

## **CRESTON ADVISORY BODY**

### **Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

Creston Community Center – 5110 Swayze St, Creston

Creston Advisory Body Contact – CrestonAB@gmail.com

Meetings scheduled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month except December.

Chairperson – Sheila Lyons Vice Chair – Kurt Almond Treasurer – Roy Barba Secretary/Recorder – rotating duty

**Note on Record:** These minutes were generated in accordance with the authoritative CAB Minutes Generation Rules. Agenda structure governs section order and titles. Content is derived from the provided meeting summary and transcript-derived notes supplied by the user.

#### **1. Call to Order – Flag Salute**

The meeting was called to order at **7:00 p.m.** (Flag Salute conducted.)

A roll call was conducted. Those members identified as present were: **Sheila Lyons, Thomas Edel, Juan Soto, Kurt Almond and Roy Barba. Michael Aarons arrived at 7:15 p.m.**

**Absent Member(s): Don Clark, Matt Lyng**

**Community Members / Agenda Speakers in the audience: Please see Attachment A**

#### **2. CAB Recorder for This Meeting**

Recorder designation for this meeting was: **Thomas Edel**

#### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

Review of the February 2026 CAB meeting minutes was conducted and unanimously approved.

#### **4. CAB Elections 2026**

##### **a. Seating of New / Re-Elected Members**

Seating of new/re-elected CAB members at this meeting included; Don Clark, Mike Aarons, and Kurt Almond.

##### **b. Election of CAB Officers**

The Election of new CAB officers was conducted. The following individuals were unanimously elected/re-elected for the noted positions:

Chair: Sheila Lyons

Vice Chair: Kurt Almond

Treasurer: Roy Barba

---

#### **5. Limited Public and/or CAB Member Comments for Items NOT on the Agenda**

**a. Creston Rodeo organizers are seeking volunteers – September 11 & 12**

**b. SLO Bicycle Wildflower ride in Creston – April 18**

## CRESTON ADVISORY BODY

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 15, 2026

- c. Spaghetti Dinner (April 17<sup>th</sup>) is cancelled
  - d. Supervisor Moreno Meet & Greet to be conducted on April 22, 2026 at the Creston CC
  - e. Garden Club Annual Fundraiser was successful – Thank you Kurt for barrel donations!
  - f. Pool-Ooza set for May 30<sup>th</sup> Desert Auction with Buckle award
  - g. CATCH is fully rented each weekend through June. No Justin grant this year.
- 

### 6. Public Safety – CAL FIRE, Sheriff, CHP, etc.

#### **SLO County Sheriff's Department - North County Substation:**

SLO County Sheriff Office Sgt. Slane was present and presented a summary of calls for service for the period March 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026, which is included as Attachment B.

Additionally, ongoing countywide staffing challenges were discussed, including limited patrol coverage countywide and a multi-phase deputy training program spanning approximately 22–25 weeks. It was noted that at times a single patrol sergeant may be responsible for supervising deputies across large geographic areas, which presents public safety concerns. Options for increased local contact coverage in the Creston and California Valley areas were discussed, including the possibility of assigning a dedicated contact person beginning in mid-May, subject to staffing availability.

#### **California Highway Patrol (CHP) – Templeton Area Office:**

A Representative from the California Highway Patrol was not in attendance at the meeting.

#### **SLO County Fire / CAL FIRE- Station 50:**

SLO County Fire / CAL FIRE Captain Chad Mitchell reported March activity at the Creston station including medical aid responses, traffic accidents, hazard calls, and public assists. Staffing levels were discussed. Property inspections are scheduled to begin within the next couple of weeks, with a notification period prior to secondary inspections.

- **CAL FIRE staffing:** Seasonal staff returning; full peak staffing targeted for first week of June
  - **New aircraft:** C-130s deployed at air attack bases; 9 new contract helicopters acquired
  - **Weed abatement:** Begins within next couple weeks, weather-dependent; grass is tall and turning brown
  - **Station concern:** Creston CAL FIRE station has urban-type fire truck (non-four-wheel drive) rather than Type III engine better suited for rural grass fires
  -
-

## CRESTON ADVISORY BODY

### Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 15, 2026

#### 7. Fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) District Supervisor Heather Moreno:

Supervisor **Heather Moreno** along with Legislative Aid **Jennifer Kinnear** were present.

#### Supervisor's Role Clarification

**CAC advisory function:** CACs provide community perspective and recommendations on projects affecting their area, but votes are not binding official decisions. Supervisor **Moreno** emphasized CACs serve as "eyes and ears" of their communities.

#### Communication protocol:

- Don't wait for monthly meetings to report issues (illegal grows, code violations, etc.)
- Supervisor's cell phone number provided for direct contact between meetings
- Jennifer will attend when Supervisor is unavailable; combination of in-person and Zoom attendance planned

**Current board priorities:** Public safety, state compliance, homelessness, housing, behavioral health, economic development, and storm recovery. CAB members have concerns that transportation not mentioned as a priority.

