



# Monte Foundation Fireworks 2025

City Council

January 9, 2025

## **Recommended Action**

1. Determine whether to support the continuation of the Monte Foundation Fireworks Show, tentatively scheduled for October 12, 2025
2. If supported, direct Staff to:
  - Coordinate with Monte Foundation.
  - Obtain required Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for event.

# Background

- **Event Established:** Mid-1990s, Seacliff State Beach
- **Moved to Capitola:** 2015
- **Scheduled during Fall to promote local attendance**
- **Beneficiaries:**
  - McGregor Skate Park
  - Capitola Library children's wing
  - Jade Street Park tennis court
  - McGregor bike pump track
  - Total funding to date approximately \$300k
- **Attendance:** Approximately 10,000 annually, with increasing trends

# Event Management

- **Lead Organizer:** Monte Foundation contracts Zamboni Fireworks
- **Launch Location:** Capitola Wharf
- **Road Closures:** Managed by CPD
- **Safety Coordination:**
  - Wharf closed 16 hours prior
  - No parking 72 hours prior
  - CFD permit required; personnel present
  - Coast Guard coordination
- **Cleanup Efforts:**
  - Additional garbage/recycling bins
  - Save Our Shores post event cleanups

# Coastal Development Permit & Key Considerations

- **CDP Requirement:** Coastal Commission mandates CDP for events over coastal waters
- **Previous Permit:** Expired in 2024; new permit required
- **New Permit Needs:**
  - Analysis of alternative locations/media (e.g., drone shows)
  - Environmental impact analysis (noise, wildlife, etc.)
  - Demonstration of community support
  - Public agency involvement

## Discussion & Alternatives

- **Community Tradition**
- **Concerns:** Noise and environmental concerns
- **Alternatives Explored:**
  - **Drone Shows:** Limited feasibility (wind factors)
  - **Hybrid Shows:** Further exploration needed
- **Permit Complexity:** Significant effort required; additional permits needed from MBNMS, Central Fire, and Coast Guard

# Fiscal Impact

- **Monte Foundation Costs**
  - Permit fees and consultants
  - Other agency permits
  - Special event fees (PD and PW staff time)
- **City Costs**
  - Staff time for permits from other agencies
- **Fundraising Proceeds:**  
Donations benefit youth-focused community projects

## Next Steps

- **Council Decision:** Support continuation of the event or explore alternatives
- **If Approved:**
  1. Begin CDP application process
  2. Collaborate with the Monte Foundation on requirements
  3. Ensure alignment with all agency regulations



## Recommended Action

- 1) Consider whether to support the continuation of the Monte Foundation Fireworks Show tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 12, 2025; and if the Council supports continuation
- 2) Direct staff to coordinate with the Monte Foundation to obtain the required Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for the event.

