

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: March 13, 2025

From: City Manager Department

Subject: Appointment of Capitola Representative to Measure Q Oversight Advisory Board

Recommended Action: Appoint a member of the public to serve as Capitola’s representative on the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board.

Background: Approved by Santa Cruz County voters in November 2024, the Santa Cruz County Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction, and Wildlife Protection Initiative (Measure Q) is a transformative local effort aimed at protecting and enhancing the county’s precious natural resources. This initiative prioritizes water quality, wildfire prevention, habitat restoration, and the creation of resilient ecosystems to ensure the health and well-being of Santa Cruz County’s environment and its residents for generations to come.

Measure Q is funded through a modest annual parcel tax of \$87 and is expected to generate more than \$7 million annually.

Discussion: Measure Q establishes a nine-member Citizens Oversight Advisory Board (COAB) to ensure transparency and alignment with community goals. The COAB also engages with the community, helps develop Vision Plans to guide awards and provides annual reporting to the Board of Supervisors. All meetings are open to the public.

The composition of the COAB is as follows:

- Nine subject-matter experts – five appointed by the County’s Board of Supervisors and four appointed by the cities with one selection per city
- Members are required to have expertise in water quality or flood protection, wildfire reduction or forest management, parks or natural resources management, working lands, environmental justice or park equity, or knowledge of evaluating financial transactions
- Members are not required to live in any specific area
- Members cannot hold an elected office

The COAB’s responsibilities include the following:

- Choose land stewardship implementation partner
- May provide recommendations to the Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience (OR3) and County Parks on the development of the Vision Plan.
- Approve the 5-Year Vision Plan prepared by OR3 and County Parks, synthesizing local climate, recreation, and resource management strategies to support grant criteria and awards
- Receive reports on projects funded and provide annual reports to the County’s Board of Supervisors on project outcomes and leveraging of Measure Q funds

The City received two applications from members of the public to serve as a representative of Capitola on the COAB (Attachment 1 & 2).

Fiscal Impact: None.

Attachments:

1. Application – Jed Wilson

2. Application – Scott Harway

Report Prepared By: Julia Gautho, City Clerk

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager