ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE YEAR IN REVIEW 2024

www.coastal.ca.gov

Namaste | Annick Loomis

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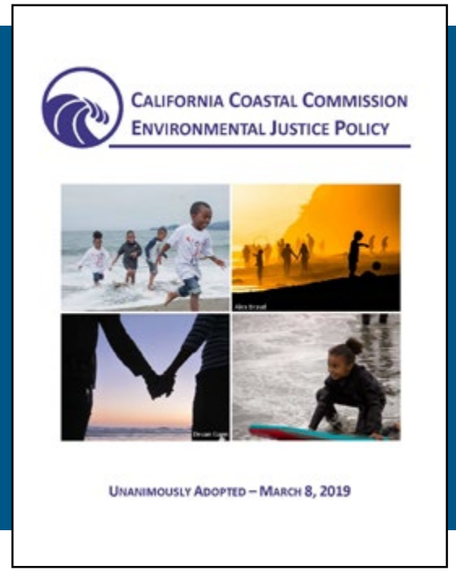
Front Cover: *A Long Time Coming* by Enaya Habib | Grade 10, Santa Clara

Introduction to the Environmental Justice Program

Since receiving the authority in 2016 to consider environmental justice (EJ) in its work, through AB 2616 (Burke), the Commission has reassessed its approach to all programs and activities. By 2019, the agency had formally adopted an Environmental Justice Policy and incorporated the principles of environmental justice, equality, and social equity into facets of its programs and operations; a major driver of this progress has been the establishment of the Environmental Justice Unit. Over the past year, the EJ Unit has continued its efforts to advance a range of internal and external initiatives, with several key actions either newly launched or significantly expanded. These efforts have deepened the Commission's commitment to EJ and strengthened partnerships with coastal communities, helping to ensure more equitable outcomes. This annual report provides both transparency and accountability as the Commission continues its efforts to implement its EJ Policy.

What is Environmental Justice?

"the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies."



Click here or the policy above to read the Environmental Justice Policy

"The term 'environmental justice' is currently understood to include both **substantive** and **procedural** rights, meaning that in addition to the equitable distribution of environmental benefits, underserved communities also deserve equitable access to the process where significant environmental and land use decisions are made."

Executive Leadership and Program Staff

Executive Director Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, who began her tenure in this role at the end of 2022, had completed a full year by the start of 2024. She used that year of experience to ensure 2024 had both continuity and new initiatives, prioritizing the strengthening of relationships and reasserting goals. Notably, Dr. Huckelbridge continued developing relationships with EJ groups through the Quarterly EJ Partner Calls, she supported the implementation of new agency-wide trainings to embed justice and inclusion into its operations, and supported the enhanced outreach to communities vulnerable to coastal hazards. These actions worked towards upholding the agency's core mission to protect access to California's diverse coastline and expand public access for future generations.

Photo of Dr. Kate Huckelbridge

Dr. Kate Huckelbridge

Dr. Huckelbridge previously served as the Commission's Senior Deputy Director and has worked for the agency since 2009 in a number of different roles, including as a senior environmental scientist and as the Deputy Director over the Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Unit, Transportation Unit, North Coast District and as the Tribal Liaison for the Commission.

Environmental Justice Unit Staffing Updates

Several staff concluded their time with the Environmental Justice Unit in 2024 but will continue to advance the principles of equity and justice in the public policy arena and beyond.

Erik Martinez, who first joined the Commission as a California Sea Grant Fellow in 2018 and went on to become a District Supervisor for the North Central Coast, left the agency to join the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an Environmental Protection Specialist. Erik's work at the Commission included being key staff in the development, adoption, and implementation of the EJ Policy, the creation of the Spanish Program to assist with translations and collaboration with state and local groups, and supporting the Tribal Consultation program.

Z Plascencia, who had worked with the Commission's EJ Unit initially as a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Management Fellow and was later hired as a Coastal Program Analyst with the Statewide Planning Unit, left the agency to work for the EPA as an Environmental Protection Specialist. Z played a key role in the efforts to integrate environmental justice in sea level rise policy guidance and establishing the environmental justice partner calls.

