



City of Carpinteria
Carpinteria Open Space Management Advisory Board Agenda
Tuesday, March 17, 2026
Council Chamber, 5775 Carpinteria Avenue,
Carpinteria, CA 93013

2:00 PM Special Meeting

Attendance/Viewing Options:

- Attend the in-person meeting in City Council Chambers at City Hall (5775 Carpinteria Ave.)

How to Provide Public Comments

- Provide a live public comment in City Council Chambers at City Hall (5775 Carpinteria Ave.). Please note the City has the discretion to limit the speaker's time for any meeting or agenda matter. Typically, the practice has been 3 minutes per speaker on each item.
- Submit a written comment (as either a general public comment or on a specific agenda item) to be distributed to Carpinteria Open Space Management Advisory Board by 3 hours before the meeting begins by either submitting your comment via (1) email to PublicComment@carpinteriaca.gov, or (2) follow this link (<https://carpinteriaca.gov/city-hall/agendas-meetings>), select the meeting you want to provide a comment on, and click the Submit Comments button located on the left hand side of the agenda portal. Please reference the agenda item to which your comment pertains. Note that written comments will not be read into the record during the meeting.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comment

This is the time for public comments on matters not otherwise on the agenda, but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Carpinteria Open Space Management Advisory Board.

Business Matters

1. Approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on February 12, 2026

2. Upcoming events/announcements
 - Citizens for the Bluffs Sunrise Ceremony
 - Katie Roberts Bluffs Day
3. Signage review
 - Final review of text for the harbor seal interpretive signage
4. Bluffs Project updates
5. "Leash your dog" campaign update
6. One page "field guide" for Showscapes
7. Map of the Bluffs
8. Vegetation management for views along trails at the Carpinteria Bluffs Nature Preserve parking lot.

Next Meeting Date

9. Wednesday, April 8th at 1:00 PM.

Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 684-5405, extension 403 or the California Relay Service at (866) 735-2929. Notification 2 business days prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements for accessibility to this meeting.

This agenda was posted on March 12, 2026, by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, on the City Hall Public Notices Board, and on the Internet.

City of Carpinteria
Carpinteria Open Space Management Advisory Board
Special Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2026 at 3:00 PM
City Hall Council Chambers
5775 Carpinteria Ave

Board Members Present: Ted Rhodes, Vice-Chair
Jon Lewis
James McElvain
Evan Hobson, Secretary
Scout Vernon

Board Members Absent: David Allen, Chair
Patrick Crooks

Others Present: Jeanette Gant (Parks, Rec., & Community Services Director)
David Hernandez (Code Compliance Supervisor)
Member(s) of the Public

Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

- a. Attendance per above, Ted Rhodes as Vice-Chair. Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM.

2. Public or Board Comments regarding matters not on the agenda

- a. Draft comment period for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) of the Surfliner Inn proposal is now open. Impacts on Linden-Holly trail and proposed dimensions (width) of new trail is an area of concern for busy public use.

3. Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Regular Meeting held on January 15, 2026

- a. Member Lewis moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January, 15 2026. The motion was seconded by Member McElvain and approved unanimously.

4. Code Enforcement – Off Leash Dog in open spaces discussion

- a. Code Compliance Supervisor, David Hernandez, presented to COSMAB regarding Code Enforcement procedures for the City regarding off leash dogs at the Carpinteria Bluffs Preserve. Discussion centered around public safety, wildlife, increased enforcement and possible signage.

5. Signage review

a. Review of text for the harbor seal and tar seep interpretive signage

- i. A single, consolidated draft of the harbor seal interpretive sign language was reviewed and discussed for any remaining changes before the final review at the next meeting. Tar seep signage received extensive feedback and edits to finalize the next draft before final review at the next meeting.

b. Review of potential sign locations for both interpretive signs

- i. Continued discussion for finalizing the two interpretive sign locations, one for the harbor seals which will replace the old sign by the trail, and another for tar pits park. Possible signage options in the future for the Carp Bluffs Seep.

