City of Capitola
City Council Special Meeting Agenda
Thursday, November 19, 2026 – 6:00 PM

Capitola Community Center 4400 Jade Street
420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010

Mayor: Margaux Morgan
Vice Mayor: Gerry Jensen
Council Members: Joe Clarke, Melinda Orbach, Susan Westman

Regular Meeting of the Capitola City Council – 6 PM

1. Roll Call

Council Members Joe Clarke, Melinda Orbach, Susan Westman, Vice Mayor Gerry Jensen, and Mayor Margaux Morgan

2. Additional Materials

Additional information related to an agenda item on this agenda and submitted to the City after distribution of the agenda packet pursuant to Government Code §54957.5. All correspondence received prior to 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding a Council Meeting will be distributed to Councilmembers to review prior to the meeting. Information submitted after 5 p.m. on that Wednesday may not have time to reach Councilmembers, nor be read by them prior to consideration of an item.

3. General Government

All items listed in "General Government" are intended to provide an opportunity for public discussion of each item listed. The following procedure pertains to each General Government item: 1) Staff explanation; 2) Council questions; 3) Public comment; 4) Council deliberation; 5) Decision.

A. Fall 2026 Town Hall Meeting

Recommended Action: Winter Storm Preparation presentation. No Council action will be taken.

4. Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting is on December 10, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

How to View the Meeting

Meetings are open to the public for in-person attendance at the Capitola Community Center at 4400 Jade Street, Capitola, California, 95010. A recording of the meeting will be available on the City's website and YouTube Channel within 48 hours of the meeting.

How to Provide Comments to the City Council

Members of the public may provide public comments to the City Council in person during the Town Hall, during the dedicated Public Comment Period. Please refer to the staff report for more information. If you are unable to attend in-person, please email your comments to citycouncil@cityofcapitola.gov and they will be included as a part of the record for the meeting.

Notice regarding City Council: The City Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola.

Agenda and Agenda Packet Materials: The City Council Agenda and the complete Agenda Packet are available for review on the City's website and at Capitola City Hall prior to the meeting. Need more information? Contact the City Clerk's office at 831-475-7300.

Agenda Materials Distributed after Distribution of the Agenda Packet: Pursuant to Government Code §54957.5, materials related to an agenda item submitted after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the Reception Office at City Hall, 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, California, during normal business hours.

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.

Si desea asistir a esta reunión pública y necesita ayuda - como un intérprete de lenguaje de señas americano, español u otro equipo especial - favor de llamar al Departamento de la Secretaría de la Ciudad al 831-475-7300 al menos tres días antes para que podamos coordinar dicha asistencia especial o envié un correo electrónico a cityclerk@cityofcapitola.gov.

Televised Meetings: City Council meetings are cablecast "Live" on Charter Communications Cable TV Channel 8 and are recorded to be rebroadcasted at 8:00 a.m. on the Wednesday following the meetings and at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday following the first rebroadcast on Community Television of Santa Cruz County (Charter Channel 71 and Comcast Channel 25). Meetings are streamed "Live" on the City's website by clicking on the Home Page link "Meeting Agendas/Videos." Archived meetings can be viewed from the website at any time.

Capitola City Council
Agenda Report

Meeting: November 19, 2026
From: City Manager Department
Subject: Fall 2026 Town Hall Meeting

Recommended Action: Winter Storm Preparation presentation. No Council action will be taken.

Background: In fall 2025, the City Council directed staff to repurpose the second regularly scheduled City Council meeting in November as a Town Hall-style meeting to present on the City's long-term financial planning and information on a wide range of community-interest projects. More than 100 residents and interested members of the public attended the Town Hall on November 20, 2025, at New Brighton Middle School, and the presentations were positively received.

Discussion: With the same intention as in 2025, at council's direction, staff planned the second regular meeting in November as a town hall-style gathering at the newly reopened Community Center. Santa Cruz County is preparing for a potentially historic super El Niño winter, expected to bring coastal flooding, high surf, and heavy rainfall; residents and community partners share an understandable concern for Capitola as we move into the winter season. To proactively meet the needs of our community, the town hall meeting will focus on the City's emergency and storm preparations and include a presentation from Central Fire District leadership, the County Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience (OR3), the local Red Cross Central Coast Chapter, and local weather experts.

