



A G E N D A
CITY OF SEASIDE
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING
440 HARCOURT AVENUE (COUNCIL CHAMBER)
Monday, March 23, 2026
5:30 PM

Virtual Participation Guide: <https://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/129/City-Council-Committee-Agendas>
<https://ci-seaside-ca-us.zoom.us/j/85698098682> | WEBINAR ID 856 9809 8682 | (669) 900-9128

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Kat Morgan	Commissioner
Emily Gottlieb	Commissioner
Forrest Kinard	Commissioner
Parvaneh Kevanfar	Commissioner
Jeremy Hathaway	Commissioner
Lora James	Commissioner

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA

If there are any items that arose after the 72-hour posting deadline, this is the point in the meeting where a vote may be taken to add the item to the agenda. (A 2/3-majority vote is required).

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public wishing to address the Commission on matters within the jurisdiction of the City of Seaside, but not on this agenda, may do so during the Public Comment period for up to three (3) minutes. Comments on specific agenda items are heard under that item. For the public record, please state your name.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. APPROVE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 23, 2026 REGULAR MEETING

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. PRESENTATION ON PARK EQUITY

RECOMMENDATION: Receive presentation and discuss.

B. ANNUAL WORK PLAN DISCUSSION

RECOMMENDATION: Review, discuss, and provide direction to staff on the goals and objectives to include in the Annual Work Plan.

C. DISCUSS PARTICIPATION IN SEASIDE'S 15TH ANNUAL EARTH DAY CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026, FROM 1:00-4:00PM

7. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

8. REPORTS FROM STAFF

This is a time specifically set aside for the Staff Liaison to provide updates on non-agendized requests from the Commission, and to provide brief information on topics under the purview of the Commission.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:

April 27, 2026

5:30 PM

The City of Seaside is committed to providing accessible facilities and accommodating people with disabilities in all of its services programs and activities. If special considerations are needed by any person to fully participate in this meeting, contact the City Clerk at (831) 899-6707 no fewer than two business days prior to the meeting to allow reasonable arrangements. Agendas and videos of past meetings are available on demand are posted at: <http://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/129/City-Council-Committee-Agendas>

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FINAL MINUTES

CITY OF SEASIDE
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Monday February 23, 2026
5:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gottlieb called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

PRESENT: Gottlieb, Hathaway, James, Kinard, Morgan

ABSENT: None

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve minutes from December 22, 2025

On motion by Commissioner Gottlieb, and second by Morgan, and carried by the following vote, the Environmental Commission moved to approve December 22, 2025 minutes

RESULTS: 5, 0, 0, 0

AYES: Gottlieb, Hathaway, James, Kinard, Morgan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

5. BUSINESS

A. RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE FRIENDS OF SEASIDE PARKS ASSOCIATION

RECOMMENDATION: Receive presentation from FOSPA

Jeannie Reese presented on the Friends of Seaside Parks Association (FOSPA), a volunteer group maintaining nine parks in Seaside. The parks include Beta, Capra, Durant, Farallones, Havana Soliz, Highland Otis, Lincoln Cunningham, Martin, and Mescal Neil. FOSPA's efforts include creating pollinator gardens, establishing rainwater collection systems, and planting native species. The group partners with local organizations, averaging 25 volunteers per week. Recent projects include a mural at Havana Soliz Park and a climbing rock at Capra Park. FOSPA was recognized by Blue Zones Project Monterey Bay in August 2022 and by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors on Earth Day 2025. Upcoming outreach events are scheduled for May 2 and June 20. FOSPA is seeking additional volunteers.

No motion was made, and no vote was taken. Discussion only.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

B. RECEIVE A PRESENTATION AND UPDATE ON THE PRIORITY IMPACT PLASTIC POLLUTION ORDINANCE

RECOMMENDATION: Receive a presentation

Kirstin VanGend and Lacey Raak provided an update on the Priority Impact Plastic Pollution (PIPP) Ordinance, which aims to reduce plastic waste and encourage reusables across Seaside. Key elements include requiring compliance with ReGen Monterey guidelines, litter collection by businesses, and restrictions on balloons, Styrofoam, and plastic bottles at city events.

Since its adoption in August 2021, Environmental Innovations has supported the ordinance through outreach and compliance assistance. Notable impacts include savings for businesses, the elimination of over 1 million disposable items, and a reduction in waste.

Upcoming strategies focus on branding, signage, outreach, and financial incentives for businesses. Barriers to implementation include rising costs and inconsistent compliance, especially among chain stores. Suggestions for increased impact include progressive enforcement and expanded education efforts.