#### Water Basin Management

##### Monitoring Progress

- **Well network expansion:** Grew from 23 to 113 monitoring wells (goal: 150 total); 49 have transducers for real-time data.
- **Basin status:** Historical deficit of 13,700 acre-feet; better data expected within 6–12 months to assess current conditions.
- **Local improvement:** One property reported well level up 15 feet from previous year.

##### Voluntary Fallowing Program

- **Miller Program launched:** 20 landowners enrolled, approximately 550 acres fallowed (as of February)
- **Purpose:** Protects ag offset rights without permanent water loss during voluntary non-irrigation.
- **Concerns raised:** Community members expressed skepticism that fallowing is temporary solution driven by wine market conditions rather than sustainable water management. When irrigation resumes, basin could return to deficit without addressing root causes.

##### Paso Robles Groundwater Basin JPA

- **Budget:** Approximately \$1.1 million annually for executive director, legal counsel, and rate study.

## CRESTON ADVISORY BODY

### Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 15, 2026

- **Measurement approach:** Using drone-based transpiration monitoring (accuracy concerns noted.)
- **De minimis exemption:** Users under 2 acre-feet won't be charged
- **Advisory committee planned:** Will include representation from dry well owners, ranchers, small ag, large ag, and de minimis users (advisory role, no voting rights.)
- **Board transition: Bruce Gibson** retiring at the end of year; Heather as successor likely, but not guaranteed, to take JPA seat.

## Infrastructure & Transportation

### Creston Bridge Repair

- **Timeline:** Preparations begin mid-May; closure June 1; reopening by September.
- **Strategy:** Avoids Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends to minimize impact on local venues.

## Road Funding

- **County maintenance of effort:** \$6.3 million annually from general fund (required since SB1 passage in 2017–2018).
- **SlowCOG sales tax measure:**
  - Investment plan: 40% regional projects, 55% split among 8 jurisdictions (county would receive ~\$8.6–8.7 million/year), 1% administration, 4% transit.
  - County's share distributed equally across 5 districts over 30-year horizon.
  - Citizens initiative gathering signatures (need ~12,000 valid, targeting 18,000 total); requires 50% + 1 to pass and put on the ballot.
  - Supervisor opposes SlowCOG putting measure on ballot (expects failure); supports a citizens initiative approach. Requires 2/3 vote to pass into law.

## Gas Tax Replacement Discussion

- **Sacramento advocacy:** Supervisor attended Central Coast Coalition meeting to oppose vehicle miles traveled (VMT) tax.
- **Alternative proposal:** Vehicle registration fee based on vehicle value instead of VMT; would be less burdensome for rural counties.
- **Rationale:** Rural residents shouldn't be penalized for driving farther distances; registration fee more equitable.

## CRESTON ADVISORY BODY

### Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 15, 2026

- **CAB attendee questions?** Would the registration fee would be tax deductible? Others asked how commercial vehicles would be charged. Supervisor said things aren't far enough along to be able to answer those questions.

#### County Operations & Efficiency

##### Homelessness Services

- **Department size:** 20 employees, \$3.4 million annual general fund allocation (includes salaries).
- **Data concerns:** Point-in-time count (biannual) shows potential slight decrease (1,105 vs. 1,148 two years ago), but Supervisor considers this metric insufficient.
- **Dashboard development:** Tracking monthly shelter utilization, exits to permanent housing, 6-month/12-month housing retention rates.
- **KPMG audit:** Underway for Homeless Services Division (following audits of Health Agency and Planning & Building).

##### KPMG Audits & Accountability

- **Completed audits:** Health Agency, Planning & Building; wrapping up Department of Social Services/Homeless Services.
- **Implementation:** Executive office (CEO + 3 Assistant CEOs) now driving departmental accountability and efficiency improvements.
- **Findings example:** Some clinician utilization rates in 20–30% range; staff utilization being addressed.
- **Next target:** Parks department (regional parks currently requiring \$2 million additional funding this budget year to cover losses).

##### Regional Parks Funding Gap

- **Issue:** Regional parks not generating sufficient revenue to cover expenses.
- **Considerations:** Contracting with vendors, evaluating state-owned properties county manages, reassessing operations.
- **Anomaly noted:** Heilman Park in Atascadero considered "regional" despite serving primarily city residents (county retained when city incorporated in 1979).

##### Housing & Development

##### Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)

- **County requirement:** Approximately 3,200 homes over 2020–2028 cycle (out of ~11,000 countywide).

## CRESTON ADVISORY BODY

### Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 15, 2026

- **Creston impact:** Minimal—multifamily/density increases won't reach Creston; ADUs main local effect.
- **ADU programs:** Stock plans available from county and several cities for streamlined, lower-cost construction.
- **RHNA credit:** Half of ADUs count toward affordable housing allocation; state will analyze actual affordability over cycle.