In August 2024, the EJ Unit gained a new Environmental Justice Analyst, Chinonso Uzowihe. Chinonso holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from Florida A&M and an M.S. in Coastal Science & Policy from UC Santa Cruz, where he worked with government and environmental organizations. He later supported Oakland's Equitable Climate Action Plan as a Management Intern. He joined Javier Padilla, Environmental Justice Manager, as a member of the core staff in late summer and was able to contribute to a strong second half of the year for the EJ Unit.

Several additional staff began their tenure in 2024 with other units and were able to dedicate a portion of their time to the EJ Unit.

From left to right: Chinonso Uzowihe, Javier Padilla, Brandon Quintana

Brandon Quintana, who entered the Commission as a California Sea Grant State Fellow, was hired full time as a member of the Statewide Planning Unit. During his time as a Fellow, he made key contributions to the work of the EJ Unit, the Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance, and continues to support the EJ Unit in his new role.

Margaret Campbell, NOAA Coastal Management Fellow, also began her tenure with the Commission in 2024 as a member of the Energy, Ocean Resources & Federal Consistency Unit. Her work focuses on offshore wind, and she has been able to work with the EJ Unit to integrate principles of environmental justice and equity into work surrounding this new, but quickly growing, topic area. She also supports the Tribal Consultation work in offshore wind. Collectively, these new staff members and the EJ Unit will continue to work to protect coastal resources across the state equitably.

Want to reach out to the EJ Unit?

Our team is available to answer any questions or meet to discuss any matters regarding the Commission's Environmental Justice Program.

Please contact us:

EnvironmentalJustice@coastal.ca.gov

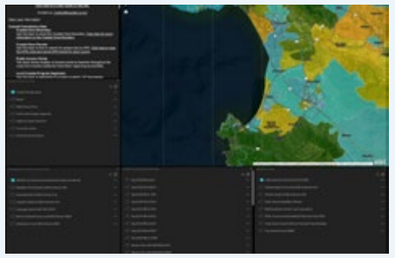
Meet the Environmental Justice Commissioner

Governor Brown appointed **Commissioner Effie Turnbull-Sanders** as the environmental justice commissioner in 2017 following the passing of AB 2616.

Visit our Environmental Justice webpage: www.coastal.ca.gov/env-justice

From Policy to Practice: Environmental Justice Program

Following the principles of environmental justice, program staff continued to develop tools and resources that support early, often, and meaningful involvement in the Commission's process.



Coastal California Environmental Justice (CCEJ) Mapping Tool

Explore public data to learn about coastal communities in California

The Coastal California Environmental Justice Mapping Tool was released in 2024 as a resource to help identify whether proposed projects, policies, or programs might impact environmental justice communities along California's coast. Developed to aid applicants, analysts, and the public in considering environmental justice, the CCEJ Tool integrates existing federal, state, and Commission data layers with environmental and demographic data in an accessible map format. The applications are diverse, serving to:

- Screen for additional environmental justice analysis
- Support the review of projects and local coastal program updates, assisting in identifying and addressing the impacts of pollution and environmental hazards
- facilitating essential outreach and engagement with environmental justice communities.

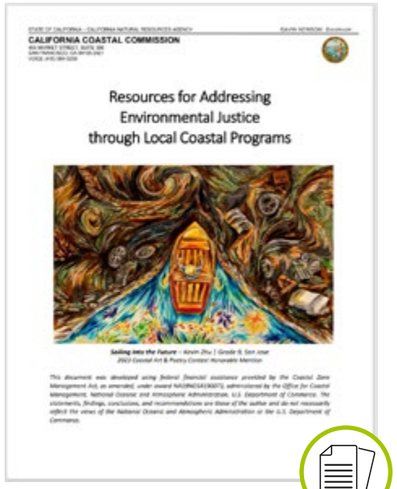
Any initial results from this tool should be supplemented with additional information, including information from community members in and around the project site or impact area, as appropriate. Initial results from this tool can also be used as a starting point to proactively reach out to the Commission's environmental justice team for further conversation. A User Guide was also released to assist the use of the CCEJ Tool.

