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## Agenda Item 8A - Monte Foundation Fireworks

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**From** Jean Brocklebank <jeanbean@baymoon.com>

**Date** Tue 1/7/2025 12:08 PM

**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Dear Council Members ~

It is time for Capitola to join the rest of our greater community of living beings, in recognizing that blowing up the sky and creating air pollution is not the way to fundraise or celebrate anything.

A few people have suggested that this is a Capitola residents-only matter to decide. The fact that this pollution impacts the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary settles this dispute! Additionally, I live across Leona Creek, about 2 miles from the Capitola Wharf and the noise of the traditional gunpowder fireworks still sounds like bombs, destroying my peace. Think what it does to a momma sea otter whose baby rests upon her chest for a night's sleep.

I read your **Staff Memo** in the 1/9/25 agenda packet. I am especially pleased to see the following from the CA Coastal Commission:

"Based on recent experiences in other jurisdictions, securing a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for a fireworks display of this nature is expected to be a more complex process than in the past, requiring a detailed alternatives analysis conducted by a reputable firm. The key components of this analysis include:

- Alternative Locations: Evaluating other potential venues for the event.
- Alternative Media: Exploring environmentally friendly alternatives, such as drone light shows, to replace traditional fireworks.
- **Environmental Impact Analysis: Assessing potential impacts on wildlife, noise levels, and the surrounding environment, along with proposed mitigation measures.**
- Community Support: Demonstrating strong public backing for the event.
- Public Agency Accountability: While the Monte Foundation has traditionally organized this event, based on recent hearings regarding fireworks displays over the ocean, the Coastal Commission appears to be strongly favoring issuing these permits directly to public agencies. If the City is willing to take a lead role in obtaining permits for the fireworks, preparation must begin immediately to maximize the chances of approval for the 2025 event, though securing the permit is not guaranteed."

Please follow the Coastal Commission guidelines to permit ***silent drone or digital laser displays*** instead of traditional explosive chemical fireworks. Let us ask the Monte Foundation to join us in doing the right thing, then supporting it wholeheartedly.

Sincerely,

**Jean Brocklebank**

[Freedom From Fireworks](#)