There will be a question-and-answer period at the end of the presentation. Staff will prepare a summary Q&A document for publication this winter.

Outreach & Promotions: City staff promoted the Town Hall with social media posts on Instagram and Facebook; email invitations to all City Advisory Bodies, the CVWBIA, the Chamber of Commerce, and community stakeholders; and physical flyers hung in Capitola Village, City kiosks, Capitola Library, various locations at City Hall, and Jade Street Community Center.

Alignment with 2025-2029 Strategic Plan Priority: Accountable Government; Community Safety

Report Prepared By: Chloé Woodmansee, Assistant to the City Manager

Reviewed By: Lesley Milton, Interim City Clerk

Approved By: Rudolph Escalante, Interim City Manager



Join us for an emergency preparedness

TOWN HALL MEETING

November 19 @ 6PM

Jade Street Community Center

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

Lee Solomon

Learn how to stay safe this winter:

- Hear from the City, Central Fire District, and SC County OR3
- Connect with the Red Cross
- Ask questions

CITY OF CAPITOLA
FOUNDED 1875
INCORPORATED 1949

City of Capitola

TOWN HALL MEETING

Emergency Preparedness

November 19, 2026

Agenda

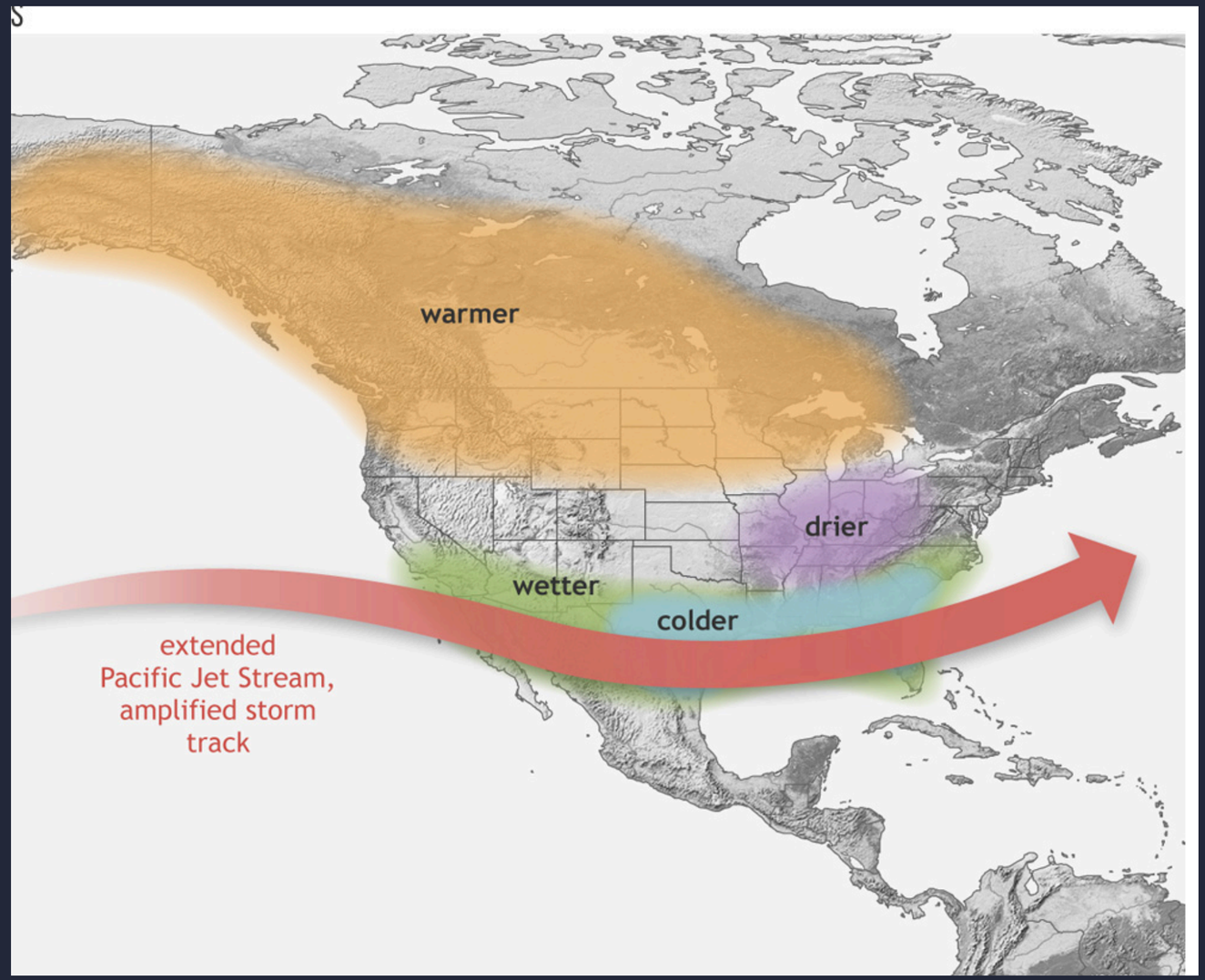
1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Community Preparedness
3. This Winter & El Niño
4. Responses to Written Questions;
   Public Comment