Explore the CCEJ Tool **CCEJ Tool User Guide**

Quarterly EJ Partner Calls with our Director

Quarterly

In 2024, the EJ Unit & Executive Director continued the Quarterly Environmental Justice & Executive Director Partner Call (Quarterly EJ Partner Calls) that began the previous year to better balance the historic inequities of disadvantaged communities' access to the planning process. These calls continued to enhance meaningful engagement and create an opened line of communication between environmental justice partners statewide and Commission staff. There have been substantive discussions on relevant topics, including EJ in sea level rise, meeting the EJ Commissioner, and the implementation status of the EJ Policy. Through these calls the Commission has been able to increase the awareness of projects and issues of importance across the state, update interested groups on environmental justice efforts, and tangentially utilize EJ partners as liaisons for the communities they work with.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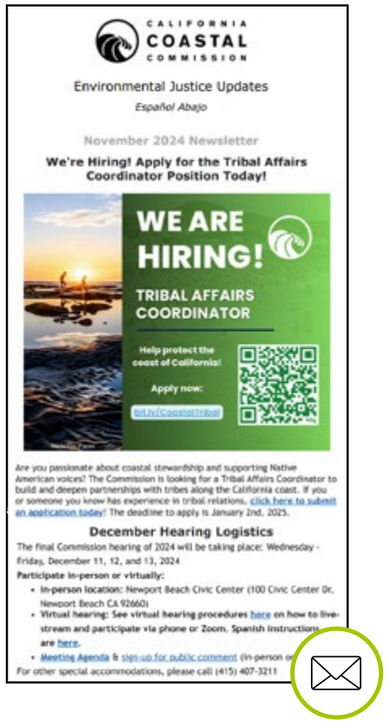
Resources for Addressing Environmental Justice through Local Coastal Programs

Resources for Addressing Environmental Justice through Local Coastal Programs

March 2024

This year also saw the publishing of the Resources for Addressing Environmental Justice through LCPs, a document focused on offering insights and examples for integrating environmental justice into planning processes to ensure fair coastal access. The overarching goal of this resource is to foster meaningful engagement and minimize development impacts on coastal environmental justice communities. A number of cities have already begun to integrate the recommendations in this resource into their local plans, and the EJ Unit plans to encourage and increase the usage of this tool and assist cities with an understanding of environmental justice through the Commission's lens.

READ THE GUIDANCE HERE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Environmental Justice Updates

Español Abajo

November 2024 Newsletter

We're Hiring! Apply for the Tribal Affairs Coordinator Position Today!

WE ARE HIRING!

TRIBAL AFFAIRS COORDINATOR

Help protect the coast of California!

Apply now:

Are you passionate about coastal stewardship and supporting Native American voices? The Commission is looking for a Tribal Affairs Coordinator to build and deepen partnerships with tribes along the California coast. If you or someone you know has experience in tribal relations, click here to submit an application today! The deadline to apply is January 2nd, 2025.

December Hearing Logistics

The final Commission hearing of 2024 will be taking place: Wednesday - Friday, December 11, 12, and 13, 2024

Participate in-person or virtually:

- **In-person location:** Newport Beach Civic Center (100 Civic Center Dr. Newport Beach CA 92660)
- **Virtual hearing: See virtual hearing procedures** here **on how to live-stream and participate via phone or Zoom. Spanish instructions are** here.
- Meeting Agenda & sign up for public comment (in-person or

