



# County of Santa Cruz

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069  
(831) 454-2200 • FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

**JOHN LEOPOLD**  
FIRST DISTRICT

**ZACH FRIEND**  
SECOND DISTRICT

**RYAN COONERTY**  
THIRD DISTRICT

**GREG CAPUT**  
FOURTH DISTRICT

**BRUCE MCPHERSON**  
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 1/13/15

January 7, 2015

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: WORKING LANDS RESOLUTION

Dear Members of the Board:

Santa Cruz County is very fortunate to have a wealth of productive working land – farm, timber, and range land. These working lands, both publicly and privately owned, support unique and important ecosystems which provide food, fiber, and materials while providing important diverse and high quality habitats for many species of native plants and animals. Our working lands also provide critical open space corridors for wildlife and greatly contribute to the economic foundation and well-being of Santa Cruz County residents.

Protection of these lands as both economic and natural resources is a priority of ours and a priority for the community. The Conservation Blueprint for Santa Cruz County identifies working lands as a cornerstone of our economy and tax base. Working lands also provide vital habitat and clean water and air. Santa Cruz County's Economic Vitality Strategy and the Resource Conservation District's report on Nature's Value in Santa Cruz County affirm the importance of good stewardship of working lands.

The viability of these lands is challenged in a variety of ways, including water shortages, climate change, regulatory demands, development pressure, and conversion to other uses. As a community, we are also discussing the possibility of the Coast Dairies property becoming a National Monument, the establishment of an open space district in Santa Cruz County, and a "Great Park" project in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

January 7, 2015

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In evaluating those opportunities, we feel it is vital that the working lands and the benefits they provide be given the protection they need in order to sustain their operations.

We would like to affirm the critical importance of these privately and publicly owned lands by adopting the Santa Cruz County Working Lands Resolution. The Working Lands Resolution has been adopted by the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District and the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County is expected to approve the resolution later this month. In addition, Cal Poly State University's Swanton Pacific Ranch College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences has expressed enthusiasm and is expected to be an early signatory of the resolution. Under the leadership of the Resource Conservation District, we also expect support from other regional land conservation groups and land trusts.

Accordingly, we recommend that the Board adopt the attached resolution indicating the County's support for the Santa Cruz County Working Lands Resolution.



RYAN COONERTY, Supervisor  
Third District

Sincerely,



BRUCE MCPHERSON, Supervisor  
Fifth District

RC/BAM:ted  
Attachment

cc: Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County  
Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

1340K5

30.1

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO.

On the motion of Supervisor  
duly seconded by Supervisor  
the following resolution is adopted

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
WORKING LANDS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the residents of the County of Santa Cruz recognize the critical importance of Santa Cruz County's private and public working farm, forest, and range lands; and

WHEREAS, these lands support unique and important ecosystems which provide food, fiber, and materials while enhancing our local community with multiple benefits; and

WHEREAS, these working lands include a widely varied landscape of productive farm, forest, and range lands that provide important, diverse, and high quality habitats for many species of native plants and animals; and

WHEREAS, these working lands provide critical open space and corridors for the species that depend upon them; and

WHEREAS, these working lands greatly contribute to the economic foundation and social well-being of the county's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Blueprint for Santa Cruz County identifies working lands as a "cornerstone of our economy and tax base" that "support wildlife habitat and clean water and air," and both Santa Cruz County's Economic Vitality Strategy and the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District's report on Nature's Value in Santa Cruz County affirm the importance of good stewardship on working lands, which is critical to conserving open spaces for future generations, providing jobs, and developing industries that emphasize sustainability; and

WHEREAS, many of these working lands produce high quality water, provide critical access for firefighting efforts, enhance fire resiliency, and aid in the sequestration of carbon, which all become more critical in the face of a changing climate and growing population; and

WHEREAS, these working lands and all the benefits they provide are largely the result of committed, diligent, and experienced stewardship that will continue only if landowners and managers can continue to farm, harvest, and ranch; and

WHEREAS, these working lands are at risk of conversion to other uses; and

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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WORKING LANDS  
RESOLUTION

