

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 Recovers from COVID-19 to Oversee Agency's First Virtual Meeting

Date: May 12, 2020

Contact: Noaki Schwartz, Public Information Officer, (562) 833-5487

Meeting Agenda and link to submit a speaker slip:

<https://www.coastal.ca.gov/meetings/agenda/#/2020/5>

Virtual Hearing Procedures: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/assets/virtual-hearing/VIRTUAL-HEARING-PROCEDURES.pdf>

California Coastal Commission Chair and Chula Vista City Councilman Steve Padilla has recovered after being hospitalized for three weeks with COVID-19, and will oversee the agency's first virtual meeting this week.

Padilla likely contracted the illness in March and, before showing symptoms, attended the Commission hearing in Santa Cruz. No other Commissioner or agency staff reportedly came down with the virus. The April meeting was subsequently cancelled and Commission district offices have only been open virtually to protect public health.

"The setting may look a little different at this week's hearing, but have no doubt: the Coastal Commission remains open and will continue to protect the California coast as we have for more than 40 years," Padilla said. "It's also heartening to see the California coast gradually reopening this week, so please get out and enjoy it – six feet apart."

The Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday and Thursday through video and teleconference and will be livestreamed. The Commissioners will use the Zoom platform from their homes across the California coast to call in to the meeting.

Members of the public can speak to the Commission through the Zoom platform using a laptop or phone. Procedures and online speaker slips are available at the links above. While the Commission will accept a request to speak the day of a hearing item, the agency strongly encourages speakers to submit their requests by 5 pm the day before.

The Commission asks for patience and cooperation as the agency transitions to video and teleconferencing. The agency is working hard to correct any technical issues and human error that arise.

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