For other special accommodations, please call (415) 407-3211

Environmental Justice Newsletter

Now Monthly

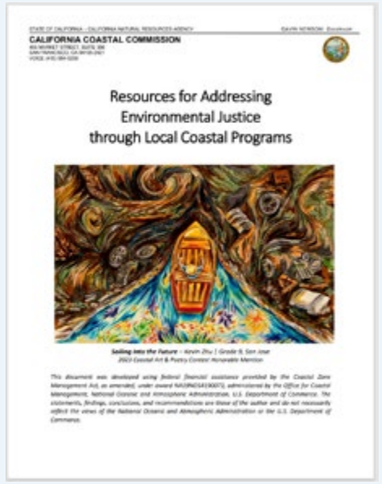
The end of the year saw the EJ Unit significantly enhance its commitment to public engagement by publishing the EJ newsletter in a monthly basis. This initiative is crucial for keeping Californians informed about a wide array of environmental justice-related topics across the state, including job opportunities, upcoming events, and impactful programs. A key feature of the newsletter is the inclusion of projects with environmental justice components that are slated to come before the California Coastal Commission at that month's public hearing. This direct link to the Commission's agenda empowers communities to stay informed and participate in critical decisions that could impact their local environments and overall well-being, further solidifying the EJ Unit's dedication to transparency and community involvement. The newsletter is sent out monthly and is translated into Spanish.

SIGN UP FOR THE EJ NEWSLETTER HERE

Embedding Environmental Justice in Sea Level Rise Planning

Adopted November 2024

In one of the largest projects of the year, the EJ Unit and Statewide Sea-Level Rise (SLR) Team were able to submit a draft for an update to the Sea-Level Rise Policy Guidance to the Commission in September 2024, which was then adopted in November 2024. This updated guidance addressed three main topics: 1) evolving best available science; 2) integrating environmental justice principles and planning considerations related to sea level rise; and 3) guidelines related to SB 272. Steps related to identifying and meaningfully engaging with environmental justice communities in and around local jurisdictions or project sites were also added to the processes for addressing sea level rise in LCPs and CDPs. Looking ahead, the EJ Unit hopes to encourage the usage of this new guidance through extensive outreach and engagement of future applicants and jurisdictions.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Resources for Addressing Environmental Justice through Local Coastal Programs

READ THE GUIDANCE HERE

Lower Cost Coastal Lodging Resources

The Commission has long acknowledged that the cost of lodging along the coast can be a barrier to access, and 2024 was a year in which new steps were taken in response to this concern. The Commission launched a Lower Cost Coastal Lodging page updated with key resources for visitors seeking information about affordable accommodations in the coastal zone. The page provides guidance for local governments and permit applicants on overnight lodging. One of the newly featured documents (Find Lower Cost Coastal Lodging) outlines both existing and planned lower-cost overnight accommodations (LCOAs), either already built or expected as a result of Commission actions. This resource aims to raise awareness of affordable lodging options while showing examples of past-approved work, helping to ensure that more visitors have access to information on affordable stays along the coast.

Additionally, in July of 2024, the Commission held a briefing to discuss efforts aimed at encouraging new hotel projects to offer lower-cost accommodations. The goal of this was to increase coastal access for all, with a focus on diverse overnight options such as hotels, motels, campgrounds, RV parks, cabins, short-term rentals, and hostels. This initiative aims to make the coast more accessible to a broader range of visitors.

Watch theJuly 2024 public briefing on Lower-Cost Overnight Accommodations by clicking the image above

Find Lower Cost Coastal Lodging

For general questions about lower cost overnight accommodations, contact the Commission's Statewide Planning Unit at

statewideplanning@coastal.ca.gov

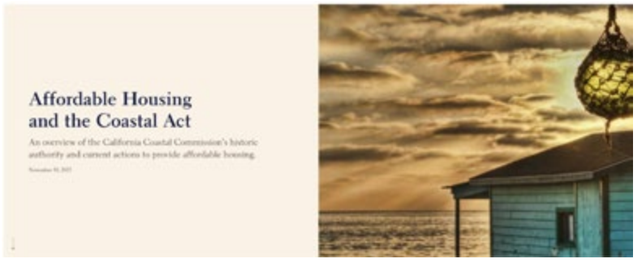
Learn about Coastal Act Section 30213

Affordable Housing Webpage & Resources

To help the public better understand its role in affordable housing along the coastal zone, the Commission launched a new Affordable Housing Webpage. This page, made by staff from the Legislative, Environmental Justice, and Statewide Planning Units, includes case studies, planning tools, and a story map on California's exclusionary housing history, supporting local governments and communities in promoting equitable housing along the coast. The webpage is also available in Spanish.

