordon noted that Sanctuary County standards should exceed State standards. Commission will continue to monitor implementation of their recommendations.

6.2. Social Media Outreach Report

Commission reviewed the social media outreach report. Engagement insights include: 677 followers on Instagram (+6), 644 followers on Facebook (+1), Facebook reach (299) and Instagram reach (307).

6.3. Immigration Enforcement Activity Report

Commission reviewed the first report and recommendations of the ad hoc Board *Subcommittee to Safeguard Health, inclusion, Essential Services, and Local Defense (S.H.I.E.L.D)* and SCCC Chapter 10.07 to Prohibit the Use of County Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement.

7. Staff Report

Staff shared the final letter to the Zoning Administrator in support of the surfer stature honoring women surfers. Commission discussed community opposition to the project.

8. Correspondence: None

9. Emerging Matters

Doty shared an update on the DataShareSCC's April focus on the use of data to prevent sexual violence.

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*

Western Service Workers Association

Presenters: Olivia Sanchez, Workers Benefit Council Delegate; Camille Zaug, WSWA Volunteer and Canvass Captain; and Carter Hill, Operations Manager



Camille and WSWA Volunteer Bryan Moreno Signing up a new member on a canvass



WSWA Volunteer Adriana Gehriger-Cid advocates for a WSWA member while they receive care from Christopher Mule, DDS.

WSWA Structure & Members

- Organizing Drive of Unrecognized Workers, those excluded from federal protections to unionize under the National Labor Relations Act (Domestic Service Workers, Agricultural Workers, Temporary Workers and Independent Contractors) with the long-term goal of ending poverty
- We are an all-volunteer independent association, not funded by the government nor a 501 (c)3.
- We started in 1974 organizing In Home Supportive Services workers.
- We meet our members by canvassing into low-income communities. Majority of our members today work in tourism and agriculture.
- We unite communities together and show our members how they can organize to fight against the conditions they are facing.
- The majority of our members in general are women (62%) and the majority of our delegates are women (79%).



WSWA Membership System Coordinator Emily Orozco (right) and WBC Delegate Marta Ayala (Center) Sign up a new member in Pajaro

11-Point Benefit Program



WSWA Benefit Coordinator Lonna Larsh, M.D. discusses with Paul Nguyen, DO, FACS and Grace Kibuule, M.D. before they volunteer to provide a surgery for a WSWA member in an OR donated by Dominican Hospital.

- Our members work together with community residents to organize an 11-point self-help Benefit Program that operates under the supervision of the Central Coast Workers Benefit Council made up of delegates representing low-income worker sectors or neighborhoods throughout Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties.
- They participate on business canvasses, meetings with professionals, Speaking Engagements and more to involve these professionals.
- Our members learn the skills of organizing on the job so that we can move as quickly as we can to alleviate these conditions.
- Currently includes Preventive Medical Care, Non-Emergency Dental Care, Legal Advice, Food Distributions, yearly back to school and holiday food distributions and more!

How We Can Work Together

Canvass Campaign

- We need individual volunteers to join us on our weekly canvasses into low-income communities.
- We know there are 7,000 uninsured residents in Santa Cruz County and that not all of them are our members.
- Many of our current members are caregivers.

Dental And Medical Benefit Expansion

- We know that with the cuts coming from the Federal Government, access to healthcare is only going to become more scarce.
- We need referrals to local professionals you know who may be interested in participating in our program.

Sustainable Development Goals

- We're working with Justin Cummings and his team to bring forward a resolution to adopt the SDGs in determining County Policy.



We're so excited to continue to work together! Thank you so much!



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May 14, 2026

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Support for the 2026 Women's Commission Legislative Priorities

Dear Chair Martinez and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Women's Commission, we write to respectfully request that the Board submit formal letters of support to our state legislative delegation for the **2026 Women's Commission Legislative Priorities** itemized herein.

As you know, in February 2024, the Board formally reaffirmed Santa Cruz County's commitment as a *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)* County and directed the Women's Commission to identify priority areas to advance gender equity and make recommendations related to those priorities. In September 2025, the Women's Commission presented to the Board, identifying key local CEDAW priorities and recommended potential solutions to address inequities and barriers.

The 2026 legislative priorities identified below align closely with the previously identified CEDAW priorities—particularly in the areas of economic equity (Articles 11 and 13), healthcare access (Article 12), childcare and economic supports (Articles 11 and 13), support for justice-involved women (Articles 15 and 9), and addressing systemic disparities through policy and funding decisions (Articles 3, 5, 10, and 13).

Methodology

The Commission identified these legislative priorities using the following criteria:

1. Alignment with priority legislation advanced by either the *California Legislative Women's Caucus* (a bipartisan coalition of women legislators in the State Assembly and Senate that advances policy solutions to improve the lives of women, children, and families) or the *American Association of University Women (AAUW)* (a national organization advocating for gender equity through research and policy);
2. Consistency with the Commission's 2025 CEDAW priorities and recommendations; and
3. Relevance to the most pressing challenges currently facing women and families in Santa Cruz County.

