



Council Coordinator/Member “Coffee Talk” Report

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Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

August 22, 2014

Purpose

Build relationships and encourage positive, open, and forward-thinking dialogue regarding:

- Member feedback of the council to understand members' experience serving on the council, and opportunities and/or roadblocks they have had personally or collectively through the council
- Coordinator expectations of the members
- Any seat-specific issues the members or coordinator would like to discuss

The Basics

When?

January – May 2014

Who?

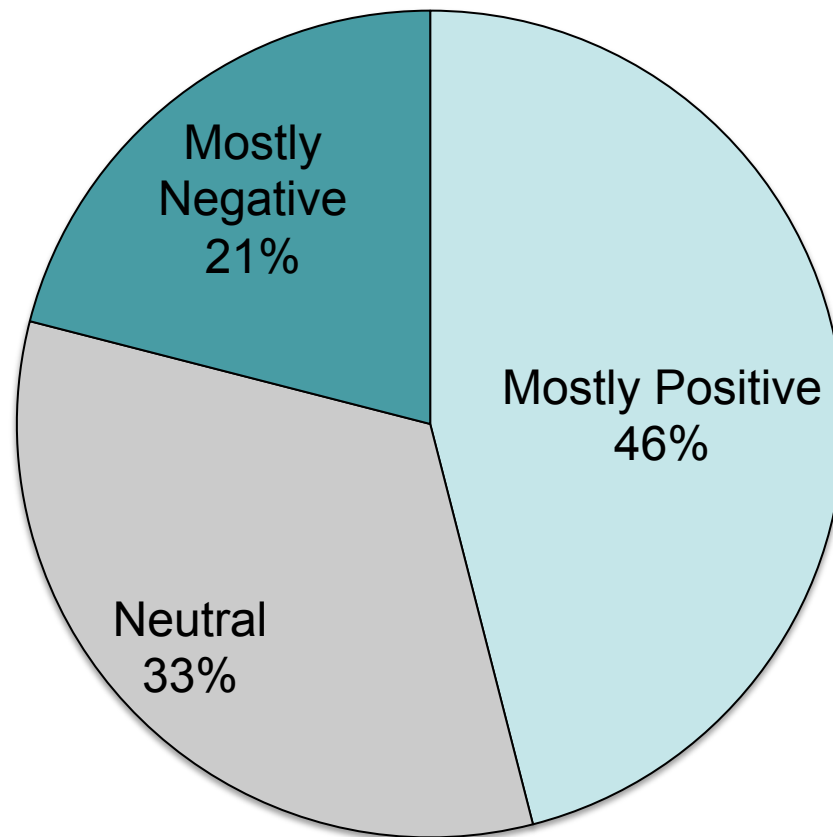
25/45 members

16/23 seats

Where?

From Monterey to Sacramento

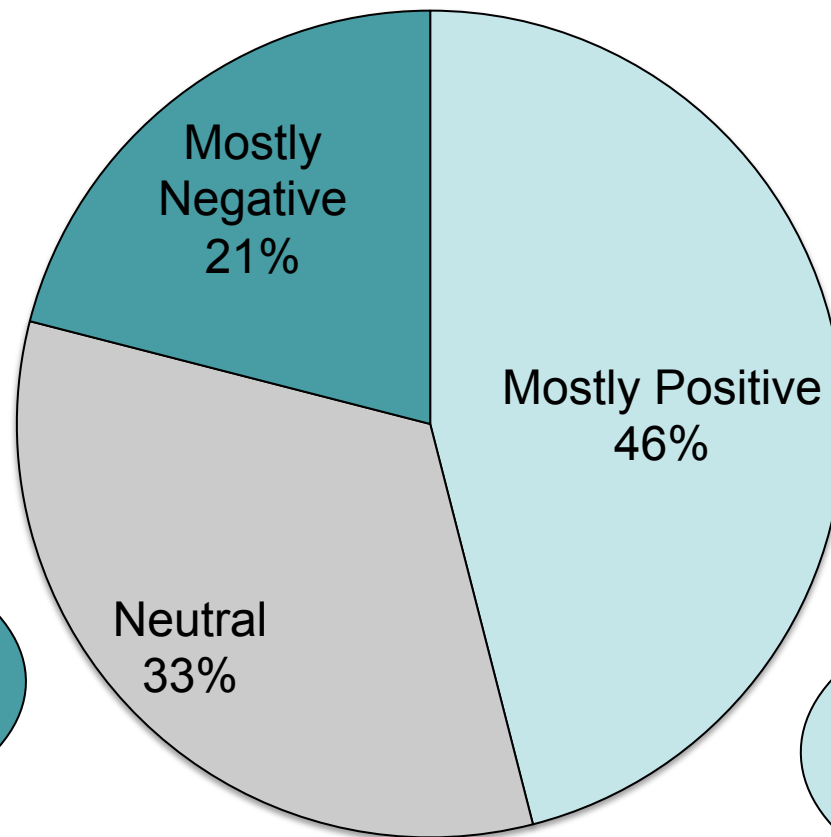
How has your experience been serving on the SAC?



