

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, 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

- **Cannabis 1-mile buffer** around the Creston VRL (Village Reserve Line) approved 4-1 at Board of Supervisors; heading to Planning Commission and full board this fall.
- **County to issue \$4,856 one-time payment** directly to the community pool operator to offset post-2023 insurance cost increases.
- **New TV installed** (donated by Rosie); Two new entertainment speakers donated by Mike's company QSC Audio.
- **Annual grant increased** 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.
- **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.

CRESTON ADVISORY BODY

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, **June 17, 2026**

- 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); 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 Marino's priority — blocked by colleagues.
- **Two "three-on" engine staffing** positions approved; both assigned to **Nipomo** (busiest station).

CRESTON ADVISORY BODY

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, June 17, 2026

KPMG audit of Dept. of Social Services / homeless services complete; county hiring accountability officer to implement findings; homeless services general fund spend 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.
- **\$1,426,166 in uncollected taxes** since 2018 due to Board overriding voter-approved rates.

11. Financial Report

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

12. Additional Limited Public Comments

CRESTON ADVISORY BODY

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, June 17, 2026

- None.

13. Adjournment

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

DRAFT