

CRESTON ADVISORY BODY

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Creston Community Center – 5110 Swayze St, Creston

Creston Advisory Body Contact – CrestonAB@gmail.com

Meetings scheduled on the 3rd Wednesday of each month except December.

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

1. Call to Order – Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order at **7:01 p.m.**

Members present: **Sheila Lyons, Thomas Edel, Juan Soto, Kurt Almond, Roy Barba, Michael Aarons.**

2. CAB Recorder for This Meeting

Recorder designation for this meeting was: **Juan Soto**

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Review of the May 2026 CAB meeting minutes with additions by Thomas regarding dumping of materials in his area of CAB, was conducted and unanimously approved.

4. Limited Public and/or CAB Member Comments for Items NOT on the agenda (3 min each)

a. Community Announcements

- **Proposed Cannabis 1-mile buffer** around the Creston VRL (Village Reserve Line) – Board of Supervisors approved 4-1 having County Staff draft verbiage to be included in the Cannabis Ordinance; Once the language has been agreed upon, it will head to Planning Commission for their review/approval and then back to the Board of Supervisors this fall for final approval.
- **Supervisor Moreno announced that the County will issue \$4,856 one-time payment** directly to the community pool operator to offset post-2023 insurance cost increases.
- **New larger smart TV installed** in the Creston Community Center (donated by Rosie Hebron); Two new entertainment speakers donated by Mike's company QSC Audio.
- **Annual grant increased** from County to CAB to \$1,500 (up from \$1,200); current treasury balance: **\$2,371.83.**
- **Septic tank pumped** at community center for \$2,200; additional \$3,200 estimate to fix a kink in the line and add corrugated risers — decision pending.

5. Public Safety – CAL FIRE, Sheriff, CHP, etc.

California Highway Patrol (CHP) - Not Present

SLO County Sheriff's Department – Commander Arauza

- **42 calls to date** vs. 46 same period last year; 2 reports taken vs. 7 last year.

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- **Increased staffing planned for 4th of July**; dedicated unit covering Creston–Shandon corridor.
- **Senior Deputy Place** volunteering for area coverage on day shift; not full-time dedicated.
- Staffing shortfall driven by **applicant attrition** through background checks and academy dropout, not solely budget.
- Recruits sent to Alan Hancock (Jan/July) and Ventura Academy (Sept/March) 6 months each, for a total of 1 year; jail and patrol now bifurcated.

SLO County Fire / CAL FIRE- Station 50 – Officer Eric Cafrerio

- **47 total calls** since last meeting: 15 medical, 14 vegetation fires, 1 structure fire, 6 vehicle accidents, 11 other.
- Countywide **live structure burn training** completed — valuable given low local structure fire frequency.
- **CAL FIRE night-flying helicopter** (dual-rotor, exclusive use contract) now based locally through summer; deployed to Riverside County fire earlier in the week.

6. Fifth (5th) District Supervisor Heather Moreno:

Planning & Cannabis Buffer

- **1-mile buffer** measured from VRL perimeter, not town center; covers ~8 square blocks plus surroundings up to Hwy 41.
- **Webster Road cannabis project** was withdrawn; reapplication unlikely to succeed.
- Board discussed requesting a **larger buffer (3–5 miles)** as a stretch goal while accepting 1-mile as fallback.
- Suggested language additions: personal-use exemption acknowledgment (constrained by CA law); buffer should **expand if VRL expands**.
- Cannabis cultivation **not voter-approved** — decided by Board of Supervisors; county tax revenue from cultivation trending negative.

County Budget Highlights

- General fund ~**\$840M**; reserves at **19%** vs. 20% policy target.
- **DA's 5 requested positions** (2 Deputy DA4, paralegal, receptionist, 1 other) — none funded; political friction cited.
- **Prop 36** (drug offense prosecution) and **elder abuse** DA positions were Supervisor Maren's priority — blocked by colleagues.

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- **Two "three-on" engine staffing** positions approved; both assigned to **Nipomo** (busiest station).

KPMG audit of Dept. of Social Services / homeless services complete; county hiring accountability officer to implement findings; homeless services general fund expenditure confirmed at **\$8 million**.

CalPortland Mine Permit Renewal (from Eric in County Planning)

- Requesting **time extension only** (not volume increase); cumulative cap remains **400,000 cubic yards**.
- Operations confined between Hwy 41 bridge and Rufus Road crossing; mining only occurs when sand replenishes above baseline elevation.
- Annual county inspection (Oct–Feb); **Division of Mining Resources** also monitors.
- CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife rarely responds to referrals — comments typically only on formal environmental documents.
- Community consensus: operation benefits flood control and road access; truck volume remains main concern.

7. New Business

- None discussed.

8. Planning Department CAB Liaison-Dominic Dal Porta – Not Present

9. Unfinished Business

- None

10. Paso Basin Cooperative Committee – Murry Powell

Water / Prop 26 (PRAGA)

- **Prop 26 assessments** billed via property taxes (APN basis); appeal period expired June 8 — short notice, low awareness.
- PRAGA seeking **loan from Shandon Water District** for short-term gap funding until tax installments arrive (~January).
- Murray's analysis: study shows **no overdraft**, yet assessments proceed; budget described as "keep the lights on" without implementing the remediation plan.

11. Financial Report

- Treasurer's report: Current balance \$2,371.83.

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12. Additional Limited Public Comments

- Murray Powell comments on County Cannabis taxes - **\$1,426,166 in uncollected taxes** since 2018 due to Board overriding voter-approved rates.

13. Adjournment

- The meeting concluded at 8:48 PM with confirmation of the next regularly scheduled meeting on **July 15, 2026.**