

City of Capitola

Commission on the Environment

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 17, 2025 – 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

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- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call** – Chair Beritzhoff-Law called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.
Commissioners Present: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Michael Maroney, Council Member Clarke, Dennis Norton, Scott Rohlf
Absent: None
City Staff Present: Erika Senyk (Environmental Projects Manager), Kailash Mozumder (Public Works Project Manager)

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

- 3. Public Oral and Written Communications**
Brookvale Terrace residents, Katy Guernsey and Sheryl Coulston, provided community outreach ideas concerning local native plant restoration and pollinator habitat protection.

- 4. Staff Comments**
Staff announced that this week, the City released an RFP for the update of the City's 2015 Climate Action Plan.

- 5. October 15, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes**
Recommended Action: Review and approve minutes.

Motion to approve the October 15, 2025 minutes: Vice Chair Maroney

Seconded: Council Member Clarke

Motion passed 5-0-0

- 6. General Business**

- A. The Park at Rispin Mansion Landscape Plan**

Recommended Action: Receive a presentation from staff on the landscape plan for the Park at Rispin Mansion.

Kailash Mozumder, Public Works Projects Manager, presented the Rispin landscape plan and

answered questions from the Commission and the public.

B. Soquel Creek Tule Planting Plan

Recommended Action: Review and provide feedback on the 2026 Soquel Creek Tule Planting Plan.

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

The Commission reviewed the tule planting plan and provided the following feedback:

Commissioner Norton: Commented that Area 2 may be more difficult for the tules to establish given that the area is in the main channel and receives higher velocity streamflow than Area 1.

Vice Chair Maroney: Requested that the City's contracted fisheries biologist, D.W. Alley & Associates, collect and record baseline data while monitoring Area 2. The baseline data could later be used to assess the ecological benefits that tules provide to Soquel Creek over time.

Commissioner Rohlf: Commented that constructed bulkheads will present challenges for tule establishment and areas with a more gradually sloping streambank may provide the most successful tule planting habitat.

The Commission recommended that staff proceed with the 2026 Soquel Creek Tule Planting Plan as proposed in the staff report.

C. Regular Meeting Schedule

Recommended Action: Approve the Commission's 2026 regular meeting schedule.

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

Motion to approve the 2026 regular COE meeting schedule: Chair Beritzhoff-Law

Seconded: Vice Chair Maroney

Motion passed 5-0-0

7. Items for Future Agenda

1. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for calendar year 2026
2. Offshore Oil Drilling
3. Staff update on Climate Action Plan/Sea Level Rise grants and City planning efforts
4. Community involvement opportunities for planting natives in parks and open spaces

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM to the next Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment on January 21, 2026.

ATTEST:



Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager



Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Chair