

Welcome to
SEASIDE
California



"Welcome to Seaside, California"

This City by the sea is one of many in California that represents innovation, diversity and strength in the Monterey Peninsula. Located at this perfect corner, a monument sign for the ever-so-changing city will stand. Every inch of this corner will be transformed into an interactive, eye-catching and undeniable representation of Seaside, California.

The cement monument sign will be placed upon the already existing "mound" of dirt facing out towards the corner of Del Monte and Del Rey Oaks and will sit about 10 feet back from the sidewalk. Planted on each side of this curved monument, will be one large "Mexican Feather Grass" which is a drought-tolerant native to South-western United States which is also part of the Nassella Species. Behind those two plants, will be more drought-tolerant natives of that nature which will be smaller in size in support of the wispy Mexican Feather Grass.

Along with the shrubs on both sides, my choice of ground cover would in great hopes (as long as budget allows) to replace the current (extremely invasive and native to South-Africa) ice plant species and instead plant "Lampranthus spectabilis" which is the tiny California-native ice plant. The special thing about this ice plant is that it blooms about two times a year creating a purple and white field of tiny flowers. Not only is it beautiful and native, it is very drought tolerant as well; according to calwater.com.

Birds-Eye View: Behind the curved monument sign of Seaside, I would like a plaque or words of some sort displaying a little story about the history of Seaside and our goal as a city to keep innovating and inspiring our youth to achieve our dreams. Perhaps it is engraved into the cement, OR I was thinking about a plaque upon a little clamshell that sits in the ground behind the sign so that people may interact with the sign and walk up to it to read it.

Next, would be to create a trail or walkway behind the sign in either sand, tiny rocks, pebbles, or dirt that goes from Del Monte to Del Rey Oaks Blvd. in the shape of a capital "S" for "Seaside." The trail will invite people to walk through the land itself and reach the monument to read the history of Seaside plaque or lettering.

The Monument: Finally, we get into the details of the monument. My vision for the sign would be to create a slightly curved light-dark grey cement wall. The words "Welcome to" will be placed on top of the wall, while "SEASIDE" is placed on the outward facing side of the curve. And just beneath those letters, "California" is in a handwritten type of script (similar to the California license plate font) right under "SEASIDE" on the curved cement face.

Materials for the lettering would be in some type of metal that will not rust because of the signs close proximity to the ocean.

What I would like to see next on this monument is also something that I truly believe will represent the city of Seaside very well. If possible, I would like to see the lettering somewhat lifted from the cement so that there may be space for LED light to shine behind each letter of "SEASIDE" so that it may stay lit up at night. The LED's would have to be solar powered, but that also can contribute to our innovative taste and style.

Food for Thought: I also imagined that because Seaside is a very different and mysterious city in itself, I also envisioned the not only a plain LED lights lit up on the sign, but perhaps being able to change a few different colors upon holiday occasions or the anniversary of Seaside's founding. For example, green lights on St. Patricks Day or blue on Earth Day.

Every idea that I placed into this sign is one that was carefully thought out because of its symbolism and innovation. Keeping a clean-looking, contemporary, and interactive sign on this corner of Seaside would be one to have for centuries. In full representation of Seaside, this monument, I believe, shall never disappoint.

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