

An aerial photograph of a coastal region. The top half shows green, forested mountains. Below the mountains is a city with a grid street pattern. The city meets the ocean at a sandy beach. The ocean is a deep blue. The text 'California's Coastal Zone' is overlaid in large white letters.

California's Coastal Zone

California Coastal Commission

This slide presentation is intended to provide general information only and is not intended to provide any particular guidance for consideration of individual permits



CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
STATEWIDE PLANNING UNIT

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ZONE BOUNDARY - SLIDE # 1

Acknowledgement

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The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Photo: Amanda Scarski



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What is the Coastal Zone?

The Coastal Zone is a legislatively-defined geographic region that establishes the area regulated under the Coastal Act, encompassing both land and water areas along the length of the California coastline from the Oregon border to the Mexico border.



California “Coastal Zone” Defined:

Per Coastal Act Section 30103, the “Coastal zone” is defined as...

“... the land and water area of the State of California from the Oregon border to the border of the Republic of Mexico, specified on maps [adopted by the State legislature]..., extending seaward to the state’s outer limit of jurisdiction, including all offshore islands, and extending inland generally 1,000 yards from the mean high tide line of the sea.

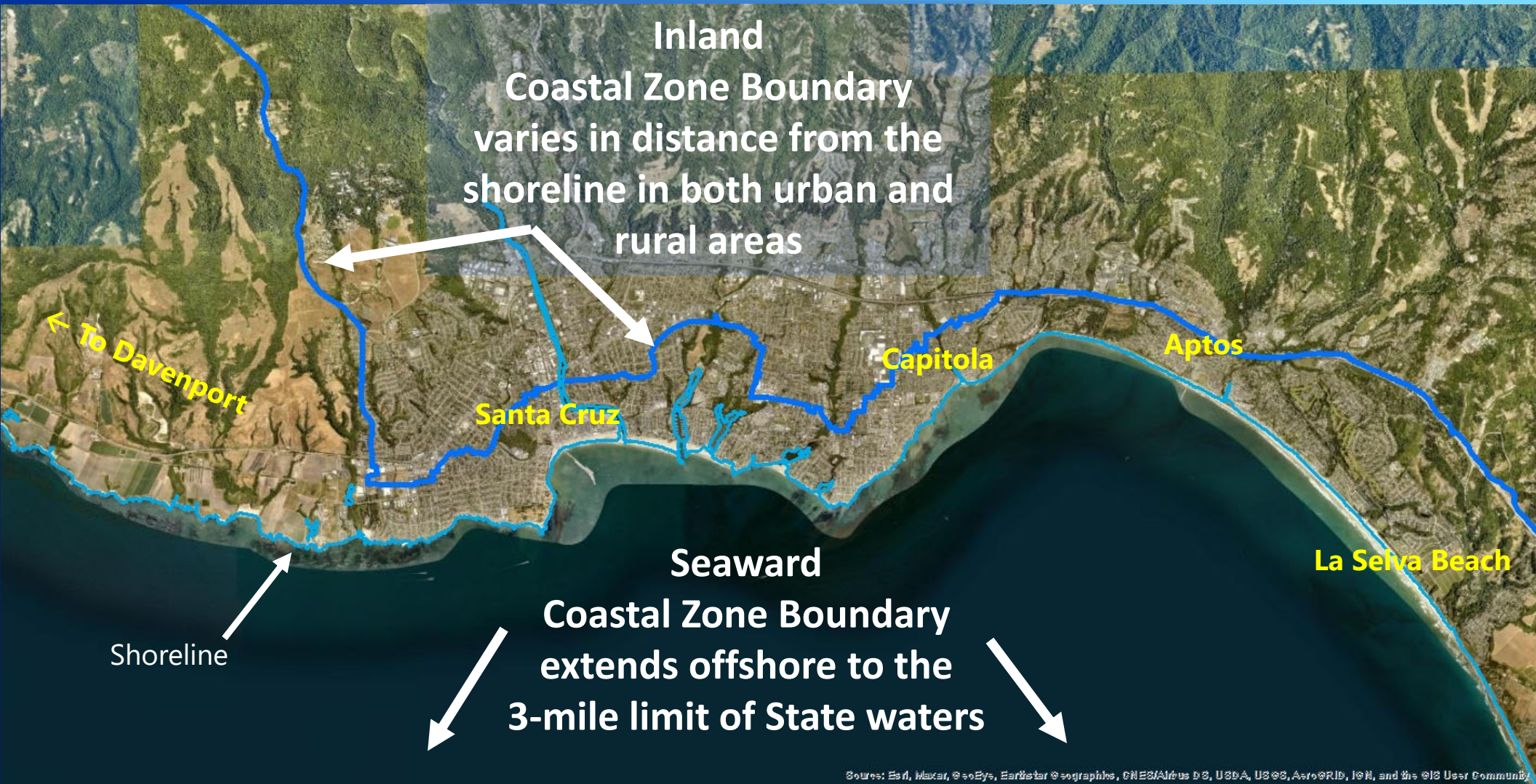
In significant coastal estuarine, habitat, and recreational areas it extends inland to the first major ridgeline paralleling the sea or five miles from the mean high tide line of the sea, whichever is less, and