### Cost of Living Concerns

- **Top concern:** Rising cost of living identified as greatest threat to quality of life.
- **Housing affordability:** Increasing challenge for people who grew up locally or want to stay; drives need for more housing despite resistance to growth.
- **Business development:** Lack of commercial development (e.g., limited gas stations) contributes to higher costs and fewer job opportunities.

### Energy

#### Diablo Canyon Extension

- **20-year NRC license:** Signed (Supervisor and Jennifer attended signing ceremony).
- **2045 extension push:** Bay Area Council leading campaign for legislation to extend operations to 2045; Supervisor supporting (expects 4 board members in support).
- **Rationale:** Provides nearly 10% of state electricity; closure would create energy crisis.

### Code Enforcement Issues

#### Illegal Chemical Dumping Incident

- **Incident:** **Thomas Edel** brought up the issue about dumping on property line. Contractor with 500-gallon chemical tank dumped "root beer brown fluid" at *Jhelum Vineyards* property line; claimed sprayers were clogged and operator was told to dump because vineyards being removed.
- **Response:** Resident confronted contractor, took photos; sheriff declined jurisdiction; online complaint filed with Environmental Services (no response received as of meeting)
- **Recommendation:** Contact Ag Commissioner to review pesticide application permit and verify what was applied.
- **Context:** Same vineyard previously violated code with unpermitted trailers, septic, water, and power installations.

### New Agricultural Nuisance Authority

## **CRESTON ADVISORY BODY**

### **Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

- **AB effective 1-1-26:** Ag Commissioner can require cleanup of abandoned crops attracting rodents/pests (fruit left to die on vine, etc.)
  - **Approach:** Inform, educate, notice before fining; compliance-focused.
  - **Recent case:** Neighbor complaint about abandoned fruit/fruit flies; Ag Commissioner handling.
- 

#### **8. Planning Department**

No representative was present from Planning Department. Most building issues were fielded by Heather and Jennifer.

---

#### **9. Unfinished Business**

None.

---

#### **10. Report from Paso Basin Report (PRAGA)**

**Murray Powell** was not present. Supervisor Moreno covered the latest PRAGA information.

---

#### **11. Committee Reports and Administrative and Technology Matters**

The group discussed improvements to meeting procedures, including use of AI-generated draft minutes with a designated recorder responsible for review and accuracy. Website access and technical coordination issues were also noted.

---

#### **12. Financial Report**

Treasury funds were confirmed in the amount of **\$971.12**. CAB has not received the latest recent request for funding from the County.

---

#### **13. Additional Limited Public Comments**

None.

---

#### **14. Next Steps / Action Items**

## **CRESTON ADVISORY BODY**

### **Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

- Thomas Edel to forward photos and details related to the chemical dumping concern for follow-up.
- The representative to forward materials to Environmental Services and the Ag Commissioner.
- Distribution of the full KPMG audit report to the group for review.
- Community members to consider attending and sharing information regarding upcoming basin/JPA meetings.
- Inquiry to CAL FIRE regarding availability of Type 3 fire apparatus at the Creston station.
- Website updates and access coordination.
- Formal designation of a recorder for each meeting and review of AI-generated minutes prior to finalization.
- Planning for Supervisor Moreno to attend the June CAB meeting by Zoom meeting. She will not be available for the May meeting, as she will be in Sacramento. She will continue going forward with the quarterly hybrid meeting schedule.

---

### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting concluded at 8:50PM with confirmation of the next regularly scheduled meeting on **May 20, 2026**.

**CRESTON ADVISORY BODY**

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, **April 15, 2026**



The Creston Advisory Body

Attachment A

## Meeting Attendee Sign-In Sheet

Date: 4/15/26

Name (Printed)	Address	Phone	E-Mail
Roberta BARBA	P.O. Box 662	(805) 286-8455	CHIFFRBB@AOL
Donna Giubbini		610 1517	
Heather Marino		805-461-9030	
SGT. G. SLANG	SLO SHERIFF	805-434-4296	
FAE A. Briseno	County Fire		

**CRESTON ADVISORY BODY**

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, **April 15, 2026**

*Attachment B*

*SLO County  
Sheriff's office*

CRESTON ADV

APRIL 2026

Time Period:		Station 22 March 1 – 31, 2026		
CFS: Current Year				
	34			
CFS: Last Year	32			
Reports Current Year:	3			
Reports: Last Year	7			
<b>Assault/Battery:</b>				
CFS	1			
Reports	0			
<b>Disturbance:</b>				
CFS	6			
Reports	0			
<b>Burglary:</b>				
CFS	0			
Reports	0			
<b>Theft:</b>				
CFS	0			
Reports	0			
<b>Vandalism</b>				
CFS	0			
Reports	0			
<b>Trespassing:</b>				
CFS	0			
Reports	0			
<b>Scam:</b>				
CFS	0			
Reports	0			
<b>Suspicious Circs:</b>				
CFS	1			
Reports	0			

Other Notable Comments: