

City of Capitola

Commission on the Environment Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 – 6:00 PM



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

Chair: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law

Vice Chair: Michael Maroney

Commissioners: Mayor Clarke, Dennis Norton, Scott Rohlf

Staff Representative: Erika Senyk

1. Call to Order and Roll Call – Chair Beritzhoff-Law called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

Commissioners Present: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Michael Maroney, Dennis Norton, Mayor Clarke

Absent: Scott Rohlf

City Staff Present: Erika Senyk (Environmental Projects Manager)

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Oral and Written Communications

Commissioner Rohlf provided written communications on General Business Item 6A in advance of the meeting, to be taken into consideration by the Commission during discussions.

Brookvale Terrace residents spoke about their 9 planting areas that were funded partly through the City's previous ESHA Planting Reimbursement Program and requested that the Commission consider supporting future funding opportunities for residents to plant and maintain vital riparian habitat areas.

4. Staff Comments

Staff provided an update that the September COE meeting agenda will be published next week.

5. July 16, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

Recommended Action: Review and approve minutes.

Motion to approve the July 16, 2025 minutes: Commissioner Norton

Seconded: Vice Chair Maroney

Motion passed 4-0-1 (Commissioner Rohlf Absent)

6. General Business

A. Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch Maintenance

Recommended Action: Discuss potential projects related to Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch maintenance and identify funding opportunities.

Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager, provided an overview of current City uses for

the Green Building Funds.

The Commission considered potential grant opportunities and local groups that the City could partner with to gather more volunteers for native plant restoration projects in riparian corridors. The Commission also considered incentivizing local businesses to support this work to improve local riparian habitats and water quality.

The Commission continued the item to the regular September COE meeting and requested that staff invite Don Alley, the City's contracted fisheries biologist, to attend the next meeting.

7. Items for Future Agenda

1. Discuss potential native plant restoration and fish habitat improvement projects for Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch.
2. Review the proposed areas for volunteer planting projects at the Park at Rispin Mansion.
3. Review the City's proposed uses for Measure Q funds.
4. Review and provide feedback on the City's Climate Action Plan updates and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan.

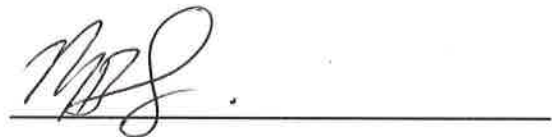
8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm to the next Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment on September 17, 2025.

ATTEST:

A blue ink signature of Erika Senyk, consisting of a stylized 'E' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager

A blue ink signature of Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, featuring a stylized 'M' and 'B' followed by a horizontal line.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Chair