

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219  
VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200  
FAX (415) 904-5400



## Coastal Commission Chair Steve Padilla's Statement on Nation's Social Justice Movement

*These are the opening comments Chair Padilla made at the June 10, 2020 Coastal Commission meeting:*

As a public agency with an important public trust we wish to respect, honor and recognize this moment in our nation's history, a movement – righteous, painful, necessary and long overdue which demands our society confront the reality of systemic racism and injustice which persists in our culture.

As we participate in or just witness the movement of thousands across our nation in many communities taking to the streets to call for action, we are reminded this opportunity will require more than protests. This moment demands open minds and open hearts in order to make understanding possible. It will require understanding in order to make accountability and action possible and requires accountability and action in order to make reconciliation and change a reality.

The Coastal Commission's mission requires us to strive to protect coastal resources and access for all people to our precious coast. Getting this work right requires we do so while understanding the tremendous economic, social and equitable impacts of what often appears only on the surface to involve planning and land use. To this end the commission's commitment to environmental justice in our work is of course groundbreaking but there remains much to do.

The commission's values require us to practice transparency, fairness, and equity in our work and today we reassert our commitment to these values. In this moment we acknowledge and lift up the memory of George Floyd and extend our condolences to his family and friends. We assert the conviction that Black Lives Matter in order to recognize and respect the unique experiences of African Americans and black Americans of every background in America, and also to stand in solidarity against historic and systematic exclusion and oppression against peoples of color everywhere.

As a commission we encounter activism and engagement from diverse populations in support of critical issues including environmental and coastal protection and of course environmental justice on a daily basis. But it is important to draw a clear distinction between those important issues and this movement. This moment and the movement it has inspired is about making the choice to confront the uncomfortable truths about a continuing legacy of systemic racism, implicit bias and racial and cultural division within our social, economic and political systems. The commission is committed to being part of this conversation, to not only giving voice but taking responsibility to act in our service to the public.

###