No motion was made, and no vote was taken. Discussion only.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

C. DISCUSS TRACKING OF CITY BUSINESS AND COMMISSION MEETINGS BY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

RECOMMENDATION: The purpose of this item is for the Environmental Commissioners to discuss who will track and provide updates regarding City Council and commission meetings, and other City business.

Beth Rocha, Senior Planner, continued the December discussion on tracking City business and commission meetings. The Environmental Commission was asked if members were interested in volunteering to follow City Council and commission activities for reporting purposes.

The Commission's duties, outlined in section 2.19.030, include reviewing city ordinances, advising the City Council, identifying environmental goals, and developing policies to raise environmental awareness.

Meeting schedules for various boards and commissions were shared, with members volunteering to track specific meetings:

- Commissioner Hathaway: Recreation and Parks Commission
- Commissioner James: City Council
- Commissioner Kinard: Traffic Advisory, Community Safety, and Planning Commissions (as needed)
- Chair Gottlieb: NIC Commission, FOSPA, and Community Foundation of Monterey County

Boards and Commissions

<https://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/156/Boards-Commissions>

**City Council/Successor Agency to the
Redevelopment Agency**

1st and 3rd Thursdays at 5:00 pm

Art and History Commission

2nd Tuesday at 5:45 pm

Community Development Advisory Commission

4th Thursday at 6:00 pm

**Commission on Jobs, Opportunities &
Businesses in Seaside**

2nd Monday at 4:00 pm

Environmental Commission

4th Monday at 5:30 pm

Homeless Commission

1st Wednesday at 5:30 pm

Neighborhood Improvement Commission

1st Tuesday at 5 pm

Planning Commission

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 6 pm

Recreation and Parks Commission

3rd Monday at 5:30 pm

Traffic Advisory Commission

3rd Tuesday at 5 pm (as needed)

Community Safety Advisory Commission

3rd Wednesday at 5:45 pm

Seaside Housing Collaborative Board of Directors

3rd Wednesday at 10:00 am

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

On motion by Chair Gottlieb, and second by Commissioner Kinard, and carried by the following vote, the Environmental Commission moved to approve which Commissioners would take what Commissions. Commissioner Hathaway would track Recreation and Parks Commission. Commissioner James-City Council. Commissioner Kinard-Traffic Advisory Commission, Community Safety Advisory Commission and Planning Commission. Chair Gottlieb-NIC Commission, FOSPA, Community Foundation of Monterey County

RESULTS: 5, 0, 0, 0

AYES: Gottlieb, Hathaway, James, Kinard, Morgan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

7. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Chair Gottlieb asked for an introduction from the new Commissioners. She also brought up the Garbage contract. Commissioner Kinard mentioned the PG&E virtual meeting pilot program for de-carbonization

No Reports from Staff

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

On motion by Chair Gottlieb, and second by Commissioner Morgan, and carried by the following vote, the Environmental Commission moved to adjourn.

RESULTS: 5, 0, 0, 0

AYES: Gottlieb, Hathaway, James, Kinard, Morgan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hancock, Committee Clerk

Emily Gottlieb, Chair



**CITY OF SEASIDE
STAFF REPORT**

Item No.: 6.A.

TO: Environmental Committee

BY: Beth Rocha, Senior Planner

DATE: March 23, 2026

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION ON PARK EQUITY

RECOMMENDATION

Receive presentation and discuss.

BACKGROUND

The City of Seaside adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) in May 2024 and was added to the General Plan.

<https://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/15298/Seaside-PRMP2024-adopted-051624?bidId=>

The following are excerpts from the PRMP, on the topic of equity:

p.3: Equity, Inclusivity & Accessibility Maintaining and enhancing social equity across recreational opportunities and facilities should be a core function of municipal park and recreation systems. Through this Plan, the City of Seaside made a concerted effort to reach out to, connect with, and engage a diversity of local communities. The City endeavored to make all voices welcome during the PRMP process, including through a dual language (English and Spanish) community survey. A focus on diversity, equity and inclusion also carries into adaptive recreation programs and ongoing accessibility upgrades of parks and amenities. The City must continue to find ways to provide safe and equitable access to parks, trails, facilities, recreation programs and other services. Further, portions of the City's parks, trails and open space system were developed before the 1999 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was implemented. The conditions assessment identified several deficiencies related to ADA compliance. The City must continue to find ways to provide safe and equitable access to parks, trails, open space areas, facilities, recreation programs and other services.