To that end, the Women’s Commission has identified and respectfully requests your formal support for the following legislation:

- **AB-65 – The Pregnancy Leave for Educators Act (Aguiar-Curry)**
 Provides up to 14 weeks of fully paid leave for California public school employees for pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or recovery, without deducting from other available leave. High housing costs in Santa Cruz, combined with relatively low teacher pay, make recruitment and retention challenging. Because the workforce is typically women and unpaid pregnancy leave disproportionately affects them, support for this legislation addresses gaps in employment protections (CEDAW Article 11) that disproportionately affect women and aligns with the Commission’s priority to address gender disparities in workforce conditions and compensation. Additionally, it advances not only the interests of women educators and their families, but their students and the school system at large by facilitating teacher recruitment and retention.
- **AB-788 – Rehabilitation and Safety for Incarcerated Women (Quirk-Silva)**
 Strengthens safety and gender-responsive policies for incarcerated women (CEDAW Article 15). This aligns with the Commission’s previously identified CEDAW priority related to gender-specific, trauma-informed support for justice-involved women, including implementation of the recommendations from Susan Greene’s 2017 report and the priorities identified in the Justice and Gender 2023-2025 Biennial Report, both of which emphasize gender-responsive care, safety, and successful reentry.
- **AB-1570 – Healthcare Coverage: Diagnostic Imaging (Wilson)**
 Requires health plans to provide coverage for medically necessary diagnostic imaging without cost-sharing in cases where follow-up testing is needed after an abnormal screening (CEDAW Article 12). While many preventive screenings (such as initial mammograms) are covered without cost, patients are often subject to significant out-of-pocket costs for diagnostic follow-up imaging, which can delay or deter timely diagnosis. This creates a critical gap between preventive and diagnostic care and potentially contributes to less favorable health outcomes for low-income individuals. Support for this bill aligns with the Commission’s healthcare priorities by addressing both access to timely services and the affordability barriers that disproportionately impact Santa Cruz County women in vulnerable communities.
- **AB-1755 – Ending CalWORKs Work Hour Restrictions (Sharp-Collins)**
 Removes the “100-hour rule,” which limits CalWORKs eligibility for families whose parents work more than 100 hours per month, regardless of how little they earn (CEDAW Articles 11 and 13). By shifting eligibility to be based on income rather than hours worked, this bill ensures that low-income families are not excluded from assistance simply for working more. This supports the Commission’s priority to reduce poverty among women-led households, particularly in Santa Cruz County’s high-cost economy where increased work hours do not necessarily translate to economic stability.
- **AB-1981 – The True Cost of Child Care Act (Aguiar-Curry)**
 Updates childcare reimbursement rates and methodology to better reflect the actual cost of providing care, rather than relying on outdated market-based rates (CEDAW Articles 11 and 13). By increasing provider reimbursement, this bill supports the financial sustainability of childcare providers which, in turn, increases the availability of subsidized childcare slots for working parents.

This directly advances the Commission’s priority to expand affordable childcare access, a critical issue in Santa Cruz County where both providers and families face significant financial strain.

- **AB-1876 – Equitable Care for All Act (Addis)**
Strengthens California law to prohibit discrimination in health coverage based on sex, pregnancy, or gender identity. It ensures reproductive and gender-affirming care is accessible, protected, and free from discriminatory exclusions. This helps to advance equitable healthcare for women, LGBTQ+, and underserved residents in Santa Cruz County (CEDAW Article 12) and aligns directly with the Commission’s 2025 CEDAW priority to protect and expand access to reproductive and gender-affirming healthcare, particularly in the face of funding instability and policy threats.
- **AB-2066 – Pregnancy – Qualifying Life Event (Rodriguez; coauthored by Wahab)**
Designates pregnancy as a qualifying life event, allowing individuals to enroll in health coverage outside the standard enrollment period. This helps prevent delays in prenatal care and reduces financial barriers for low-income Latinas and other women in Santa Cruz County. By improving timely access to coverage, the bill aligns with the Commission’s CEDAW priorities to address barriers to OB/GYN care in South County and prenatal substance use disparities, thereby advancing healthcare for women (CEDAW Articles 12 and 14).
- **SB-1237 – Pay Equity Enforcement (Blakespear)**
Strengthens enforcement of equal pay laws by requiring detailed employer pay data reporting and increasing penalties for noncompliance, helping to identify and address persistent wage disparities (CEDAW Article 11). This aligns directly with the Commission’s 2025-identified priority of gender pay equity. Locally, wage disparities—particularly for women of color—remain a significant concern. Support for this bill allows the Board to advance gender pay equity not only within the County workforce, but across private employers in the community as well.

These legislative priorities reflect the same core issues the Commission identified in its 2025 CEDAW priorities and recommendations to the Board, including healthcare access, childcare, economic security, and support for vulnerable populations. Advancing these bills at the state level is a critical complement to the County’s local efforts to uphold its commitments as a CEDAW County.

Thank you for your continued leadership in advancing gender equity in Santa Cruz County. We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to support the Board’s advocacy efforts as needed.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

0246B636944F486...
Paige Gordon, *Commission Co-Chair*

DocuSigned by:

3D28C83AE09546B...
Allison Albert, *Commission Co-Chair*



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Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified below, regularly scheduled Women's Commission meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Third (3rd) Thursday*
MONTH: Every month except July and December
TIME: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
LOCATION: **Santa Cruz County Government Building ***
5th Floor Redwood Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

*Unless noted otherwise below

Locations may vary for outreach, town hall meetings, special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations. Changes to the schedule will be listed on the website at www.sccwc.org as soon as information becomes available.

2026 MEETING DATES		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 15, 2026	6:00 – 8:00 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
February 19, 2026	6:00 – 8:00 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
March 19, 2026	6:00 – 8:00 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
April 16, 2026	6:00 – 8:00 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
May 21, 2026	6:00 – 8:00 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
June 18, 2026	6:00 – 8:00 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
August 20, 2026	6:00 – 8:00 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
September 17, 2026	6:00 – 8:00 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
October 15, 2026	6:00 – 8:00 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm
November 19, 2026	6:00 – 8:00 PM	County Bldg – Redwood Rm

Public Participation

- Please check the meeting agenda to learn details about how to participate in the commission meeting.
- If you need special accommodations, please call 454-2935 or TDD: 711 (California Relay Service) at least 48 hours before the meeting.