in developed urban areas the zone generally extends inland less than 1,000 yards.

The coastal zone does not include the area of jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission..., nor any area contiguous thereto..., including any [waterways] flowing into such area.”

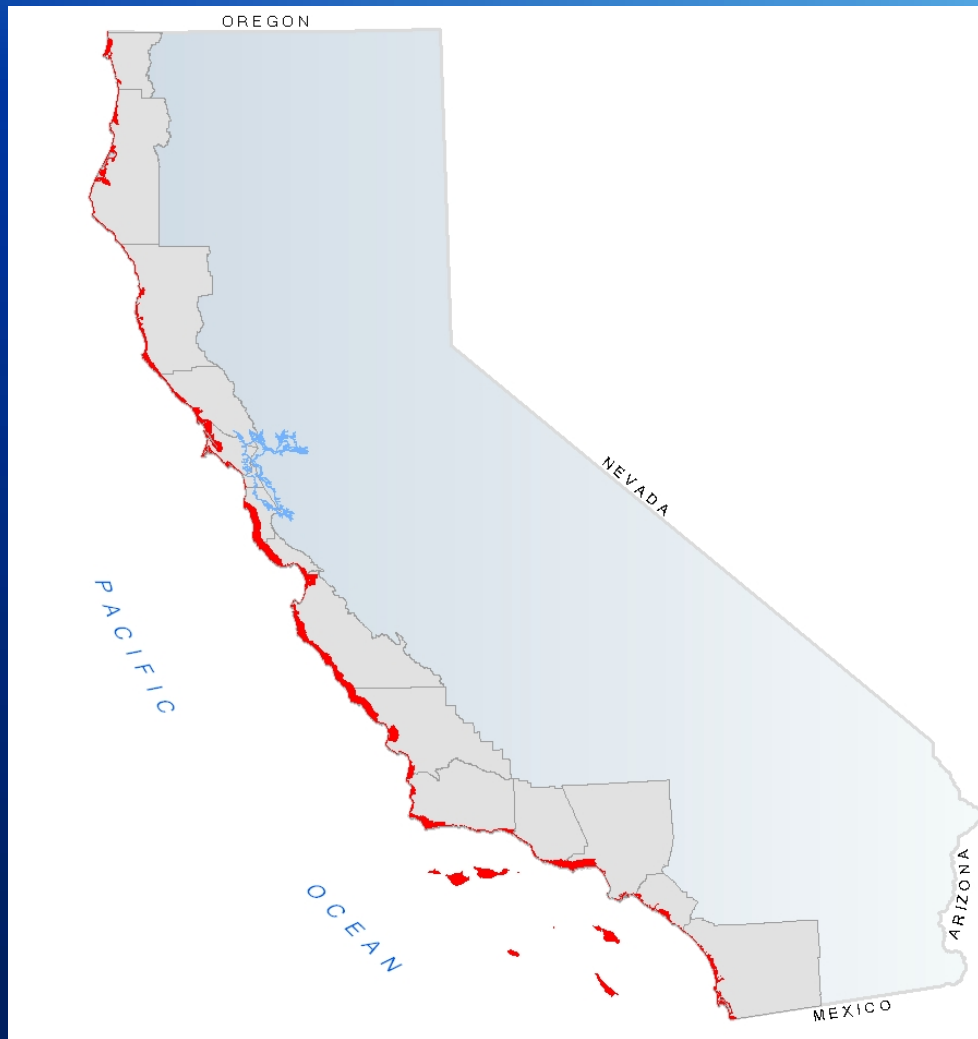


Where is the Coastal Zone?



