

City of Capitola

Commission on the Environment Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 – 6:00 PM



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 Rohlfs

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 be placed on a future agenda.

4. Staff Comments

5. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment, July 29, 2026

6. General Business

A. Esplanade Park Coastal Access Enhancement and Adaptation Plan

Recommended Action: Engage in a listening session and provide input on the future vision, priorities, and opportunities for Esplanade Park.

B. Community Outreach

Recommended Action: Discuss and identify potential community outreach topics for Fall 2026, and select a priority theme and appropriate communication channel.

C. Regular Meeting Schedule

Recommended Action: Reaffirm attendance for the COE's regular meeting schedule for the remainder of calendar year 2026.

7. Items for Future Agenda

8. Adjournment - The next regular Commission on the Environment meeting is on October 21, 2026.

Agenda and Agenda Packet Materials: The Commission on the Environment Agenda is available on the City's website: www.cityofcapitola.gov on the Friday prior to the Wednesday meeting. If you need additional information, please contact the City Hall 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

Department 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, July 29, 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

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- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call** – Chair Beritzhoff-Law called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.
Commissioners Present: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Michael Maroney, Council Member Clarke, Scott Rohlf
Absent: Dennis Norton
City Staff Present: Erika Senyk (Environmental Projects Manager), Jessica Kahn (Public Works Director)
 - 2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**
None.
 - 3. Public Oral and Written Communications**
None.
 - 4. Staff Comments**
None.
 - 5. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment, June 17, 2026**
Recommended Action: Review and approve minutes.

Motion to approve the June 17, 2026 minutes: Vice Chair Maroney
Seconded: Council Member Clarke
Motion passed 4-0-1 (Commissioner Norton absent)
 - 6. General Business**
 - A. Climate Action Plan Updates**
Recommended Action: Receive a presentation from Blue Strike, the City's consultant for the 2015 Climate Action Plan update, and participate in an engagement activity to provide input that will help inform the Plan.

The Commission received a presentation from Blue Strike Environmental and participated in interactive activities designed to gather input for the update of the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP). Representatives from Blue Strike facilitated the discussion and documented the Commission's

feedback, ideas, and priorities, which will be considered as part of the CAP update. Blue Strike is expected to return to the Commission two additional times during the planning process—first to gather additional feedback and later to present the final CAP and gather the Commission's recommendation that the City Council consider the updated Plan for adoption.

The Commission also requested that staff add information to the CAP webpage explaining the importance of the planning effort in promoting citywide sustainability and advancing the City toward its climate goals. Additionally, the Commission requested that staff share the public survey link once available so commissioners can help promote the survey and encourage community participation.

7. Items for Future Agenda

1. Continue discussion on COE community outreach topics

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM to the next Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment on August 26, 2026.

Capitola Commission on the Environment

Agenda Report



Meeting: September 16, 2026

From: Public Works Department

Topic: Regular Meeting Schedule

Recommended Action: Reaffirm attendance for the COE's regular meeting schedule for the remainder of calendar year 2026.

Background: As stated in the Commission's bylaws (Attachment 1), regular meetings of the Commission on the Environment (COE) will be held on a monthly basis. The COE meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6pm in the Community Room at City Hall (420 Capitola Avenue). In-person attendance is required at COE meetings and no remote access will be provided.

The COE's regular meeting schedule for calendar year 2026 was reviewed and approved by the Commission at the December 17, 2025 and May 20, 2026 regular meetings.

Discussion: The following table provides the approved regular COE meeting dates for the remainder of calendar year 2026:

2026 COE Regular Meeting Schedule
Wednesday, September 16 (6pm)
Wednesday, October 21 (6pm)
Wednesday, November 18 (6pm)
Wednesday, December 16 (6pm)

Three of five commissioners must be in attendance to achieve a quorum. Reaffirmation of attendance for the remaining 2026 Commission meetings will assist with scheduling guest presentations for upcoming projects requiring Commission input, such as the Climate Action Plan Updates.

Report Prepared By: Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager

Attachments:

1. COE Bylaws

RESOLUTION NO. 4373

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAPITOLA
REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 3967 AND ADOPTING REVISED
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT BYLAWS**

WHEREAS, The City of Capitola benefits substantially from numerous and significant environmental resources, some of which include Soquel Creek, the ocean and Capitola Beach, and associated riparian and sensitive habitat areas; and

WHEREAS, protection and enhancement of these environmental resources maintains and enhances a quality of life in the City of Capitola that is beneficial to all; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Capitola desires to receive advice and recommendations on matters of an environmental concern from a special commission comprised of dedicated individuals with expertise in ecological and resource protection issues; and

WHEREAS, the City Council established the Commission on the Environment on January 13, 2005, by adopting Resolution No. 3424. Since the formation of the Commission on the Environment, the Commission's Bylaws have been amended by Resolutions 3610, 3696, 3779, and 3967.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Capitola that Resolution No. 3967 is hereby repealed in its entirety and the Commission on the Environment Bylaws are replaced to read as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Capitola at its regular meeting held on the 23rd day of May, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:	CLARKE, MORGAN, PEDERSEN, BROOKS
NOES:	NONE
ABSENT:	BROWN
ABSTAIN:	NONE

DocuSigned by:

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Yvette Brooks, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

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Julia Gautho, City Clerk

**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
BYLAWS**

- Section 1. The Commission shall be called the City of Capitola Commission on the Environment (COE) and is hereby established by adoption of City Council Resolution No. 3424.
- Section 2. The purpose of the COE is to provide advice and recommendations to the City Council on policy and funding matters relating to sustainability, environmental protection, climate action plan implementation and resource enhancement which benefit the City of Capitola, and which are not under the jurisdictions of existing committees or commissions. The COE will also, from time to time, consider any such matters referred to it by the City Council or the City Manager.
- Section 3. The COE shall be comprised of five members, consisting of one City Council member and one appointee from each of the remaining four City Council members. The COE may, at their discretion, appoint non-voting ex officio members such as student participants.
- Section 4. The COE members may be City residents or non-residents.
- Section 5. Regular meetings of the COE will be held on a monthly basis.
- Section 6. The City will provide staff support to the COE as assigned by the City Manager. The assigned staff will be primarily responsible for assisting the COE with the preparation of agendas and minutes, compilation of material for discussion at meetings and follow-up as necessary.