

Coastal Currently November 2024



Highlights from the California Coastal Commission's monthly meetings

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Kate Huckelbridge [updated](#) the [15-member board](#) on staff activities since the October meeting, including:

- The Coastal Commission awarded the city of Ventura nearly \$500,000 to update its Coastal Land Use Plan to address sea level rise and other priorities.
- Commission staff attended the California State Leadership Forum in Sacramento.
- Commission staff joined the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and other interagency partners for a site tour of the proposed Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Marine Terminal.
- Commission staff attended the Coastal Resilience Summit at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego.
- Commission staff announced the [winners](#) of the 25th annual California Ocean and Coastal Amateur Photography Contest.
- The Coastal Commission has expanded its [Spanish Program](#) to further the agency's goal of promoting environmental justice.

Briefings

Commission staff provided an [update](#) on efforts to address the sewage crisis impacting the Tijuana River Valley in San Diego County, including sending a [letter](#) to President Joe Biden urging increased federal action and requesting that the President declare an official state of emergency.

Commission enforcement staff provided an [update](#) on an Executive Director Cease and Desist Order issued against Sable Offshore Corp. that directed the company to restore several different coastal sites that have been damaged by unpermitted construction work on oil pipelines in Santa Barbara County. The order also directed Sable to apply for a Coastal Development Permit for any future work related to replacing or repairing the oil pipelines along the coast. ([video](#))

Housing

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the conversion of an attached garage into an accessory dwelling unit in Hermosa Beach.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the demolition and replacement of a duplex in Hermosa Beach, requiring that the three-story replacement structure maintain at least two separate residential units to preserve housing density.

The Coastal Commission [cleared the way](#) for the conversion of a commercial structure into a five-unit residential building in Point Reyes Station in Marin County, including two deed-restricted affordable units.

Fisheries

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the restarting of a shellfish seed cultivation operation run by Mad River Slough Shellfish Nursery in Humboldt Bay.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) two restoration projects for southern steelhead trout and other species in Maria Ygnacio Creek in Santa Barbara and Elk Creek in Del Norte counties.

Sea Level Rise

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a significant update to its Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance, addressing environmental justice and the current best available science. The updated document will help coastal cities and counties prepare sea level rise policies for their Local Coastal Programs, as required by [Senate Bill 272](#) (Laird, 2023).

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the temporary use of sandbags for erosion protection at UC Santa Barbara's Campus Point Beach, which includes a segment of the California Coastal Trail.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a long-envisioned update to Sonoma County's Coastal Land Use Plan to address numerous issues from preservation of wildlife habitat and agricultural resources to coastal erosion and other impacts related to rising seas. ([video](#))

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the phased closure of the southern end of the Great Highway between Sloat and Skyline boulevards in San Francisco, as well as coastal armoring to protect a wastewater pipeline and plant. The project includes, among other things, a new beach-access stairway, as well as a habitat and dune management plan. ([video](#))

Transportation

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the replacement of the Santa Monica Pier Bridge to address safety issues and improve pedestrian access.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a Caltrans multi-modal transportation project along 7.3 miles of Highway 1 in San Mateo County near Half Moon Bay. The project includes repaving the highway and adding new bike lanes, pedestrian crosswalks and bus stops.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the reconstruction of the deteriorating Lagunitas Creek Bridge in Marin County, including the addition of cycling and pedestrian lanes, as well as habitat and trail restoration.

Public Access

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a temporary low-cost paid parking program at the Harbor Cove Beach parking lot in Ventura County, including a parking study to track occupancy rates.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the creation of the first-ever public trail system in the Estero Americano Coast Preserve in Sonoma County, including the addition of a public restroom.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the construction of a new 40-foot long public staircase at Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve in San Diego.

**All actions taken at the Coastal Commission's [public hearing](#) in San Francisco on Nov. 13 to 15, 2024.*

***Banner photo by Annick Loomis of Huntington Beach submitted for the 2024 [California Ocean & Coastal Amateur Photography Contest](#).*

Sign up for Coastal Currently [here!](#)