

First 5 Santa Cruz County Commission Meeting Agenda

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: First 5/United Way Conference Room, 4450 Capitola Road, Suite 106, Capitola, CA

All members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting in-person or virtually. To attend virtually, enter the link below into a web-browser.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4539542581?pwd=MTNGK2VoM3NMc0hSV3o1UHhqS0hJZz09>

Meeting ID: 453 954 2581

Passcode: 2217

Telephone: (669) 900-6833

Members: Julio Andrade, Sandy Brown, Gloria Carroll, Heidy Kellison (Secretary), Monica Martinez, Connie Moreno-Peraza, Dr. Faris Sabbah (Vice Chair), Sheree Storm (Chair), Maia Yates

1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum

2. Commission Member Remote Attendance Approval – Action Item

- Per SB 707, Commissioners may participate in the Commission meeting remotely under certain conditions of “just cause.”

3. Review and Adopt Agenda – Action Item

4. Consent Agenda – Action Item

- A. Approve June 23, 2026, Commission Meeting Minutes
- B. Accept Financial Report for the period ending June 2026
- C. Accept First 5 Santa Cruz County Grant Application Tracker, 09/15/2026
- D. Accept FY 26/27 First 5 Santa Cruz County Contracts Executed Under Executive Director Authority, 09/15/2026
- E. Accept FY 26/27 First 5 Santa Cruz County Sponsorships report, 09/15/2026

5. Community Oral Communications

The community may address the Commission on items not listed on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of First 5 Santa Cruz County. If any member of the community wishes to address the Commission on any item that is listed on the agenda, they may do so when that item is called. Every item on the agenda welcomes public comment.

6. Commissioner Oral Communications

7. Commissioner Introductions – Information Item

Commissioners will be invited to provide an introduction of themselves including their background, current role in the County of Santa Cruz and their connection to the work of First 5 Santa Cruz County.

8. Staff Introductions – Information Item

First 5 Staff will briefly introduce themselves to the Commission and describe their role at First 5 Santa Cruz County.

9. United Way Partnership Update – Information Item

United Way Santa Cruz County CEO Yvette Brooks will provide an overview of the partnership between United Way and First 5 Santa Cruz County.

10. Program Highlight: Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Santa Cruz County – Information Item

Staff will provide an update on Dolly Parton Imagination Library Santa Cruz County in light of Dolly Parton’s passing on August 25, 2026.

11. Contract Authorizations – Action Item

The Commission finds that the contracts listed below continue to meet the factors described in its sole source contracting policy section 1.b relating to contractors’ expertise being vital to the provision of services. The Commission delegates authority to the Executive Director to negotiate, execute, and amend contracts up to the amounts specified.

Vendor	Priority Area	Program	Term	Amount
Optimal Solutions Consulting ¹	Early Childhood System	Thrive by 5 – Operations Support and Evaluation	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026	\$35,000
Optimal Solutions Consulting ²	Early Childhood System	Thrive by 5 – Operations Support and Evaluation	July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027	\$35,000
Pajaro Valley Unified School District	Early Care & Education	Quality Counts – Quality Improvement Grants	July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027	\$35,000

12. Adjourn

¹ Increase of \$5,000 to FY 25/26 authorization aligned with contract award from County of Santa Cruz.

² Increase of \$5,000 to FY 26/27 authorization aligned with contract award from County of Santa Cruz.