What is El Niño?

El Niño is a warming pattern in the tropical Pacific that can shift winter storms. It may increase wet-weather impacts here, but remember; no two winters unfold the same way.

For Santa Cruz County, King Tides are:

- November 24 - 26, 2026
- December 23 - 25, 2026
- January 21 - 22, 2027



1926













CAPITOLA PW
STORM PREP

Standard preparations:

- Cleared storm drains/Swept streets
- Inspected Soquel Creek
- Provided sand for sandbags
- Trimmed/assessed trees
- Continuously monitor weather/tides
- Held annual winter prep meeting with crew
- Inventory equipment and supplies



CAPITOLA
STORM PREP

Enhanced “El Niño” preparations:

- Purchased new, portable pump
- Inspected Noble Gulch culvert
- Set up purchase orders with additional agencies
- Practiced Emergency Operations Center (EOC) “tabletop” exercise
- Council adopted Emergency Operations Plan 11/12



OTHER
STORM PREP

Regional Response:

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a FEMA program
  - Activated in October
  - Reached out to residents & business owners to provide resources







Be Ready this Winter

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICE OF
RESPONSE, RECOVERY & RESILIENCE

Stay Informed, Stay Safe!

IN AN EMERGENCY, Call 911

Santa Cruz County Emergency Preparedness (OR3)	santacruzcountyca.gov/OR3
Genasys Protect Evacuation Map & Zones (formerly Zone Haven)	protect.genasys.com
CruzAware (Reverse 9-1-1)	cruzaware.org
National Weather Service	weather.gov/mtr
PG&E Outage Map	https://pgealerts.alerts.pge.com
Situational Awareness for Emergency Response (SAFER)	https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/299b805ef98440e48ebd82a6b7958c9b/

SUCCESSFUL **COLLABORATION**

Capitola PD & Central Fire

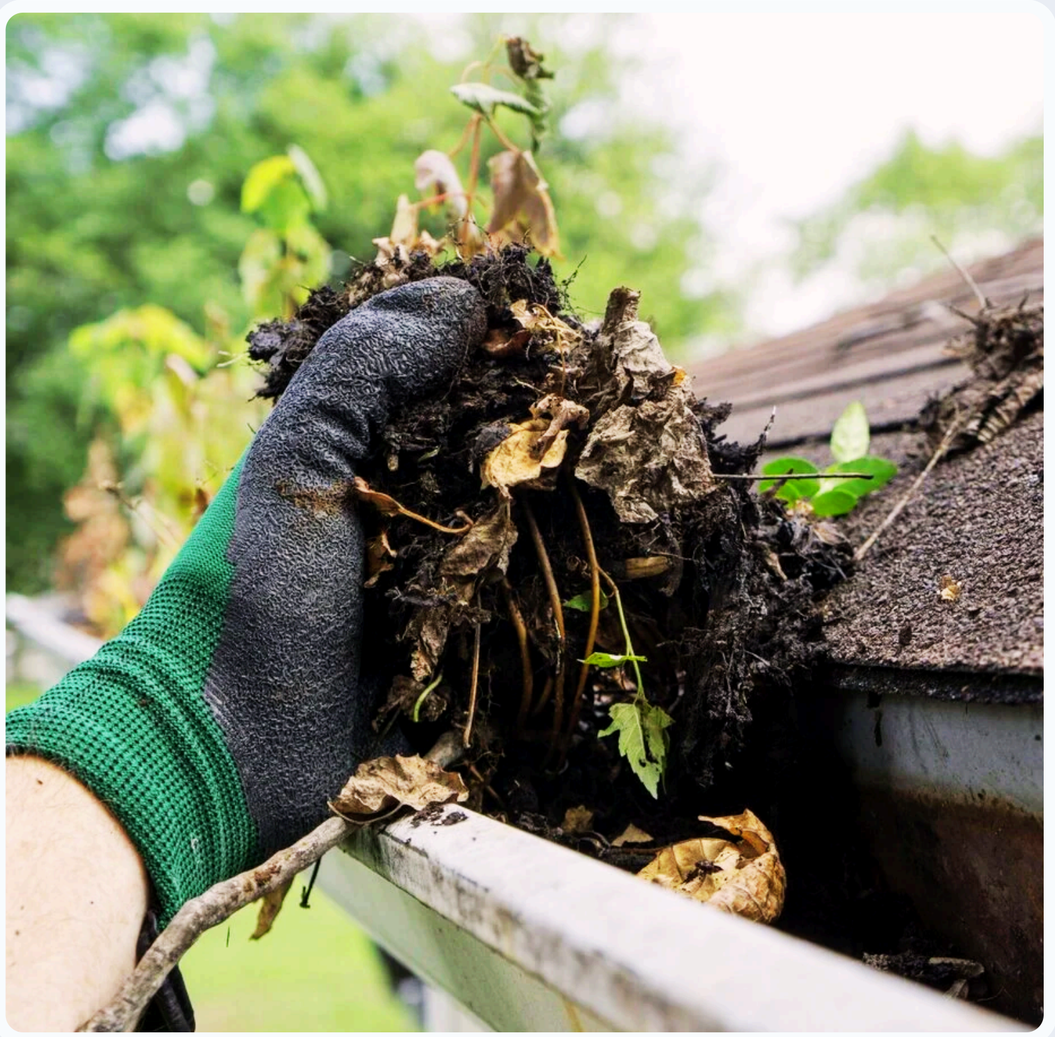
Keeping you safe with:

- Preparation
- Unified Command
- Special Teams
- Evacuations
- Traffic Control



Prepare Early

- Clear gutteers, downspouts, drains, & culverts
- Inspect roof, windows, doors, entrypoints
- Direct runoff away from buildings
- Secure furniture, bins & loose items
- Trim hazards (avoid power eqiupment)
- Charge devices, fill car gas tanks
- Move vehicles & e-bikes to higher ground





Sand Bags

- **Bags** available in front of Capitola Police Department
- **Sand** in Upper Parking Lot (behind City Hall) **bring your own shovel*

Scaled Emergency Response

- Different emergency = different response
- Ensures appropriate reaction to inciting incidents
- Circumstances determine appropriate level

Level 1: Full

Level 2: Expanded

Level 3: Limited

Level 4: Monitored

Evacuations: What to Know

- **Warning**: potential threat to life or property; prepare to leave
- **Order**: immediate threat to life; leave immediately

Reunification locations will be provided based on specific circumstances of the ordered evacuation (for example, tsunami vs. fire)

First responders do their best to keep you safe:

- *Your personal decision to stay in place after an Evacuation Order will not change safety personnel's priorities & they may not return to help you.*

Pack a Go-Bag

Water & Food

- 3-day supply of non-perishable food & water

Health & Power

- Medications, first aid, glasses/contacts, flashlight & batteries, tech chargers

Pets

- Carriers and/or leash, pet food, water, medications, records





Be Smart Around Floodwater

Never drive, walk, or bike through flooded or flowing water

- Avoid unnecesary travel
- Check road conditions before leaving
- Stay away from downed lines: assume they are engergized
- Leave early if flooding threatens

Respect the Coast

- Stay away from the beach, jetty, cliffs, and flooded waterways
- Follow evacuation instructions promptly
- Avoid evacuated areas!