p.57: Inclusion & Universal Access Across the country, local municipalities and park and recreation providers with older public infrastructure have been upgrading their facilities to comply with the outdoor recreation guidelines for universal access and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The removal of existing architectural barriers in park facilities has been ongoing and should continue until renovations, upgrades and newer construction provide barrier-free access to all users. Access and inclusion in public parks extends beyond the physical amenities and incorporates considerations of language, technology, wayfinding, program equity, and equitable geographic distribution of facilities. Park and recreation agencies are in a unique position to champion efforts that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). By assuring representation of diverse life experiences and voices, park and recreation professionals will better reflect the communities their agencies serve. Inequity is the ultimate challenge facing the nation, and park and recreation agencies can make a profound difference.

p.85: GOALS & ACTIONS

Social Equity – We believe universal access to public parks and recreation is fundamental to all, not just a privilege for a few.

p.130: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There is an obvious area that is severely disconnected from our parks... the Sonoma-Broadway/Noche Buena-Fremont is grossly underserved. It is an equity issue.

p.191: Americans Engagement with Parks Survey

This annual study from the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) probes Americans' usage of parks, the key reasons that drive their use, and the greatest challenges preventing greater usage. Each year, the study examines the importance of public parks in Americans' lives, including how parks compare to other services and offerings of local governments. The survey of 1,000 American adults looks at frequency and drivers of parks/recreation facilities visits and the barriers to that prevent greater enjoyment. Survey respondents also indicate the importance of park and recreation plays in their decisions at the voting booth and their level of support for greater funding. Key findings include: • 84% of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live. • Nearly 3 in 4 U.S. residents have at least one local park, playground, open space or recreation center within walking distance of their homes. • Nine in ten people agree that parks and recreation is an important service provided by the local government. • Nearly 3 in 4 adults agree that equity should be an extremely or very important goal for their local park and recreation agency. People who live near parks and recreation facilities are more likely to be park and recreation users. Individuals living near at least one park are much more likely to arrive at that park by an "active" means (e.g., walking, biking, running), with walking being the most common method of transport. Conversely, 80 percent of U.S. adults who do not live within a walkable distance to parks or recreation opportunities travel to those amenities by car. The typical adult in the United States visits their local parks or recreation facilities every other month. Four main reasons for visiting local parks and

recreation facilities stand out: being with family and friends, exercising and being physically fit, taking a break from day-today stresses, and being closer to nature. Park and recreation agencies can customize their offerings to the specific needs, wants and desires of their community members by knowing their motivation for visiting parks.

p.192: Inclusion & Universal Access

Across the country, local municipalities and park and recreation providers with older public infrastructure have been upgrading their facilities to comply with the outdoor recreation guidelines for universal access and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The removal of existing architectural barriers in park facilities has been ongoing and should continue until renovations, upgrades and newer construction provide barrierfree access to all users. Access and inclusion in public parks extends beyond the physical amenities and incorporates considerations of language, technology, wayfinding, program equity and equitable geographic distribution of facilities.

ATTACHMENTS

None



**CITY OF SEASIDE
STAFF REPORT**

Item No.: 6.B.

TO: Environmental Committee

BY: Beth Rocha, Senior Planner

DATE: March 23, 2026

SUBJECT: ANNUAL WORK PLAN DISCUSSION

RECOMMENDATION

Review, discuss, and provide direction to staff on the goals and objectives to include in the Annual Work Plan.

BACKGROUND

Annual Work Plans are completed by commissions and reviewed by City Council.

The proposed objectives and goals shall be achievable and aligned with the City Council's direction via the Council's Strategic Plan:

<https://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/16594/Q2-City-Of-Seaside-City-Council-Strategic-Plan-2025-26>

The Duties and Objectives of the Environmental Commission are:

2.19.030 Duties.

The environmental committee shall conduct public meetings and prepare recommendations to the city council on matters regarding the environment to include without limitation unless otherwise noted:

A. Review and comment on city ordinances, policies and programs and state mandates related to environmental regulations, risks and pollution abatement, clean water, air and energy, flora, fauna and biome protection and community planning topics expressly beyond the realm of the planning commission.

B. Serve in advisory capacity to the city council, commissions, committees, and boards

on related issues.

C. Identify strategic environmental goals for the city and estimate resources needed to accomplish these goals; investigate funding to implement programs to benefit the community.

D. Develop policies and plans for increasing environmental awareness in cooperation with other public and private agencies to include school districts. (Ord. [1067](#) § 3, 2019)

2.19.040 Objectives.

A. The environmental committee shall meet not less than six times per year.

B. The environmental committee shall monitor the city’s progress in complying with principles established in Resolution 17-47.

C. The environmental committee shall prepare an annual recommended work plan to the city council not later than three months in advance of each fiscal year. (Ord. [1067](#) § 3, 2019)

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Work Plan Template
 - 2. Work Plan Instructions
 - 3. 2023 Final Work Plan
-



[COMMISSION NAME] FY26/27 WORKPLAN



Commissioner Name, Chairperson

Commissioner Name

Commissioner Name

Commissioner Name

Commissioner Name

Commissioner Name

Commissioner Name

Page 2 – Mission Statement

Mission Statement:

Instructions: Clearly state the mission of the Board or Commission. This may come from the enabling ordinance, resolution, or governing legislation. You may also include roles and responsibilities. This section typically does not change each year.

Historical Background

Background Information:

Instructions: Provide brief historical information about the Board or Commission (formation date, areas of focus, and significant accomplishments over time). Do NOT include prior year accomplishments here.

Page 3 – Fiscal Year Work Plan

Goal / Objective	Activities / Actions	Priority	Timeline
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Instructions: Identify no more than five goals or objectives for the fiscal year. Include the activities needed to accomplish each goal, priority ranking, and estimated timeline.

Page 4 – Prior Year Accomplishments

Goal / Objective

Activities Completed

Status

Status should indicate whether the goal was:

- Completed
- Not Started (include reason)
- In Process (include anticipated completion date)
- Eliminated (include reason)

Page 5 – Ongoing Projects

Project Name:

Description:

Status / Notes:

Instructions: Use this section to identify projects that continue across multiple fiscal years.
This section may not require updates each year unless projects change.

ANNUAL WORK PLANS

This is a standard template for use by Boards and Commissions in completing their annual Work Plans. Work Plans are based on a fiscal year rather than a calendar year. Work Plans are to be completed by each Board and Commission and approved at a regular Board or Commission meeting no later than April 1 of each year. The Office of the City Clerk will then transmit the Work Plans to the City Council for approval in May.

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS WHEN COMPLETING THE WORK PLAN:

Cover Sheet (Page 1)

This area should include the name of the Board or Commission, the timeframe covered by the Work Plan (i.e. Fiscal Year 2022, July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023), members' names, Chairperson's name, and vacancies as of April 1. Do not list Commissioner addresses or phone numbers on the Work Plan. This page will need to be updated each year.

Mission Statement (Page 2)

This area of the Work Plan should clearly state the mission of the Board or Commission. The mission may be extracted from the enabling legislation (i.e. Ordinance, Board action, Resolution) that formed the Board or Commission or may be a purpose statement approved by the Board or Commission and derived from the enabling legislation. This section may also contain the roles and responsibilities of the Board or Commission. This page may not need to be updated each year.

Historical Background (Page 2)

This area should provide the reader with some historical information about the Board or Commission (i.e. when it was formed, issues of focus in years' past, significant outcomes of work by the Board or Commission). NOTE: Accomplishments from the previous year should not be discussed here – there is another area on the Work Plan where this is done. This page may not need to be updated each year.

Fiscal Year Work Plan (Page 3)

This area should provide the goals/objectives (no more than five) of the Work Plan, the activities planned to accomplish the goals, the priority ranking of each goal and the timeline anticipated to accomplish the goal. This page will need to be updated each year.

Prior Year Accomplishments (Page 4)

This area should address the prior year Work Plan accomplishments including each goal/objective, activities that supported the successful completion of the goal and the status of the goal. The status column should inform the reader whether the goal was a) completed, b) not started and why, c) in process and expected completion date, or d) eliminated and why. This page will need to be updated each year.

Ongoing Projects (Page 5)

This area provides the Board or Commission with an opportunity to inform the reader of ongoing projects that the Board or Commission is continuing to work on. This page may not need to be updated each year.

*Environmental Commission
Annual Work Plan*

Looking Ahead: FY 2023-2024

Reviewing Accomplishments: FY 2022-2023

Kristin Molle: Chair

Michelle Overmeyer: Vice Chair

Miguel Alvarado

Mariana Del Valle

Emily Gottlieb

Laura Murphy

Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

Mission Statement

The Environmental Commission investigates and advocates sound environmental policy and action in the areas of air quality, water quality, energy and waste management, flora and fauna protection and community planning.

General Duties

The Environmental Commission shall conduct public hearings and prepare recommendations to the City Council on matters regarding the environment to include without limitation unless otherwise noted:

- Draft, review and comment on City ordinances, policies and programs and state mandates related to: air and energy; flora, fauna and biome protection; environmental justice; and community planning topics expressly beyond the realm of the Planning Commission (The Planning Commission typically approves/denies resolutions to the City Council re. proposed ordinances. Also, they are a discretionary body that can issue Use Permits, variances, and a few other "exceptions" to Title 17: Zoning.)
- Serve in advisory capacity to the City Council, commissions, committees, and boards on related issues.
- Identify strategic environmental goals for the City and estimate resources needed to accomplish these goals, including investigating funding for programs that will benefit the community.
- Develop policies and plans for increasing environmental awareness and stewardship, in cooperation with other public and private agencies including school districts.

