

# Coastal Currently October 2024



## Highlights from the California Coastal Commission's monthly meetings

### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Kate Huckelbridge updated the commission on staff activities since the September hearing ([video](#)):

- Coastal Cleanup Day celebrated its [40th anniversary](#), drawing more than 40,000 volunteers to hundreds of locations across nearly every county in the state. More than 315,000 pounds of trash and recyclables were collected.
- The Coastal Commission was recognized for "accelerating project delivery" as part of a multiagency team that received the Federal Highway Administration Environmental Excellence Award for the Caltrans Fish Passage Program.
- The San Dieguito Lagoon Wetland Restoration Project was [completed](#) in September, restoring 84 acres of wetland habitat and constructing a new pedestrian trail.
- The Capitola Wharf Grand Reopening took place in September, featuring keynote speakers state Sen. John Laird and State Coastal Conservancy Executive Officer Amy Hutzel. The enhanced wharf is the culmination of several decades of work, featuring new restrooms, benches and bike racks.

### Briefings

The California State Lands Commission updated the commission and the public on proposed increases to mooring rates in Newport Harbor. ([video](#))

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provided a status update on the ongoing efforts to designate the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the Central Coast.

The commission approved grant funding to help the cities of Monterey and Morro Bay update their Local Coastal Programs.

Staff provided an update on the environmental impacts of the Tijuana River sewage crisis impacting Imperial Beach in southern San Diego County. ([video](#))

### Public Access

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a temporary rock revetment to protect campsites at San Elijo State Beach Campground for five years while developing a longer-range plan. ([video](#))

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a dredging and sand replenishment project in Newport Beach.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a 10-year sand replenishment plan in San Clemente.

### SpaceX

The Coastal Commission [objected](#) to a proposal by the U.S. Space Force to increase rocket launches from 36 to 50 at Vandenberg Space Force Base in Santa Barbara County.

### Habitat

The Coastal Commission [required](#) that a Southern California Gas Company project to replace pipelines in Goleta, Santa Barbara County, also include wetland restoration.

### Housing

The Coastal Commission [required](#) the addition of an accessory dwelling unit to a duplex project in San Clemente. ([video](#))

The Coastal Commission [cleared](#) the way for at least eight new housing units in Cayucos, San Luis Obispo County.

### Wildfire Resilience

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a wildfire resilience project to protect forest health in Tomales Bay State Park.

### Transportation

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a Caltrans project on Highway 101 through Pismo Beach and Shell Beach in San Luis Obispo County, including a part-time travel lane, electric vehicle charging stations and a mobility hub to serve transit and bicycle riders.

### Hazard Planning

The Coastal Commission [required](#) a proposal for a new oceanfront home in Dana Point on Beach Road to address future flooding and erosion impacts, including waiving the right to shoreline armoring and including provisions to remove or relocate structures when they become unsafe due to storm surges, landslides or elevated groundwater levels. ([video](#))

*\*All actions taken at the Coastal Commission's [public hearing](#) in San Diego on Oct. 9 to 11, 2024.*

*\*\*Banner photo by Bill Bouton [submitted](#) for 2011 California Ocean & Coastal Amateur Photography Contest.*