Land Portion of Coastal Zone Statewide

Land
portion of
Coastal
Zone
shown in
red in the
15 coastal
counties



Coastal Counties

Del Norte

Humboldt

Mendocino

Sonoma

Marin

City/Co of San Francisco

San Mateo

Santa Cruz

Monterey

San Luis Obispo

Santa Barbara

Ventura

Los Angeles

Orange

San Diego



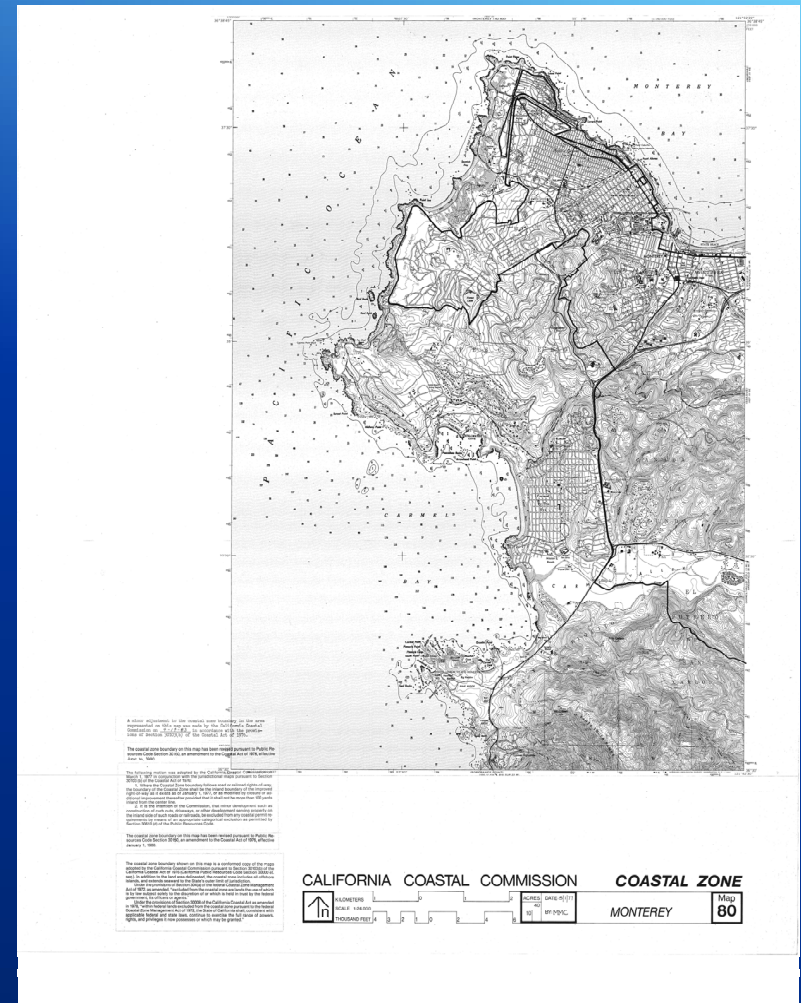
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Official Coastal Zone Boundary Maps

As required by Coastal Act section 30103(b), in March 1977 the Coastal Commission adopted a set of one hundred sixty-one 1: 24,000 scale maps (1 inch = 2,000 feet) that serve as the authoritative maps of the landward portion of the Coastal Zone.