2015 Report on Coastal Act Affordable Housing Policies and Implementation

2022 Report on the Historical Roots of Housing Inequity and Impacts on Coastal Zone Demographic Patterns



Explore the Affordable Housing storymap by clicking the above image. You can find the storymap in Spanish by clicking here.

> The Environmental Justice Policy also enables staff to consider housing justice more actively when analyzing projects by identifying the lack of affordable housing in the coastal zone as an environmental justice concern.

Language Accessibility

This past year, there was a sustained commitment to improving accessibility for non-English speaking communities. Since 2022, the Commission has offered live interpretation services upon request through its Spanish Program; these efforts expanded further in 2024. The Spanish Program expanded from two to four staff members, enabling greater capacity and flexibility. Notably, for the Magnolia Tank Farm project, interpretation was provided both in-person and at a satellite location, ensuring broader participation for Spanish-speaking attendees.

Shielding by Eileen Wang | Grade 8, San Jose

Additionally, the agency has continued requesting permit applicants and planners to provide multilingual public access and educational signage whenever possible, further enhancing accessibility. Bilingual staff have also translated and distributed key documents, including FAQs, newsletters, post-hearing briefs, and informational materials. Furthermore, staff's review processes now include translated agendas, staff reports, and executive summaries to ensure that non-English speaking community members can fully engage with the content.

These combined efforts have resulted in increased participation at hearings, with more individuals using translation services and actively contributing, fostering a more inclusive and representative decision-making process furthering the Commission's goal of maximizing public participation, which leads to more broadly informed decisions.

Finding Sand Dollars at the Beach by Jamie Quach | Grade 3, San Jose

Advancing Environmental Justice Through Coastal Projects

The EJ Unit staff played a key role in ensuring that environmental justice principles are consistently reflected in the Commission's work. A few significant projects from throughout the year are outlined below:

Magnolia Tank Farm Mixed Use Development

The Magnolia Tank Farm project involved the conversion of a 29-acre location to residential, commercial, and park and conservation open space uses. The environmental justice implications were extensive, with both environmental and social vulnerabilities associated with this site, including a high percentile for solid waste facilities and toxic releases compared to the rest of the state, due to the location adjacent to a Superfund site. To mitigate these concerns, a number of suggested modifications were created by staff, including the written notification to all future residents about the adjacent Superfund site and climate change hazards, the installation of passive methane mitigation, and a funding mechanism to cover the site's future climate change adaptation costs.

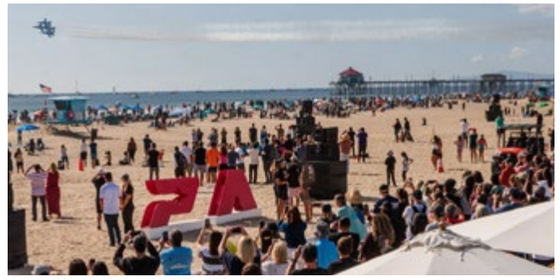
Affordable Housing in Venice

The Venice Dell Community Housing Project proposed affordable housing units and small-scale mixed-use retail space with two new, three- and four-story, 35-ft. tall mixed-use structures, and city-owned public parking lots to maintain the existing public parking. Parking, housing, and recreation are all significant considerations for coastal access and environmental justice, and this project impacted all of these topics.

During the Commission staff's review of the project for the permit required from the Commission, there was a concerted effort from staff to work with community groups to consider how the impacts of such a project would affect the unique community of Venice. The Commission approved the project with the conditions from staff.

