



Highlights from the California Coastal Commission's monthly meetings

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Kate Huckelbridge and other staff provided an [update](#) on recent agency activities, including:

- Huckelbridge approved a \$500,000 grant to the city of Redondo Beach to update its sea level rise vulnerability assessment and develop policies around resiliency.
- Huckelbridge approved a \$500,000 grant to the city of Half Moon Bay to update its implementation plan to address issues of climate change, sea level rise and environmental justice, as well as to incorporate new state laws around housing.
- Staff presented an update on the agency's budget, including a summary of funding history and projections.
- Staff presented at the League of California Cities quarterly forum in July on the requirement of SB 272 (Laird), which requires local governments to plan for sea level rise.
- Huckelbridge acknowledged the commission's longest tenured employee, Public Access Manager Linda Locklin, who has worked at the agency for 48 years.

Public Access

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a 5-year permit for the Pacific Airshow in Huntington Beach, including conditions to ensure members of the public can reach the shoreline without having to purchase a ticket. The permit also requires the submission of annual monitoring reports on the environmental impacts in the nearby Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) Monterey County's plan for permitting short-term vacation rentals along the coast. The county developed the new regulations over the last decade, a process that included significant public and stakeholder input.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a 10-year plan to dredge multiple channels, bays and harbors in the city of Long Beach and place recovered sand on Alamitos, Cherry and Peninsula beaches.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a remodel project at the Long Beach Yacht Club, which includes a suite of conditions to protect public access in Alamitos Bay.

The Coastal Commission [cleared the way](#) for the creation of a permanent pedestrian plaza in the city of Laguna Beach, including the closure of car traffic along the lower section of Forest Avenue.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the construction of a 200-foot-long wheelchair-accessible path and viewing pad on the sand near the famed Wedge surf break in Newport Beach.

The Coastal Commission [awarded](#) six Whale Tail Grants totaling nearly \$360,000. Programs that received funding included Kids' Ocean Day School Programs, Justice Outside and Tides Marine Education Project Grow, as well as adopt-a-beach programs run by Heal the Bay, I Love a Clean San Diego and Save Our Shores.

Transportation

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a project by the California Department of Transportation to construct a retaining wall along Highway 1 in southern Big Sur in Monterey County, including related habitat restoration. The stretch of road has been repeatedly impacted by landslides, including the Regent's Slide in 2024.

The Coastal Commission [cleared the way](#) for the construction of a new fire station in the city of Laguna Beach, including the widening of a public street and sidewalk improvements.

Housing

The Coastal Commission [cleared the way](#) for the construction of a new two-story home on a vacant property in the city of Half Moon Bay. The commission rejected an appeal of the locally approved project, finding that flood concerns related to stormwater runoff had been properly addressed.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the remodel of a single-family home in Marin County, including the addition of a new accessory dwelling unit. The permit includes conditions to protect the ADU from future sea level rise.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) changes to the city of Santa Cruz's coastal plan to promote higher density residential and commercial development downtown. The changes are also aimed at improving bicycle and pedestrian circulation, as well as promoting affordable housing.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) land-use and zoning changes in the city of Ranch Palos Verdes to allow for denser housing developments.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a new three-story mixed-use housing development in the Venice neighborhood of the city of Los Angeles, including 16 units, three of which will be set aside for very low-income residents. The project also includes 26 spaces for bicycle parking.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) land-use and zoning changes in the city of Carlsbad to increase the allowable residential densities and encourage more housing development.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the demolition of a single family home in the city of San Diego and replacement with a new residence and accessory dwelling unit.

Habitat

The Coastal Commission [objected](#) to an increase of SpaceX rocket launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base in Santa Barbara County. The agency found that most of the launches in question do not qualify as a federal government activity despite arguments to the contrary by the U.S. Department of the Air Force.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the second phase of a wetland restoration at the Southern Synergy Oil Field in the city of Long Beach. The project includes tidal channel creation and re-establishment of wetlands as well as transitional and upland habitats.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a project in the Eel River delta in Humboldt County to restore wetlands and slough channels as well as to enhance pasture lands and remove levees and other structures.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) vegetation treatments on more than 88,000 acres of land within the Coastal Zone of San Luis Obispo County. The project is aimed at preventing wildfire and promoting ecological restoration.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) an annual fireworks show in the city of Capitola through 2027. The city is required to clean up all fireworks-related debris and submit a report to commission staff documenting such activities.

*All actions taken at the Coastal Commission's [public hearing](#) in Calabasas on Aug. 13 to 15 ([videos](#))

**Banner photo by Dante Vasco, submitted for the [2017 California Ocean & Coastal Amateur Photography Contest](#).

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