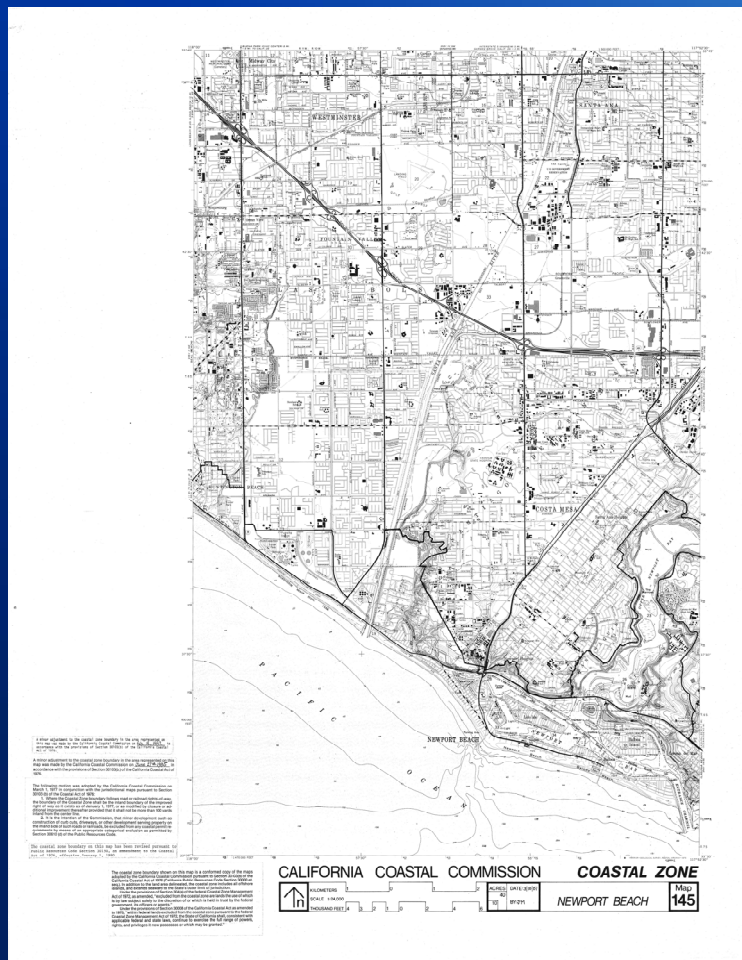
Attorney General opinion 79-1108 (63 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.107) confirmed that the set of 161 maps as amended, rather than the generalized language in the Coastal Act, defines the geographic extent of the Coastal Zone.

