

Coastal Currently December 2024



Highlights from the California Coastal Commission's monthly meetings

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Kate Huckelbridge [updated](#) the Commission on recent agency activities, including:

- Todd Holmes, an oral historian at UC Berkeley recently completed a [film documentary](#) on the campaign to pass Proposition 20, the ballot initiative that created the Coastal Commission in 1972.
- Coastal Commission staff participated in a public workshop in November hosted by Grassroot Institute on coastal land use planning in Mendocino County, which included discussions on adapting to threats from drought and sea level rise.
- Coastal Commission staff, in collaboration with NOAA, Point Blue Conservation Science and USGS, organized an all-day workshop in October focused on nature-based solutions to coastal transportation projects.
- The Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup, which includes staff from the Coastal Commission as well as other state and federal agencies, held a kickoff meeting in November after an extended hiatus.
- Coastal Commission staff released its most recent Workload Report, detailing among other things, key trends in the approval of Coastal Development Permits and Local Coastal Programs.

Election of Officers

Commissioners elected Santa Cruz Supervisor Justin Cummings as chair and Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre as vice chair of the agency's [12 voting-member board](#).

Briefings

Coastal Commission staff provided an [update](#) on the agency's [2021 – 2025 Strategic Plan](#), which provides a framework on goals, objectives and actions guiding the agency's work.

The Coastal Commission Public Education Program presented its [2024 Annual Report](#), highlighting the success of the 40th annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, Boating Clean and Green's Dockwalker Program, Kids' Ocean Day and the growing demand for Whale Tail Grant assistance from underserved communities.

Commission staff provided an informational update on efforts to address the sewage crisis impacting the Tijuana River Valley in San Diego County.

Sea Level Rise

The Coastal Commission [found](#) that a proposal to build a more than 7,500 square-foot single family home and garage on Beach Road in Dana Point raised substantial issues with the City's Local Coastal Program. The commission will consider the project at future hearing based largely on concerns about coastal flooding, erosion and other shoreline hazards.

The Coastal Commission [found](#) that a proposed demolition and replacement of a beachfront duplex with a single-family home and accessory dwelling unit in Encinitas raised substantial issues with the City's Local Coastal Program. The Commission will consider the project at a future hearing, including the proposed development's safety from sea level rise and coastal hazards.

The Coastal Commission [found](#) that a proposed demolition and replacement of a beachfront home in Encinitas, including the construction of a deck over a bluff edge safety setback, raised substantial issues with the City's Local Coastal Program. The Commission will consider the project at a future hearing assessing sea level rise, flooding and geologic stability.

Enforcement

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) cease and desist and restoration orders, as well as a \$500,000 administrative penalty against HMBAP, LLC for unpermitted grading, habitat destruction and impacts to a public hiking trail in Pacific Palisades adjacent Topanga State Park. The alleged violator agreed to the fine and a full restoration of the site, as well as the transferring a portion of the land to a nonprofit or public agency for environmental protection.

Public Access

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the closure of the Upper Great Highway in San Francisco to vehicle traffic, in accordance with the recently approved Proposition K. The project includes dune restoration, pedestrian safety upgrades and a protected bike lane along Sloat Boulevard.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the renovation of a playground, basketball court and boat launch ramp, as well as the installation of ADA compliant sidewalks and parking spaces at Mission Bay Park in San Diego.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the replacement of the two-lane Camino Del Mar bridge over the San Dieguito River in the City of Del Mar, including new bike lanes and sidewalks, as well as pedestrian overlooks and trail connections.

The Coastal Commission [reauthorized](#) continued periodic dredging of Agua Hedionda Lagoon by Channelside Water Resources LP and subsequent placement of the removed sand on beaches in the City of Carlsbad.

Housing

The Coastal Commission [cleared the way](#) for a 120-unit affordable housing project known as the Venice Dell. The agency worked closely with the developer and the City of Los Angeles to preserve public coastal access infrastructure, including the only small craft boat launch accessing the Venice canal system.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) amendments to the City of Coronado's Local Coastal Plan to encourage affordable accessory dwelling units and multifamily housing by, among other things, eliminating parking requirements and offering flexible design standards.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) requested changes to Santa Barbara County's Local Coastal Program to streamline the approval of housing projects under the state's density bonus law.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) amendments to the City of Dana Point's Local Coastal Program to make it easier to build manufactured homes in existing single-family neighborhoods, among other changes.

The Coastal Commission [cleared the way](#) for the construction of 42 homes as well as public trail improvements in the City of Encinitas.

*All actions taken at the Coastal Commission's [public hearing](#) in Newport Beach on Dec. 11 to 13, 2024.

**Banner photo: Sea Nettles off Monterey Municipal Wharf by Kent Van Vuren, [First Place Winner](#) 2024 California Ocean & Coastal Amateur Photography Contest.

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