Enforcing Coastal Access For All

In response to concerns about restricted public access during the highprofile Pacific Airshow in Huntington Beach, Commission's Enforcement Unit engaged in months of dialogue with the city and event organizers. The resulting agreement preserved the event while securing free beach access corridors, 100 free tickets for underserved youth, and flight restrictions to protect sensitive wildlife at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Next year, the event will apply for a coastal development permit to ensure impacts are eliminated or mitigated.



Spectators on the beach watching the Pacific Airshow in Huntington Beach in 2023

Courtesy of Paddle for Peace

Access to Lower Cost Coastal Lodging in Santa Cruz

In September, the Commission added significant public value by requiring 20 lower-cost rooms, 150 free room-nights annually for underrepresented groups, and four off-site workforce housing units. It also secured a $5 million in-lieu fee to fund up to 16 affordable cabins nearby and ensured the inclusion of free public amenities, making the project a model for inclusive coastal development.

Increasing Access at Seaforth Marina in San Diego

The Seaforth Marina project involved replacing wooden docks with new aluminum floating docks while not changing the number of slips at the location. The EJ unit played a key role in supporting several conditions to prevent inequitable impacts related to this project, including an outreach plan to promote boat slips for use by nonprofits that are dedicated to access, free of charge. There was also an effort to ensure transparency in the management of the slips when they were not in use by nonprofits. This involves the submission of proof of outreach to relevant organizations and an annual monitoring report on the slips' usage.

Other efforts included the continued implementation of EJ principles in several coastal development permits, Local Coastal Programs amendments, and other permitting projects and planning documents. Additionally, the EJ Unit continued its monthly, agency-wide EJ calls to provide an opportunity for planning and permitting staff to engage in deeper discussions with EJ staff on projects spanning the coast.

Supporting the Next Generation of Coastal Stewards

Communities and individuals perceive and interact with the coast in a diverse variety of ways. The Coastal Commission continued its commitment to public education in 2024 through many different events and programs that emphasize inclusive engagement. These included California Coastal Cleanup Day, California King Tides Project, Adopt-ABeach®, Kids' Ocean Day, Dockside Podcast and the annual Coastal Art & Poetry Contest.

The agency also helped facilitate educational opportunities through its annual allocation of Whale Tail® Grants, which prioritize communities facing barriers to facing barriers to coastal access, experiential learning and stewardship opportunities. The grant program recorded one of its most successful years since its inception in 1998, awarding 60 Whale Tail grants impacting more than a million participants.

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE EMAILS ABOUT THE WHALE TAIL GRANTS PROGRAM

Click here or the image above to read the 2023-2024 Equity Analysis

Pictured above: Tolowa Dee-ni' staff and youth restore the dunes with Tolowa Dunes Stewards

Building a Culture of Inclusivity within the Commission

In 2024, the Commission continued its commitment to integrity in the workplace with a series of key actions. The EJ Unit led the agency in exercises focused on fostering belonging and inclusivity, setting the tone for ongoing efforts. As part of this initiative, the Commission restarted its all-staff meetings focused specifically on these topics, bringing the agency together to discuss inclusive principles in areas such as hiring, training, and internal processes.

From these meetings, six groups were formed to provide focused space for staff to explore specific principles in depth, ensuring they are woven into the fabric of the agency's operations.

The Commission also continued its Mentoring Program, where staff members serve as both mentors and mentees. Mentors play a crucial role in helping new staff feel more comfortable, guiding them through the agency's culture, answering questions, and offering valuable insights into the long-term state agency career path.
These comprehensive, all-staff approaches to more intentional consideration helped the agency move towards its goal of a more inclusive and just workplace.

Tribal Consultation Policy in Action

For generations, California's landscapes have been, and continue to be, home to Native American Tribes. Despite centuries of historical injustices, including harmful, government-perpetuated policies, coastal tribes remain present on the land, actively practicing and preserving their cultural traditions. With an understanding of the historical context and importance of Tribal sovereignty, the Commission approved its Tribal Consultation Policy in 2018. This policy outlines procedures for meaningful engagement and designates liaisons in each district office. These staff members play a key role in handling the Commission's most significant tribal-related impacts.

