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March 15, 2024

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Coastal Commission approves housing and transit streamlining, environmental and cultural protection plan for Morro Bay

Sacramento — The California Coastal Commission unanimously approved on Friday an historic update to the city of Morro Bay’s Local Coastal Program (LCP). The blueprint provides specific guidance on how new development shall be designed and sited to protect public access, open space and cultural resources in compliance with the state Coastal Act. The commission approved the city’s proposed changes with no additional changes.

“Morro Bay deserves kudos for adopting such a progressive vision for their city,” said Santa Cruz County Supervisor Justin Cummings, who also serves on the commission. “This comprehensive update is a complete overhaul of their previous plan and sets the stage for building more affordable housing, improving transportation options, protecting the city’s greenbelt and respecting cultural resources while adapting to sea level rise.”

Morro Bay’s last major LCP amendment was approved in 1997. The current update incorporates changes in state housing law, including density bonuses, accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and SB 9 lot splits. It also improves transportation policies and reflects the best available science regarding climate change. It was supported in part by Coastal Commission grant funding through the commission’s Local Government Assistance Grant program.

“Morro Bay has been a great partner throughout this process,” said Executive Director Kate Huckelbridge. “This is a great example of what can be accomplished when local governments and the commission work together.”

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Staff Report: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2024/3/F13a/F13a-3-2024-report.pdf>