After the Storm

City Personnel are focused on:

- Danger & threat to life
- Blocked public roads
- Gas leaks
- Infrastructure repairs



After the Storm

As residents & property owners, watch for:

- Unsafe conditions
- Exposed electrical equipment
- Home gas leaks

Other tips:

- Photograph damage before clean-up
- Assume floodwater is contaminated
- Wear protective gear
- Prevent mold by drying buildings



Commit to Five Actions, this week:

1. Look up & save evacuation zones for home, work, & school
2. Register your household for CruzAware
3. Clear gutters, drains, & downspouts
4. Pack go-bags for people & pets
5. Pick up sandbags early, if flood-prone

How to Stay Connected

1

Public Safety:
NIXLE
Cruz Aware

2

Local Gov:
City website
Meeting Agendas

3

City News:
Capitola Waves
Social Media

How to Stay Connected

1

Public Safety:
NIXLE
Cruz Aware





@CityofCapitola
@CapitolaPD

Meeting
Agendas

3

City News:
Capitola Waves
Social Media

Special Guest: Lee Solomon

- Chief meteorologist
- Founder of Beyond Weather
- Connect:
  - *Instagram*: @beyond.weather
  - *24-Hr Channel*: beyondweather.tv



EL NIÑO
THIS WINTER

WHAT IT MEANS FOR CAPITOLA

LEE SOLOMON | CHIEF METEOROLOGIST, BEYOND WEATHER

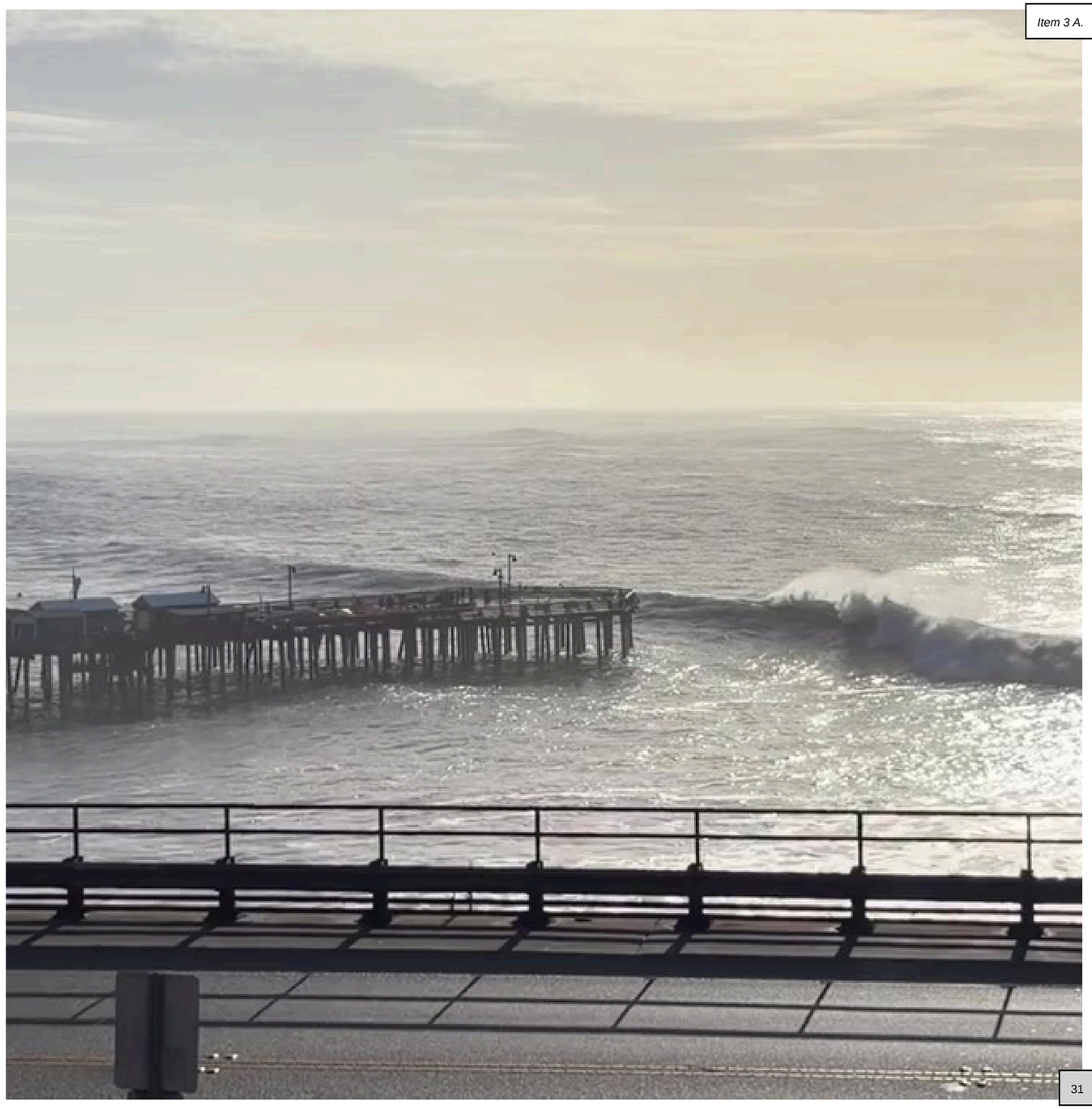
Beyondweather.com

Download the Beyond Weather app

BEYOND WEATHER APP

SATURDAY'S SWELL

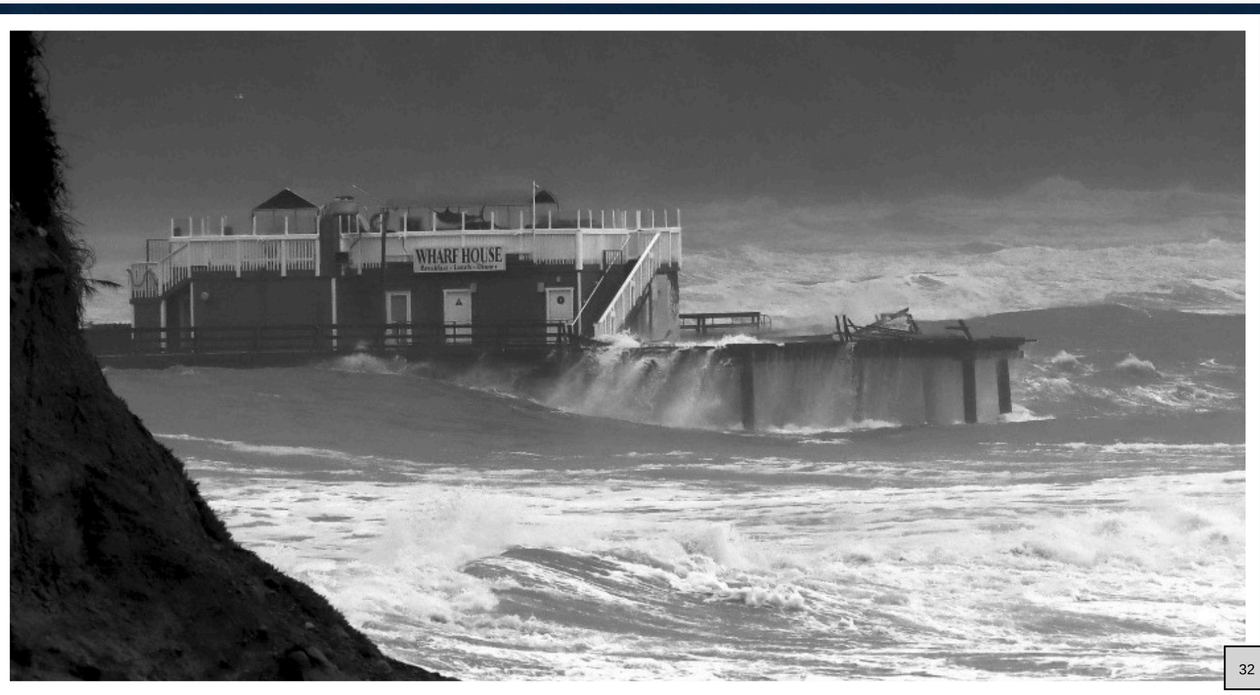
- Massive swell: **~34 ft** at 20 seconds
- **Steep angle,** so Capitola was partly shielded
- **Wharf overtopping** and water came in
- **Soquel Creek** couldn't drain into the ocean, causing flooding
- **Moderate tides** (~4.7 ft high) helped



THE 2023 STORM

- Huge swell aimed right at **Capitola**
- Strong onshore winds created storm surge
- Storm Surge + Westerly Angle + Heavy Rain = **Freshwater and Sea Water Flooding**
- **Major damage** to the Capitola Wharf



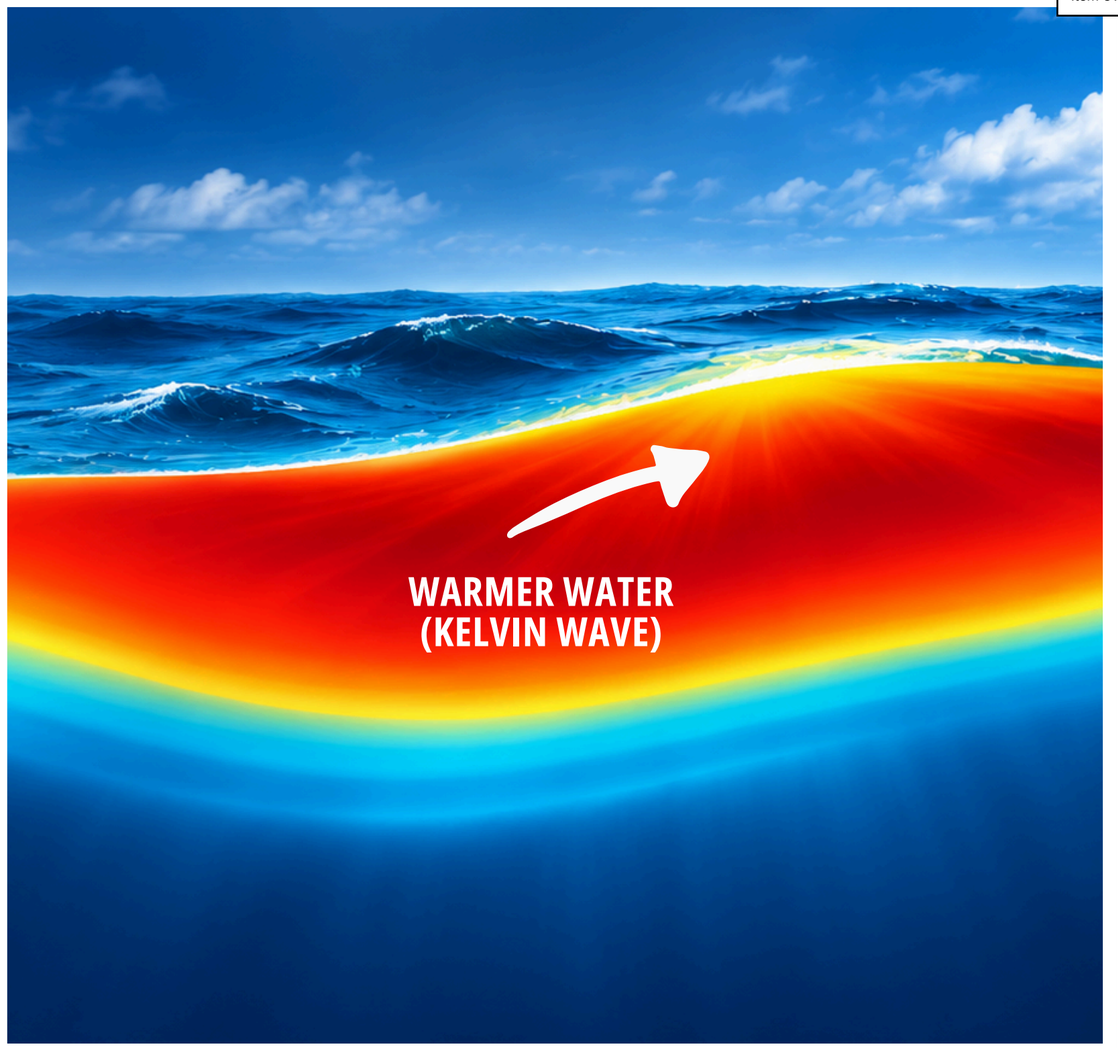


FACTORS AFFECTING FLOODING

1. Swell size
2. Swell direction
3. Swell period
4. Soil moisture
5. Rain
6. Wind direction and strength

Tides are running **higher** this winter.

Kelvin wave and warmer ocean



Worst case: westerly swell (~280°) plus heavy rain on saturated soils.

STAY SAFE THIS WINTER

Know before you go
Turn around, don't drown

Protect what matters
Keep kids and pets away from the water

Stay informed
Follow City of Capitola and fire guidance

Real-time, real local
Beyond Weather app for live alerts and forecasts with real context

Experience you can trust
Updated by Lee, with 20+ years of local experience built in

Ready when you need it
Works on your phone, even if the power goes out



VISIT MY WEBSITE

DOWNLOAD THE BEYOND WEATHER APP

Thank you!

for attending our Town Hall