Statewide, the importance of tribal collaboration continues to be recognized, and this was emphasized by the development of a training course that outlined the legislative history, background, and importance of tribal consultation amongst all state agencies. This Tribal Consultations Training was a mandatory course that focused on understanding Native American California tribal sovereignty's central role in government-to-government consultations. It also provided practical strategies for fostering genuine partnerships with tribes based on respect, reciprocity, and accountability.

Simultaneously, at the Commission, work was being done to craft an internal, introductory tribal training. This internal, coastal-specific training is still in development and being planned in conjunction with the San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC) and State Coastal Conservancy (SCC). The goal for this future, tailored training is to help staff at these 3 agencies know which general aspects from the Tribal Consultations Training course are most important to apply in coastal consideration. The upcoming internal training will also be important for teaching these agencies about building connections with Native communities, tribes, and organizations. The funding for this upcoming training is through a grant from NOAA, and staff will be participating in this coastal-focused training early next year, with additional opportunities for tribal-related training planned throughout the coming year as well.

Coastal Conservancy

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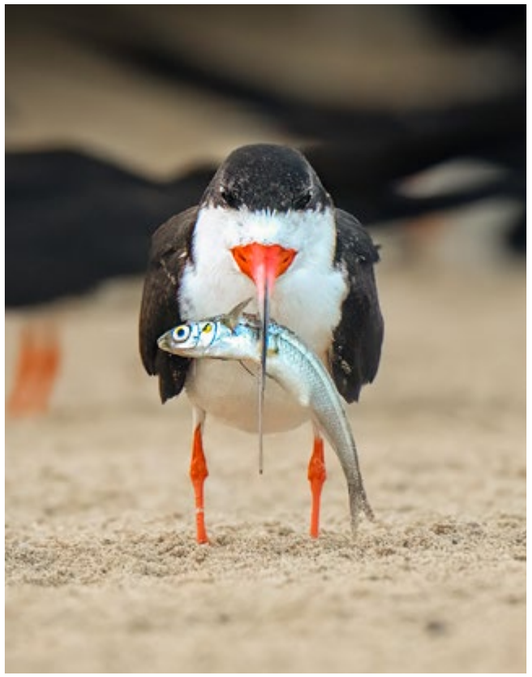
bcdc

The State Coastal Conservancy, California Coastal Commission, and the SF Bay Conservation & Development Commission partnered to train their staff to better conduct Tribal Consultations in their work.



Black Skimmer with Fish | Huntington Beach | Karen Cohen

In 2024 year, a number of projects had substantial tribal implications:

Development Project in Humboldt County

Through an appeal to this project, the Commission found substantial issue related to the consultation of local tribes. It was determined that the locally approved development did not provide reasonable mitigation measures for impacts to archaeological and tribal cultural resources. In an attempt to resolve the issues from the project, Commission staff worked with the applicant and local jurisdiction to consult with representatives of the Wiyot Tribe, the Blue Lake Rancheria, and the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria. Through this collaboration, project components were introduced that ensure important cultural resources are protected in perpetuity. Click here for the report.

Tuluwat Village World Renewal Ceremony

This project involved the construction of two plank dress houses, vault toilets, informational signage, and a temporary-use floating dock to support the continuation of the Wiyot Tribe's cultural ceremonies (including the World Renewal Ceremony) and the cultural and ecological restoration of the island. This development was to be done with all materials and traditional Wiyot building methods, and the amended project was approved with conditions. Commission staff worked closely with Wiyot Tribe representatives to understand cultural resource issues associated with the project and reasonable mitigation measures that may be considered to protect resources. Additionally, as is consistent with the adopted Tribal Consultation Policy, Commission staff reached out to other tribes with known interest in the project site and received project comments. No significant opposition was shared, and it was determined that reasonable mitigation measures had been provided to minimize impacts to archaeological and tribal cultural resources. Click here for the report.

