



Golden Dream. Art by Jennifer Kim, Grade 11

Environmental Justice

YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

California Coastal Commission



Environmental **Justice**, Racial **Equity**, and **Inclusion** at the Coastal Commission

Oceano Dunes. Photo by Jay Mantri.

Throughout the year, the Commission continued to advance its commitment to coastal justice through the application of its Environmental Justice Policy to permits, appeals and LCPs. Working with Commission staff and stakeholders, the cities of Morro Bay and Half Moon Bay amended their LUPs to include their first-ever EJ policies. Environmental justice considerations were also included in the Coastal Act findings to support an LCP amendment for the County of San Mateo to allow for a 100% affordable housing project while balancing the protection of coastal resources. Environmental justice findings in staff reports are becoming more common, and staff recommendations are increasingly including provisions to address structural inequities. Staff reports for the [Belmont Pool and Aquatic Center](#) in Long Beach, the amended operating permit for [Oceano Dunes Vehicle Recreation Area](#), the [Rancho Palos Verde automated license plate reader](#), the [Campland consent order](#) and the Critical Infrastructure Guidance all included extensive EJ findings. In the case of the Belmont Pool, the Commission added a special condition requiring the City to conduct extensive outreach and engagement with Long Beach's underserved communities and submit a revised equitable public access plan. In Oceano, the requirement to phase out OHV use on the dunes will provide significant air quality, traffic, and beach access improvements to the small rural town of Oceano that has been bearing those disproportionate burdens for decades. The Campland resolution included \$50,000 worth of free access to the resort for underserved communities. And the Commission found Substantial Issue on the Palos Verdes appeal, based on the chilling effect that license plate readers impose on public access, particularly for people of color.

An appeal of a proposed [commercial development in Long Beach](#) on a former industrial site raised both environmental justice and tribal/cultural concerns for the Commission. Through tribal consultation, the Commission learned that the Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians had nominated a large portion of the area, including the entire site of the proposed development, as Sacred Lands in 2019. The NAHC confirmed the area as Sacred Lands due to the location of the prehistoric village of Puvungna. The Commission approved the project with special conditions requiring the dedication and restoration of 1.81 acres of open space and a Tribal Access Plan to ensure the local tribal members have access to the area for religious and ceremonial gatherings, resource and material gathering, and other tribal uses.

Internally, staff made additional progress toward ensuring the Coastal Commission is an **equitable, inclusive workplace that reflects and values the diversity of California** as a whole.



Escape from Boring. Art by Jane Park, Grade 6.

The Environmental Justice Unit rebranded the Commission's Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP) as the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Plan to better align with other state agencies who are also advancing JEDI plans , and made steady progress implementing its goals throughout the year.

Working with the Commission's Human Resources Division and Senior Management Team, the EJ Unit drafted equity and inclusion language that will now be added to every employee's official duty statement, which outlines each employee's scope of work. Duty statements for planners and enforcement analysts will also include a reference to EJ as part of their required policy analysis work. Updating duty statements across the agency is an important, tangible manifestation of the Commission's expectation that JEDI principles will be integrated into the workplace at every level and shows that it is a priority for the agency.

As of April, the Commission started providing in-house Spanish translation services for documents and interpretation of public comment at Commission meetings because for the first time in the agency's history, two staff positions were reclassified to receive bilingual pay for providing Spanish language services. Thanks to two staffers with Spanish language fluency who were selected and passed state certification requirements, the Commission has created a new Spanish language access program. Members of the Spanish-speaking public who are unable or uncomfortable addressing the Commission in English now have the option to speak in their first language, which is important for accessible public participation.

The EJ and Communications team also worked with UCSB Bren School students to create two videos and an [infographic](#) aimed at inspiring and showing members of the public who don't usually participate [how to sign up and participate in hearings](#), and information on the [history of the Coastal Act](#).

Right: Your Voice Matters infographic. Designed by students from the UCSB Bren School in collaboration with the Environmental Justice and Communications teams at the Commission.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS.
Your Guide to the Coastal Commission.

ABOUT THE COASTAL COMMISSION
The Coastal Commission protects the California coast for present and future generations.
Main Office
District Office
The Commission makes decisions concerning 1,271 miles of California's shoreline, including topics like:
PUBLIC ACCESS TO BEACHES.
SEA LEVEL RISE.
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT.
OIL, GAS, AND WIND PROJECTS.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.
CONSERVING WILDLIFE HABITAT.

WHAT DOES THE COMMISSION DO?
We work with local governments to:
PROTECT coastal resources.
Keep the coast open for ALL CALIFORNIANS.
Balance DEVELOPMENT & CONSERVATION.
Californians like you can participate in many ways.
PUBLIC MEETINGS.
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.
ART & PHOTO CONTESTS.
BEACH CLEANUPS.

SHARE YOUR STORY. SPEAK IN A MEETING OR SUBMIT A WRITTEN COMMENT.
Every inch of the 1200 miles of California's coastline exists as it does today because somebody fought to keep it that way. Learn about the next public meeting at this address.
www.coastal.ca.gov/meetings/agenda
Public meetings happen once a month and last three or more days. There are multiple ways to participate. The Commission looks forward to hearing from you!
You can participate in person or remotely!

SHARE IDEAS.	BE HEARD.	DON'T MISS OUT.
About an item on the agenda.	Send an email. • Call in by phone. • Zoom in on a tablet, phone, or computer. • Attend in person.	Submit a comment by 5:00 PM on Friday the week before the meeting. Submit a speaker request by 5:00 PM the day before the meeting.
About something that is not on the agenda.	• Call in by phone. • Zoom in on a tablet, phone, or computer. • Attend in person.	Submit a speaker request by 5:00 PM the day before the meeting.

In December, the Commission announced its launch of the Peter Douglas Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Coastal Planning Internship Program, which will offer paid internships at the Commission for college students, including those attending Community College. Named in honor of the Commission's late Executive Director who championed a similar program in the 1980's, this program will provide enhanced career opportunities for interns from non-traditional backgrounds, with the intent of building a more diverse workplace that includes the perspectives and experiences of a wide variety of qualified applicants.