

Gautho, Julia

From: Goldstein, Jamie (jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us)
Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 4:35 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Herlihy, Katie (kherlihy@ci.capitola.ca.us)
Subject: FW: Explanation on beach festival

Mayor and Council – please see response Katie sent to Teresa after speaking with her earlier today.

From: Herlihy, Katie (kherlihy@ci.capitola.ca.us) <kherlihy@ci.capitola.ca.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 4:11 PM
To: Goldstein, Jamie (jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us) <jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us>
Subject: FW: Explanation on beach festival

I sent this written response after talking with Teresa.

From: Herlihy, Katie (kherlihy@ci.capitola.ca.us)
Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 3:47 PM
To: teresajgreen@me.com; Cahalen, Mary Beth <mbbythesea@aol.com>; Ryan, Sarah (sryan@ci.capitola.ca.us)
<sryan@ci.capitola.ca.us>
Subject: Explanation on beach festival

Hi Teresa,

Thank you for your questions. Below are the responses to your questions in blue.

- I request clarification as to why the Capitola Beach Festival has been identified as requiring a Coastal Development Permit.
 - Criteria 1. Should not apply. We are a two day event during that window.
 - Criteria 2. We DO use the beach and park areas. However, other organizations also use the beach/park areas and are not listed; example the Wharf to Wharf race uses the beach for handing out T-shirts; Plein Air uses the beach. So what differentiates the Capitola Beach Festival?
 - Criteria 3. We do not charge a fee for the general public. Our only fees are entry fees for the 3 Mile Race and Paddleboard Race. That is listed as a reason other events do not require a Coastal Development Permit.

A temporary events in the coastal zone meeting one or more of the following criteria require a Coastal Development Permit (CDP):

1. Scheduled the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day for a period greater than two days in duration, including setup and takedown.
2. The event will occupy any portion of a publicly or privately owned sandy beach or park area, public pier, public beach parking area, and there is a potential for adverse effect on sensitive coastal resources.

3. A fee will be charged for general public admission and/or seating where no fee is currently charged for use of the same area (not including booth or entry fees); or if a fee is charged, it is for preferred seating only, and 75% of the provided seating capacity is available free of charge for general public use.

The Capitola Beach Festival is subject to a CDP under Criteria 2. The festival occupies portions of the beach, wharf, and lagoon and may have a potential for adverse effect. Many of the activities are normal activities (fishing, sand castle competitions, etc.) that do not have potential for adverse effect on sensitive coastal resources. The nautical parade is located in the lagoon and includes watercraft, of which there is a potential for adverse effect on the sensitive coastal resource.

- Is there any expectation that a permit would be denied.

The City Council will take action on the Coastal Development Permit tonight. Staff is recommending approval.

- Does the City submit the request? Or is there something the organization need to do?

The City is proactively processing the CDP as part of the annual review of Recurring Special Events. The organization does not need to do anything.

- Is there a cost associated with this?

We are processing the CDP as part of the annual update to City Council on recurring special events with no cost to the organization.

Katie Herlihy, AICP
Community & Economic Development Director

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