Responsibilities

The Environmental Commission shall:

- Meet not less than six times a year, with subcommittee work occurring during off-meeting months; and
- Monitor the City's progress and comply with principles established in Resolution 17-47; and
- Prepare an annual recommended work plan to the City Council no later than three months in advance of each fiscal year; and
- Work collaboratively with community partners to promote continued progress towards achieving Seaside's environmental goals and responsibilities; and
- Increase staffing or volunteer capacity to support the work of the Environmental Commission.

Fiscal Year Work Plan

1. Support Effective Implementation of the Priority Impact Plastic Pollution Prevention Policy (PIP4), with outreach conducted by Environmental Innovations

- a. Follow up with every food facility at least a second time to provide compliance assistance
- b. Met district managers for fast food restaurants and chains
- c. Switched at least one disposable item with a reusable item for 8 restaurants
- d. Met with retail shop managers to stop selling Styrofoam
- e. Included funding to initiate outreach and engagement, the consultant team has provided great value and effective implementation efforts
- f. Collaboration with stakeholders (non-profit, business)
- g. Outreach was culturally appropriate and included Spanish translation

2. Support an Active Transportation Network

- a. Recommend to City Council to support or oppose related State legislation specific to active transportation
- b. Continue to advocate for the City to adopt the Draft General Plan including recommendations to implement bus and bike lanes, road diets and an active transportation plan
- c. Support efforts for the City's Climate Action or Sustainability Plan
- d. Support developing dynamic pricing plan for parking in the Broadway corridor as a pilot program
- e. Encourage the development of a first mile/last mile transportation plan that includes adoption of docked and dockless e-bike and micro mobility solutions at key activity nodes

3. Planning and Infrastructure

- a. Collaborate with city staff in development of a comprehensive Climate Action Plan
- b. Provide comments during the review periods for Environmental Impact Reports for City projects and relevant projects for neighboring jurisdictions and as needed following staff presentations.
- c. Review and comments on relevant water conservation, utilization and infrastructure, including water pollution prevention projects and proposals

4. Habitat (Flora, fauna and biome protection)

- a. Pollinator Protection

- i. Increase education and awareness of pollinator habitats in various Seaside parks cared for by members of the Environmental Commission, Friends of Seaside Parks Association, and Sustainable Seaside.
 - ii. Continue to meet the obligations of Seaside’s designation as a BEE CITY USA Affiliate and prepare for filing a renewal application.
 - b. Trees
 - i. Clarify roles and responsibilities of the EC and the Parks and Rec Commission, working with them to support trees within our community.
 - ii. Review and update existing tree policies to better support community and habitat health.
 - iii. Research historic tree cover and explore potential justice and equity considerations.

5. Directly Connect the Work of the Environmental Commission to People

- a. Engage thoughtfully with People of Color that demographically represent our community.
- b. Collaborate with other committees and commission to align efforts and improve communication and collaboration

6. Integrate Sustainability into Existing Events

Subcommittees: (TBD)

Administrative Considerations:

- Request a meeting with all community/commissions to share work plans and identify areas of mutual interest or collaboration
- Have EC members attend meetings of other commissions/committees
- Anticipate and prepare for grant opportunities with staff

Background and Progress:

In 2018, the City Council approved the creation of the Environmental Committee. Once the committee was fully formed, their duties and responsibilities approved, the city proposed an ordinance to codify the committee, including the creation, composition, term and duties into the Municipal Code in perpetuity. The draft ordinance was introduced at the May 2, 2019 Regular City Council meeting and there was concern that more input was needed from the Commissions directly regarding the expansion as well as the naming of the commissions. The proposed draft was passed to print at the October 17, 2019 City

Council meeting and the Environmental Committee became the Environmental Commission.

During 2022-2023, the Environmental Commission made progress and achievements related to the following:

- PIP4 business outreach conducted by Environmental Innovations
 - o Incorporated some adjustments for COVID
 - o Included funding to initiate outreach and engagement, the consultant team has provided great value and effective implementation efforts
 - o Collaboration with stakeholders (non-profit, business,)
 - o Outreach was culturally appropriate and included Spanish translation

- Saturday Park Work Days
 - o Provided incredible value for both habitat improvement and community building.
 - o Collaboration with Blue Zones
 - o City Support from Facilities
 - o Continuing to meet Bee City requirements