

City of Capitola

Commission on the Environment Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 15, 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 6:00pm.

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 discussion.

Brookvale Terrace residents commented on their site-managed creek system, annual damming activity, and wildlife that utilize the creek for habitat, such as waterfowl.

4. Staff Comments

Staff provided an update on the City's application for the Ocean Protection Council's SB1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant program.

5. August 20, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

Recommended Action: Review and approve minutes.

Motion to approve the August 20, 2025 minutes: Commissioner Norton

Seconded: Mayor Clarke

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

6. General Business

A. Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch Maintenance

Recommended Action: Discuss potential native plant restoration and fish habitat improvement projects for Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch.

Don Alley from D.W. Alley & Associates, the City's contracted fisheries biologist, provided an

overview of his long-term monitoring of steelhead populations in Soquel Creek and management recommendations for improving creek habitat for vulnerable fish populations.

The Commission requested that for the November regular Commission on the Environment meeting, staff prepare a plan for planting additional tules in Soquel Creek to improve habitat for tidewater gobies and steelhead.

7. Items for Future Agenda

1. Soquel Creek tule planting plan
2. Staff update for the Park at Rispin Mansion landscape plan

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm to the next Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment on November 19, 2025.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erika Senyk", written over a horizontal line.

Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MBL", written over a horizontal line.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Chair