Page 2

WHEREAS, there are negative environmental and social consequences associated with importing food and fiber from distant lands.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it is our goal to work collaboratively to protect and enhance the County's working landscapes by:

- Supporting the long-term economic viability of farming, forestry, and ranching by minimizing the loss of available working land base, by providing economic, social, and other incentives, and by reducing the burdens to proactive, productive land stewardship;
- Providing opportunities for science-based research on working lands that will help inform future best management practices and support the sustainable stewardship of working lands;
- Increasing the availability of funding, technical expertise, and other assistance to support, enhance, and expand beneficial stewardship of working lands;
- Encouraging voluntary, collaborative, and locally-led conservation that assists in maintaining and enhancing working lands;
- Enhancing habitat for both common and unique species, while seeking to streamline regulations on working lands;
- Educating the public about the numerous benefits provided to the community by working lands; and
- Promoting the consumption and use of locally grown food and forest products.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES:           SUPERVISORS  
 NOES:           SUPERVISORS  
 ABSENT:       SUPERVISORS

\_\_\_\_\_  
 ZACH FRIEND, Chairperson  
 Board of Supervisors


ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clerk of said Board

30.1

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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WORKING LANDS  
RESOLUTION  
Page 3

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Counsel

DISTRIBUTION: Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County  
Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau

1340K5

30.1

**Alicia Murillo**

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**From:** cdbbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2015 9:52 AM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 1/13/2015

**Meeting Type :** County Board of Supervisors

**Item Number :** 30.10

**Name :** Kevin Collins

**Email :** [bats3@cruzio.com](mailto:bats3@cruzio.com)

**Address :** P.O. Box 722 Felton,  
CA 95018

**Phone :** 831-234-7306

**Comments :**

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
701 Ocean St. 5th Floor  
Santa Cruz, CA 95018

January 12, 2015

Subject: Working Lands Resolution, Agenda Item 030-1

Supervisors,

This item needs to come off the January 13 agenda and be scheduled for a later Board Agenda so that the public can become aware of it and have the chance to comment.

This strange Board resolution with its hidden agenda will be alarming to anyone in Santa Cruz County concerned about wildlife conservation, water quality or the future value of parks and public lands designations in Santa Cruz County.

It is clear to me that the motivation behind this sly document comes from extractive land use industries, both logging and agriculture. Both industries compete for land ownership with conservation trust purchases and a genuine wildlife conservation agenda.

"Working lands" provide only degraded wildlife habitats from which many animals are completely extirpated. Anyone who wants to drink the water that flows off of agricultural fields needs a quick update on the chemical cocktails in agricultural run off.

This document speaks of "streamlining regulation".

With this Resolution, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors would now be directly advocating for the weakening of state and local regulations intended to protect wildlife, water quality, and the rural beauty of Santa Cruz County.

Our County once worked to improve the CA Forest Practice Rules to protect mountain residential homeowners and tenants. This proposal reverses this historical position.

Your own water supply from the City of Santa Cruz Water Dept. is massively contaminated by your own failure to supervise and direct the enforcement of the County's septic system and land use regulations. You yourselves are drinking septic ooze from the San Lorenzo Valley. My car tires splash through puddles of this open septic discharge on county public roads as I drive from my home to the County Government Building. I find this sadly amusing. I live up stream. I protect my water supply. Long ago I gave up making complaints to Environmental Health. That was useless and it remains so to this day.

This resolution is a sly and deceptive attempt to serve the direct financial self-interest of specific county industries with the political power to influence government from behind the scenes. The public interests of the citizens of this county will be harmed if this bizarre resolution is passed by your Board.

Regards,  
Kevin Collins  
P.O. Box 722 Felton, CA 95018

30.1

**Alicia Murillo**

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**From:** cdbbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2015 12:07 PM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 1/13/2015

**Meeting Type :** County  
Board of Supervisors

**Item Number :** 30.10

**Name :** Betsy Herbert

**Email :** [betsyherbert4trees@gmail.com](mailto:betsyherbert4trees@gmail.com)

**Address :** 145 Estates Dr.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Phone :** 831-425-1969

**Comments :**

I request that Item 30.1, Working Lands Resolution, on the consent agenda for Tuesday's Supervisors meeting be pulled off the agenda and continued to a later date.

The resolution and its pre-amble contain many controversial statements and far-reaching implications that warrant public vetting.

Placing such an item on the consent agenda where there is no opportunity for public discussion is not appropriate and not the way for the county to do business.



**Alicia Murillo**

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**From:** cbdbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2015 12:48 PM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 1/13/2015

**Meeting Type :** County Board of Supervisors

**Item Number :** 30.10

**Name :** Kevin Flynn

**Email :**  
[keflynn1@gmail.com](mailto:keflynn1@gmail.com)

**Address :** 24401 Glenwood Dr. Los Gatos, 95033 (Santa Cruz County resident)

**Phone :** 408-832-7180

**Comments :**

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Sempervirens Fund I strongly urge the County Board of Supervisors to postpone a vote on this working lands resolution. As owners of the 8,300 acre San Vicente Redwoods property, the Sempervirens Fund is Santa Cruz County's third largest property owner of 'working lands'. As such, we request that we be given the opportunity to review this resolution, have it analyzed by our staff and our science advisory panel and then be given the opportunity to provide comment.

Regards,

Kevin Flynn  
Board of Directors  
Sempervirens Fund

**Alicia Murillo**

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**From:** cdbbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2015 2:40 PM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 1/13/2015

**Meeting Type :** County Board of Supervisors

**Item Number :** 30.10

**Name :** Nancy Macy

**Email :** [nbbm@cruzio.com](mailto:nbbm@cruzio.com)

**Address :** 15485 Bear Creek Rd.  
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

**Phone :** 831-338-6578

**Comments :**

We are concerned about the Working Lands Resolution, both because it has far-reaching ramifications and because it has had no public input. Please remove it from the Consent Agenda to give the community a chance to have its concerns addressed.

Thank you so much,  
Nancy Macy, Co-Chair  
Environmental Committee for the SLV  
Valley Women's Club

**Alicia Murillo**

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**From:** cdbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2015 2:31 PM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 1/13/2015

**Meeting Type :** County Board of Supervisors

**Item Number :** 30.10

**Name :** Jim Coffis

**Email :** [jcoffis@gmail.com](mailto:jcoffis@gmail.com)

**Address :** 225 Rowardennan Dr  
Ben Lomond CA 95005

**Phone :** 8313368812

**Comments :**

This resolution is very disturbing and should have a full public hearing. Please remove from the consent agenda, schedule it for another day and allow full public comment.

**Alicia Murillo**

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**From:** cdbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2015 2:59 PM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 1/13/2015

**Meeting Type :** County Board of Supervisors

**Item Number :** 30.10

**Name :** Shealagh Devlin

**Email :** [Smartbooks@att.net](mailto:Smartbooks@att.net)

**Address :** 13870 Bear Creek Rd  
Boulder Creek, ca 95006

**Phone :** Not Supplied

**Comments :**

Dear Santa Cruz County Supervisors,

This past weekend, I had the opportunity to read the Santa Cruz County Working Lands proposal. I am concerned by what I have read. The proposal while speaking about coexisting with local habitats, does not define ways to protect them. The environment and business must come to prescribed ways of working together so that protections are in place for both to preserve our precious Santa Cruz lands. Please remove this item from the Conscent Agenda until the public has time to review and come to conscientious on the Working Lands proposal. Thank you.

**Alicia Murillo**

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**From:** cdbbosmail@co.santa-cruz.ca.us  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2015 2:59 PM  
**To:** CBD BOSMAIL  
**Subject:** Agenda Comments

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**Meeting Date :** 1/13/2015

**Meeting Type :** County Board of Supervisors

**Item Number :** 30.10

**Name :** Shealagh Devlin

**Email :** [Smartbooks@att.net](mailto:Smartbooks@att.net)

**Address :** 13870 Bear Creek Rd  
Boulder Creek, ca 95006

**Phone :** Not Supplied

**Comments :**

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