6. Update on Ricon Bluffs project

- a. No status update – continued discussion with the Santa Barbara Land Trust and more to come soon.

7. Mission and Goals discussion and planning – possible planning workshop

- a. Discussion to prioritize for upcoming special meeting in April, along with the review of the new Updated Council Advisory Group Handbook. Poll will go out to schedule within the group.

8. One page “field guide” for Showcapes

- a. Nothing discussed. Proposed agenda item for next meeting.

9. Map of the Bluffs

- a. Nothing discussed. Proposed agenda item for next meeting.

10. Follow up on County funding for Bluffs

- a. Payment schedule, funding expiration date, and proposal for spending to be reviewed and discussed and the possibility of holding money for land purchases as well as current projects. Proposed agenda item for next meeting.

11. Next Meeting Date

- a. Tuesday, March 17, 2:00–3:30 p.m.
- b. Proposed Agenda Items
 - i. Final Signage Review – Harbor Seal and Tar Seep Interpretive Signs
 - ii. One page “field guide” for Showcapes
 - iii. Map of the Bluffs
 - iv. Follow up on County funding for Bluffs
 - v. Vegetation management for viewsapes along trails at the Carpinteria Bluffs Nature Preserve parking lot.

12. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Carpinteria Harbor Seal Sanctuary

Welcome to the Carpinteria Harbor Seal sanctuary, home to the Pacific Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina richardii*). The tall bluff, crescent shaped beach, nearby kelp bed, and calm ocean pools form a natural barrier where the harbor seals feel safe and protected from harm. This is one of only two rookeries south of Monterey where harbor seals can safely give birth and raise their young in view of the public. Harbor seals also use this site to rest, regulate their body temperature, molt, and digest food.

Harbor seals are true seals, meaning they have no external ear flaps, they have short front and back flippers and move on land by flopping along on their bellies. Despite their clumsiness on land, they are excellent swimmers capable of diving to depths of 1500 feet with diets consisting of fish, crustaceans and cephalopods. Harbor seals have unique spotted coats offering good camouflage and distinguish each seal much like our own fingerprints. Harbor seals do not migrate and spend their entire existence within 30 kilometers of the beach where they were born.

Harbor seals are protected year-round by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act, which makes it unlawful to approach within 300 feet, feed, touch, or disturb them. They promptly flee to the ocean at a potential threat, such as humans or dogs, which can cause a reduction in seal numbers, increased seal pup deaths, and lead to abandoning their pups. We are lucky to be stewards of such a unique place.

Word count: 247

Welcome to the Carpinteria Harbor Seal Sanctuary [Haul-out and Rookery](#), year round home to the Pacific Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina richardii*). The tall bluff, crescent shaped beach, nearby kelp bed, and calm ocean pools form a natural sanctuary where the harbor seals feel safe. This is one of only two rookeries south of Monterey where harbor seals can be viewed by the public. Harbor seals need land about 50% of the time to rest, regulate body temperature, molt, and digest food.

Harbor seals are true seals, distinguished by ear holes, but no external ear flaps, short front and back flippers and awkward movement on land by flopping along on their bellies. Despite their clumsiness on land, they are excellent swimmers capable of diving to depths of 1500 feet seeking fish, crustaceans and cephalopods. Harbor seals have unique spotted coats offering good camouflage and which distinguish each seal much like fingerprints. Harbor seals do not migrate and spend their entire existence on and near the beaches where they were born.

Harbor seals are protected by a six month City beach closure and year-round by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which makes it unlawful to approach, feed, touch, or disturb them. They have good eyesight and promptly flee to the ocean at a potential threat, such as approaching humans or dogs. Disturbances can cause a reduction in seal numbers, increased seal pup deaths, and lead to parents abandoning their pups. We are lucky to be stewards of such a unique place.