> "Tuluwat Village on the northeastern end of the island hosted a World Renewal Ceremony to ask the creator's blessings for all people and the land for the coming year with tribal members gathering from the other Wiyot villages that lined Humboldt Bay."
>
> ***Staff Report Permit No.1-08-017-A2***

For additional projects, the agency-wide year-in-review can be found here.

Looking Ahead

As 2024 wraps up, the Environmental Justice Unit is focused on expanding its efforts to advance equity in coastal planning. In the year ahead, priorities include deepening community engagement, supporting inclusive climate adaptation, and investing in future EJ leaders. The following initiatives reflect our continued commitment to a more just and resilient coast.

Sea Level Rise Engagement

Following the adoption of the Commission's Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance in November 2024, the EJ Unit is working to ensure its successful implementation for vulnerable communities. This will include meaningful engagement throughout the coastal zone so that interested parties, including but not limited to future applicants, local governments, and coastal organizations, are aware of this new resource. Effective engagement can lead to the improvement of EJ consideration for projects and plans that come before the Commission, ensuring more equitable sea level rise adaptation and mitigation for all.

Staff Trainings

Going forward, the EJ Unit will continue to work towards enhancing staff capacity through a series of internal and external staff trainings. These trainings will focus on advancing principles of environmental justice, inclusion, and tribal consideration, while also enhancing skills such as communicating technical subjects, managing meetings more effectively, and facilitating wide-ranging discussions. Through these, the Commission will be able to strengthen its ability to encourage equitable outcomes and ensure that staff can navigate diverse perspectives and build strong relationships with communities.

Offshore Wind

In the coming years, a number of offshore wind projects are on the horizon for California. As the preparation begins, the EJ Unit will work to ensure that the establishment of offshore wind, an upcoming key part of the state's clean energy future, incorporates equity for surrounding communities. The goal is to foster this incoming industry and ensure that it provides benefits for all communities, especially those who have historically borne the disproportionate environmental burden from fossil fuel production. With this in mind, the EJ Unit will work to integrate principles from the EJ Policy into the planning and permitting of these projects. By doing this early, this upcoming industry can be a model for a truly just energy transition.

Interns & Fellows

In the coming year, the EJ Unit will be reinforcing its partnerships with young students interested in coastal and environmental justice issues. This will be done through the provision of meaningful opportunities for these students to engage directly with the Commission's work through internships or fellowships, gaining hands-on experience in policy implementation, local engagement, and coastal planning. In addition, the EJ Unit will work to reach potential students that may normally lack access to unique opportunities to work with state agencies, who can bring fresh ideas and perspectives while building their own expertise. This will serve as a vital pipeline for developing the next generation of environmental justice leaders, ensuring that young people from diverse backgrounds have the chance to contribute to and shape the future of coastal work.

Partnerships with schools

The EJ Unit also looks forward to deepening relationships with academic institutions by supporting graduate students in research endeavors. There are numerous research questions that can shed light on the effectiveness of the Commission's work, highlight opportunities for improvement, and identify new approaches to advance environmental justice in coastal decision-making, and this could be studied in depth through collaboration with students on graduate projects. These partnerships not only provide valuable insights but also help foster the next generation of scholars who are committed to advancing coastal equity. Through this, students gain meaningful experience and are better prepared to make substantial contributions to coastal work.

Increasing Public Participation

The EJ Unit will continue to place emphasis on strengthening public participation, particularly by ensuring that the communities most impacted by environmental justice concerns have the tools and knowledge needed to engage in the Commission's hearing process. This work will include developing outreach strategies that clarify the hearing process, explain how decisions are made, and provide clear guidance on how to effectively participate. By prioritizing these lessons towards those in EJ communities, the EJ Unit aims to create more equitable opportunities for residents to share their perspectives and influence outcomes that directly affect their coastal communities. This effort will not only elevate voices in decision-making but also build trust and stronger partnerships between the Commission and the public it serves.

Child's Play | Cardiff State Beach | Nicholas Paoni

COAST FOR ALL

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION