

City of Capitola

Commission on the Environment

Regular Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 – 6:00 PM



Capitola City Hall, Community Room
420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010

Chair: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law

Vice-Chair: Michael Maroney

Commissioners: Council Member Clarke, Dennis Norton, Scott Rohlf

Staff Representative: Erika Senyk

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

3. Public Oral and Written Communications

The Chair may announce and set time limits at the beginning of each agenda item. The Committee Members may not discuss Oral Communications to any significant degree but may request issues raised be placed on a future agenda.

4. Staff Comments

5. March 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Recommended Action: Review and approve minutes.

6. General Business

A. Community Outreach

Recommended Action: Discuss and identify potential community outreach topics for Spring 2026, and select a priority theme and appropriate communication channel for the COE to implement.

B. COE Participation in City Events

Recommended Action: Discuss and identify opportunities to expand the COE's participation in City-sponsored events and enhance the integration of environmental messaging.

7. Items for Future Agenda

8. Adjournment

Next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2026.

Agenda and Agenda Packet Materials: The Commission on the Environment Agenda is available on the City's website: www.cityofcapitola.org/ on Friday prior to the Wednesday meeting. If you need additional information, please contact the Public Works Department at (831) 475-7300.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Disability-related aids or services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Assisted listening devices are available for individuals with hearing impairments at the meeting in the City Council Chambers. Should you require special accommodations to participate in the meeting due to a disability, please contact the City Clerk's office at least 24-hours in advance of the meeting at 831-475-7300. In an effort to accommodate individuals with environmental sensitivities, attendees are requested to refrain from wearing perfumes and other scented products.

City of Capitola Commission on the Environment Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 – 6:00 PM



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Chair: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law

Vice Chair: Michael Maroney

Commissioners: Council Member Clarke, Dennis Norton, Scott Rohlf

Staff Representative: Erika Senyk

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- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call** – Chair Beritzhoff-Law called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.
Commissioners Present: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Council Member Clarke, Scott Rohlf
Absent: Michael Maroney, Dennis Norton
City Staff Present: Erika Senyk (Environmental Projects Manager)

- 2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**
None.

- 3. Public Oral and Written Communications**
None.

- 4. Staff Comments**
Staff provided an update regarding the City's Esplanade Park Coastal Access Enhancement and Adaptation Plan RFP process.

- 5. February 18, 2026 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes**
Recommended Action: Review and approve minutes.

Motion to approve the February 18, 2026 minutes: Council Member Clarke

Seconded: Commissioner Rohlf

Motion passed 3-0-2 (Vice Chair Maroney and Commissioner Norton Absent)

- 6. General Business**

- A. T-Mobile Hometown Grant**

Recommended Action: Authorize the Chair to sign, on behalf of the Commission, a letter supporting the City's application to the T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program.

Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager, presented the staff report.

Chair Beritzhoff-Law and Commissioner Rohlf stated the importance of incorporating language into the grant application about the improvements already made by the City to the Park at Rispin Mansion since the project began in 2024.

Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the letter supporting the City's application to the T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program: Chair Beritzhoff-Law
Seconded: Council Member Clarke
Motion passed 3-0-2 (Vice Chair Maroney and Commissioner Norton Absent)

B. The Park at Rispin Mansion Interpretive Signage

Recommended Action: Discuss and provide feedback on potential themes for the proposed interpretive signage at the Park at the Rispin Mansion.

Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager, presented the staff report.

The Commission discussed potential themes for the five proposed interpretive signage panels for the Park at Rispin Mansion.

Katy Guernsey and Sheryl Coulston, residents of Brookvale Terrace, provided public comment.

The Commission recommended the following themes for the proposed interpretive signage:

1. Name of park and details, history of how the park was founded, a land acknowledgement, and information on the park's conservation easement
2. Tribal history and tribal land use
3. History of the Rispin Mansion, historical uses of the land, and Nuns of St. Clare
4. Flora: trees, native vegetation, oak woodland habitat
5. Fauna: wildlife (e.g., monarchs, Foothill yellow-legged frog) and fisheries of Soquel Creek (e.g., steelhead trout)

7. Items for Future Agenda

1. Ordinance updates (i.e., plastic and paper carryout bags, opposition to seabed mining onshore support facilities)
2. Improving public awareness of the City's environmental management and compliance efforts
3. Trash pollution in Capitola Village during high-traffic events and summer months
4. Incorporating COE values and approved practices into summer public events

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM to the next Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment on April 15, 2026.

ATTEST:

Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Chair

Capitola Commission on the Environment Agenda Report



Meeting: April 15, 2026

From: Public Works Department

Topic: Community Outreach

Recommended Action: Discuss and identify potential community outreach topics for Spring 2026, and select a priority theme and appropriate communication channel for the COE to implement.

Background/Discussion: At the February 18, 2026 regular Commission on the Environment (COE) meeting, the COE identified the following as one of the Commission's primary goals for calendar year 2026:

"Increase and improve public awareness of environmental management and compliance efforts."

At the March 18, 2026 regular COE meeting, the Commission requested that an item be added to a future agenda to discuss its community outreach goals for the remainder of 2026. At prior COE meetings, the Commission has identified a range of potential community outreach topics, including waste reduction and proper recycling practices, litter prevention strategies, and methods to protect water quality and promote native planting at home landscapes.

The City maintains several channels to conduct regular public outreach, such as a public website, a biweekly digital newsletter (i.e., Capitola Waves), a semiannual printed newsletter (i.e., Capitola Currents), and social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Instagram).

Other City officials have implemented a variety of approaches to enhance community outreach; for example, the Mayor publishes a "Mayor's Message" in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, and the City's Historical Museum Board produces and distributes a quarterly newsletter.

The City is currently redesigning its website to improve usability. The Commission on the Environment will retain its dedicated webpage as part of the new design, and the redesign also presents an opportunity to create additional pages to feature environmental content and highlight important sustainability information for the community.

Report Prepared By: Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager

Capitola Commission on the Environment Agenda Report



Meeting: April 15, 2026

From: Public Works Department

Topic: COE Participation in City Events

Recommended Action: Discuss and identify opportunities to expand the COE’s participation in City-sponsored events and enhance the integration of environmental messaging.

Background/Discussion: Each year, the City hosts a range of special events that are open to the public, as outlined in Table 1 below. These events require City permits and are classified as either minor or major special events based on expected attendance (minor special events: fewer than 200 attendees; major special events: 200 or more attendees).

Table 1. List of annual City-sponsored community events.

Event Month(s)	Event Name	Location	Organization/Sponsor	Attendance Estimate	Special Event Permit Type
June	Capitola Rod and Custom Classic Car Show	Esplanade Park	Capitola Public Safety Foundation	1,000	Major
Aug - Sept	Movies at the Beach	Esplanade Park	Capitola Art & Cultural Commission	300	Major
Wednesday evenings June - Aug	Twilight Concerts	Esplanade Park	Capitola Art & Cultural Commission	1,500	Major
June - July	Art at the Beach	Capitola Village & Esplanade Park	Capitola Art & Cultural Commission	<200	Minor
June - Aug	Food Truck Fridays	Monterey Ave Park	City of Capitola Recreation Department	<200	Minor
October	Plein Air	City-wide	City of Capitola Recreation Department	<200	Minor

The City integrates environmental messaging and guidance for event organizers throughout the permitting process, including within the application form and in follow-up communications. For example, if an event organizer indicates on their application that food will be served, they must acknowledge and comply with applicable SB 1383 requirements, including organics recycling and edible food recovery practices. Events are routinely monitored by the City and its designated representatives to ensure compliance with SB 1383 requirements.

At its regular meeting on March 18, 2026, the Commission on the Environment (COE) requested that a future agenda item be added to discuss the COE’s participation in City-sponsored events and opportunities to expand environmental and sustainability messaging to the community.

Report Prepared By: Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager