

Gautho, Julia

From: Heidi <Heidy@cwo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 5:15 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Capitola Mall

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Dear Capitola City Council,

I'm writing regarding your special meeting scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2026 regarding Capitola Mall.

I previously raised concerns regarding a councilmember's participation in deliberations concerning the Capitola Mall due to her spouse's formal complaint to the State's Housing and Community Development on the same matter.

Because the councilmember chose not to recuse, the issue before you now extends beyond any one individual. The question is whether the integrity of the Council's decision-making on the Capitola Mall can reasonably be trusted by stakeholders and the public. Put differently, can these decisions withstand scrutiny if later challenged on procedural grounds?

Even where a legal conflict may be debated, the appearance of partiality can undermine confidence in the process. When a close family member engages the State over the very project the Council is considering, legitimate questions about impartiality arise.

For that reason, I respectfully urge the Council to address how it will safeguard the integrity of its deliberations moving forward.

The redevelopment of the Capitola Mall is one of the most consequential decisions facing our community. It deserves a fair process that is beyond reproach.

Best Regards,

Heidy Kellison