Example of Official CZB Maps
CZB Map #80 – Monterey Peninsula

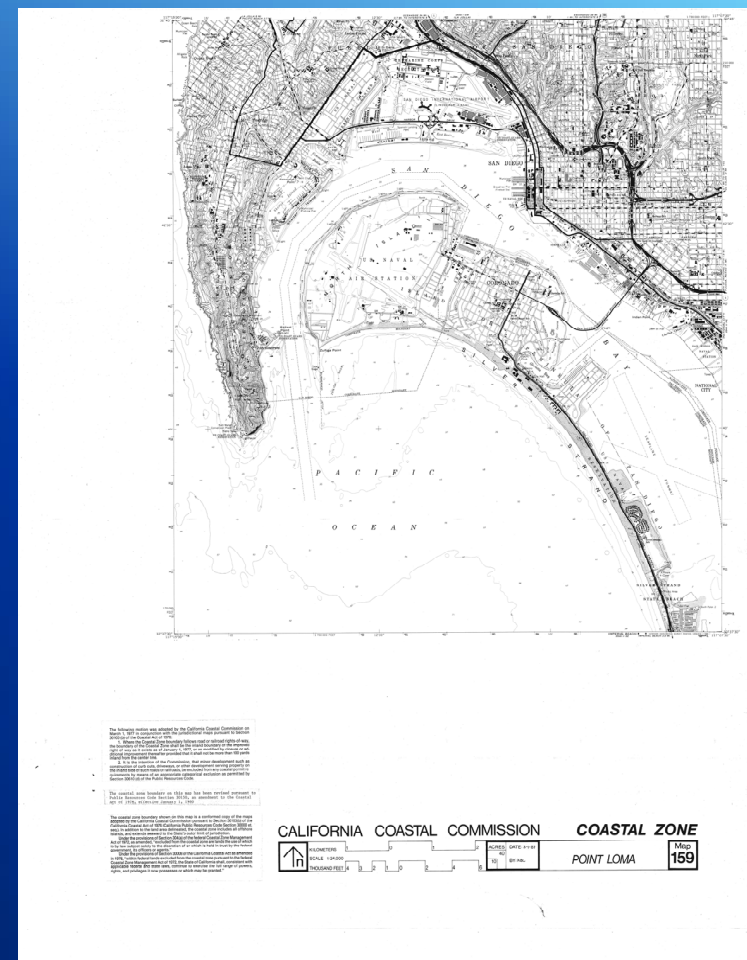


More Examples of Official CZB Maps

CZB Map #145 – Newport Harbor



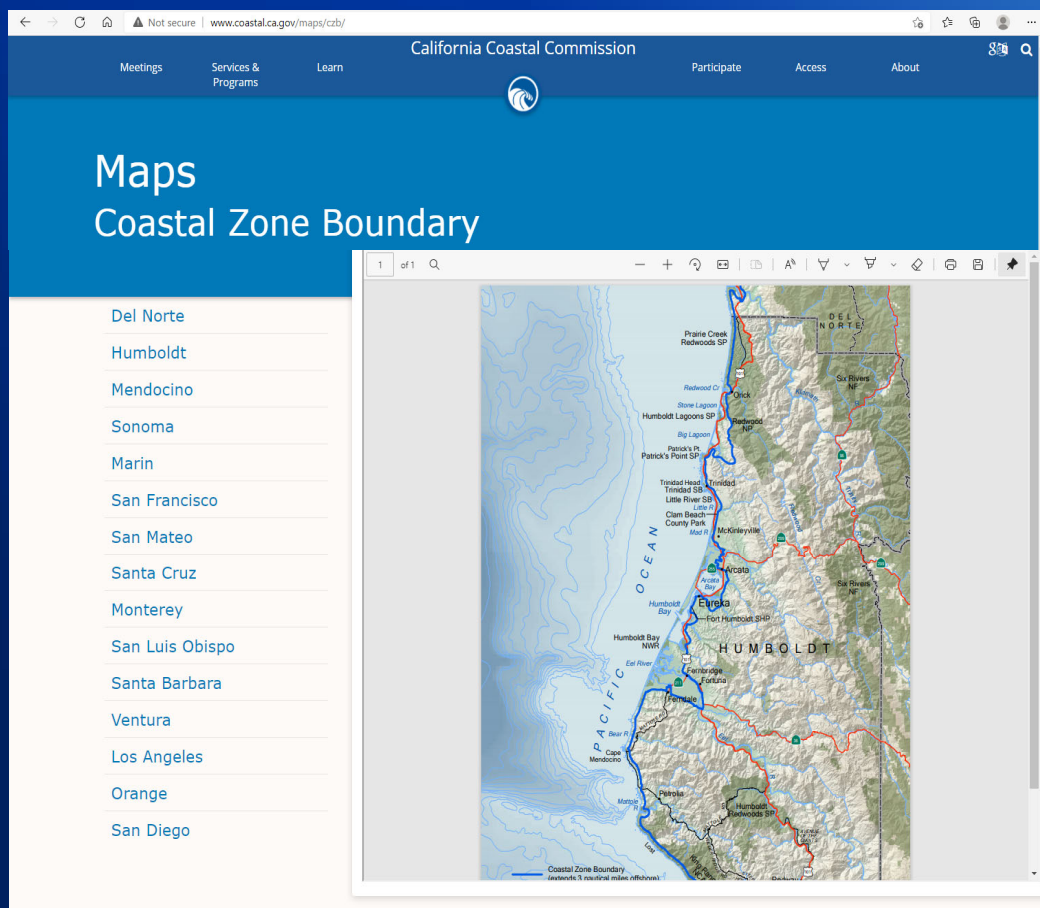
CZB Map #159 – Point Loma



Digital Coastal Zone Maps

Digital maps showing the generalized coastal zone boundary can be found on the Commission's website, at:

<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/maps/czb/>



Limitations of Use:

The boundary depicted on these digital maps was digitized from the official 1:24,000 scale Coastal Zone Boundary maps, however, the digital maps have not been adopted by the Commission, and do not supersede the official version of the CZB maps adopted in March 1977 and subsequently amended from time to time.

The data on these online digital maps does not represent "survey" accuracy information and may not eliminate the need for a formal boundary determination.

For boundary determination inquiries, please contact the Commission's Mapping Unit or the District planner for your area of interest.



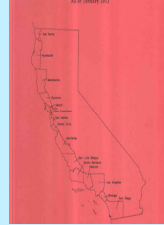


Looking for more Resources ?

Photo: "Fluid Motion," San Diego, by Ed Campbell



Resources



Coastal Act Policies online on
California Legislative Information
website



California Coastal Commission
Regs - online on Westlaw
California Code of Regulations



For the Coastal Commission's
mapping website, go to:
<https://www.coastal.ca.gov/maps/>



For more information on the
California Coastal Commission,
go to:
<https://www.coastal.ca.gov/>



Point Reyes National Seashore
Photo: Thomas H. Mikkelsen