How has your experience been serving on the SAC?

Less effective,
less productive,
less activist

Love the people,
hate the process



Meetings are
useful and
informative

Great
opportunity to
connect with
others

Suggested Improvements

Working Groups:

- More guidance/direction from staff and the council on priorities and how WGs should operate
- WGs should better present all sides of an issue, and provide more background info before an action

Suggested Improvements

Meeting Content:

- Each meeting should have an action item/opportunity to provide advice
- Clearly define goals for each agenda item, desired outcome and follow-up actions
- Annual work plan!
- “state of the sanctuary” presentations

Suggested Improvements

Meeting Operations:

- Bring back the summer meeting
- Limit member announcements to 3 minutes – remind council of the purpose of this time
- Chair help guide council discussion
- Times back on the agenda; 15 minute breaks
- Rely more on less formal procedures for providing advice
- Streamline council commentary period – less word-smithing and nit-picking

Suggested Improvements

Council Membership:

- Greater accountability for constituency communications
- Some seats need more clear definition (e.g. research)

Suggested Improvements

Council Coordinator:

- More lead time for action items and meeting content
- FAQs for council members
- Hold members accountable – contact ahead of time if we expect/need their presence for a particular issue
- Craft goals and follow-up actions for each agenda item
- Continue annual meetings with members
- More detailed orientation for new members, with real examples of council actions

What are YOUR goals?

Involvement in
the sanctuary;
learn!

Provide outreach
to the community,
be an ambassador

Benefit the council
with skills, perspective,
expertise

Goals for the Council

Provide support to MBNMS

Be more proactive; address issues in a more timely manner

More active and involved members

More focus on:

- Water management issues
- Sanctuary funding (MBSF)
- Management and policy-relevant issues – revisit the management plan
- Sanctuary priorities
- Community Outreach

Council Communication

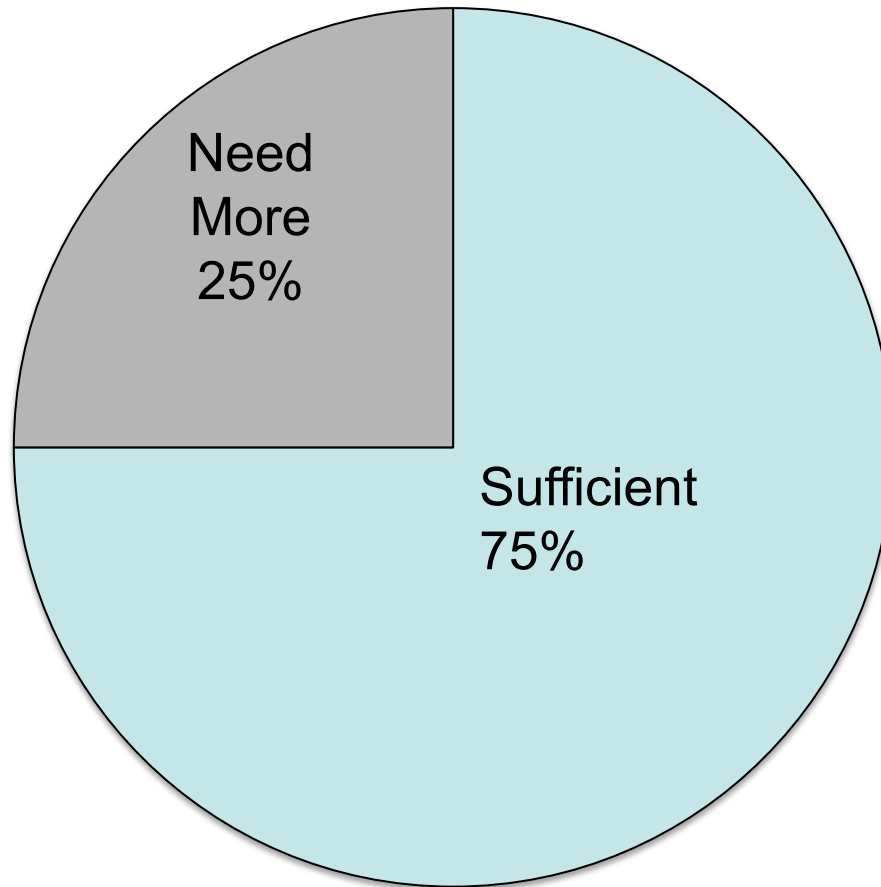
With your constituents:

- Overall, not great.
- Constituency in some cases needs better definition
- Council members need more direction and guidance
- Some outstanding examples exist!
- Not a problem for agency reps

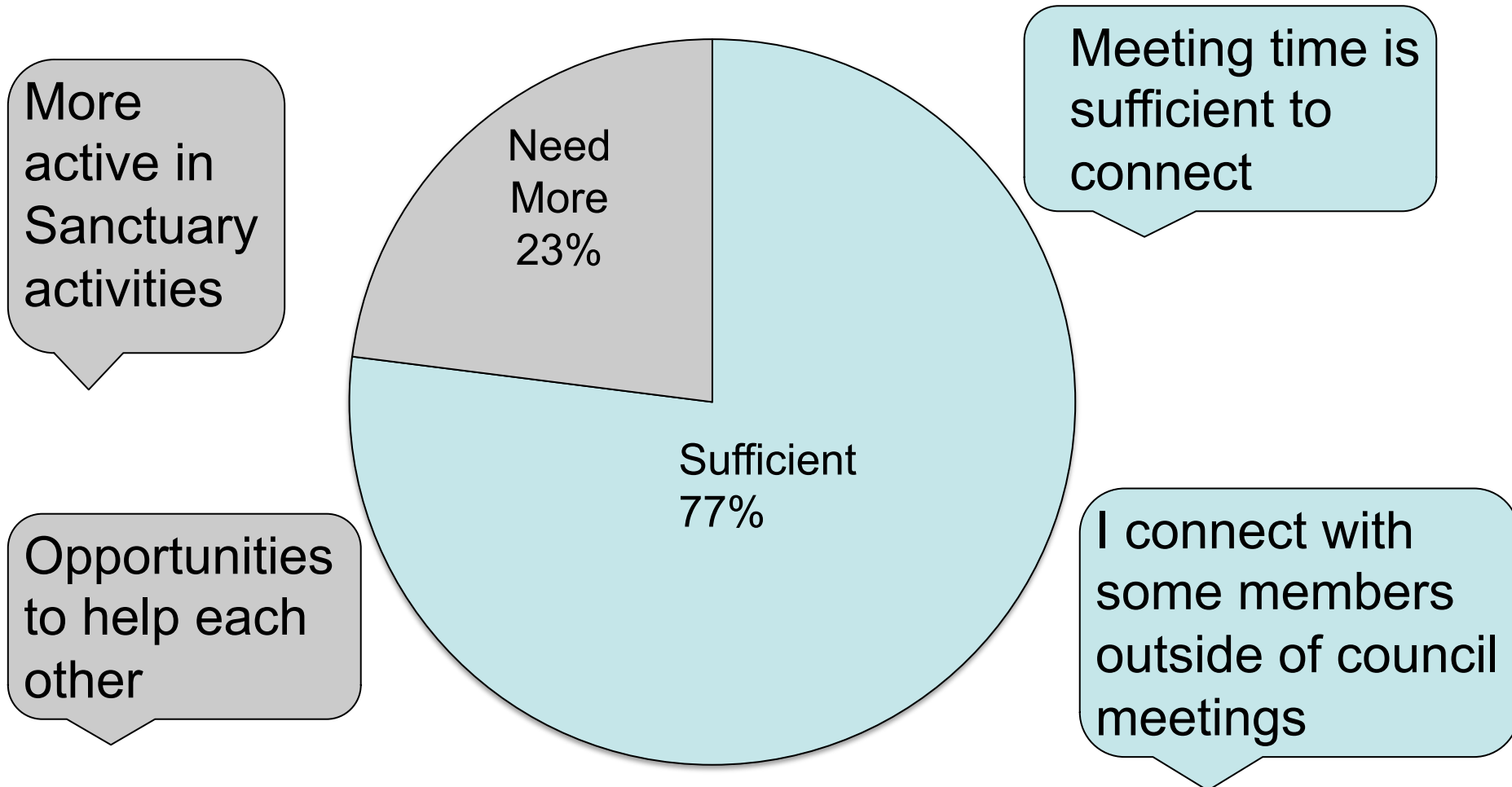
With each other:

- About half seem to have this down
- The other half needs more guidance and reminders
- Most expressed it could be better, especially before meetings

Interaction with Staff



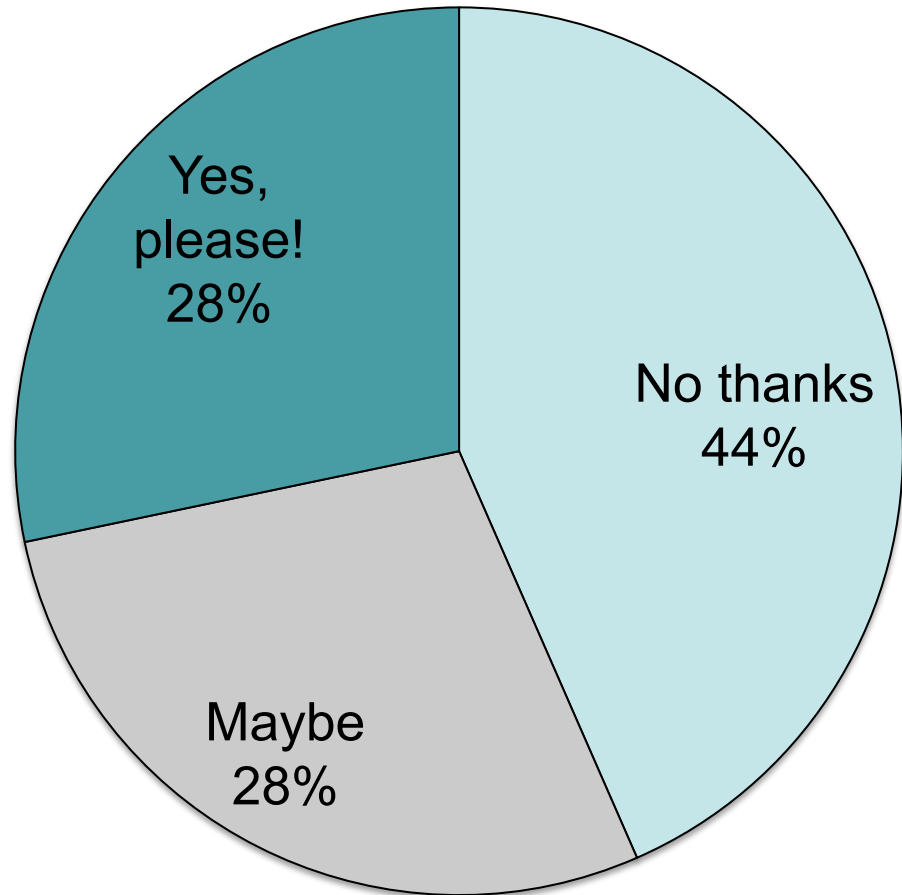
Interaction with Each Other



Annual Retreat

Conditions:

- Not recreational
- To address a very specific issue
- Clearly defined objectives and purpose
- In Cambria
- Completely transparent (open to public)



My Final Recommendations

- Make communication a priority
- Stay on task during meetings – report back only on what is relevant
- Resist the urge to word-smith and nit-pick
- Come prepared