

# Coastal Currently September 2025



*Highlights from the California Coastal Commission's monthly public hearings*

## Executive Director's Report

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

- Huckelbridge approved a \$499,000 grant to the city of Huntington Beach to plan for sea level rise, including to update its Local Coastal Program, Coastal Resiliency Plan and Floodplain Ordinance.
- Commission staff recently met with staff at the city of San Diego's Parks and Recreation Department to discuss strategies for reducing harassment of sea lions at La Jolla Cove. City staff have recently increased the presence of rangers on weekends and holidays and plan to coordinate with tour bus operators on educating the public on staying away from the marine mammals.
- The agency issued an emergency permit waiver to the city of San Diego to renovate a lifeguard station impacted by corrosion. The structure is located on Ocean Front Walk in Mission Beach.
- The [Estero Americano Coastal Preserve Trails](#) network in Sonoma County recently celebrated a soft opening. Trail improvements at the preserve spearheaded by the Wildland Conservancy were [approved](#) by the commission in November 2024.
- Two newly improved public access stairways were recently opened, including the [Surfers Beach Stairway](#) in Half Moon Bay and [Deer Creek Beach Stairway](#) in Malibu. Both projects were partnerships with Caltrans the commission recently approved.

## Housing

The Coastal Commission [cleared the way](#) for seven new apartment buildings in the city of Fort Bragg, which include designated affordable housing units.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) changes to the city of Trinidad's Local Coastal Program to allow for modified building requirements when accommodating people with disabilities. For example, setback requirements could be reduced for the construction of wheelchair access ramps.

The Coastal Commission [cleared the way](#) for 10 new homes in the city of Huntington Beach, four of which will include accessory dwelling units.

## Environment

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the construction of a new wastewater pumping plant in the Venice neighborhood of the city of Los Angeles. The project included habitat restoration, a bioswale to mitigate impacts from stormwater runoff and soil remediation.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the creation of dune habitat along a three-mile stretch of coastline in the city of Santa Monica. The living shoreline project includes native plants and public access paths. The dune system is expected to help retain sand and buffer inland areas from storm surges and sea level rise.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the repair and maintenance of the Chevron Terminal dock in Humboldt Bay, requiring a suite of best management practices related to barge operations, debris capture and the protection of eelgrass and mudflats.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the removal of three inactive oil and natural gas pipelines that extend into state waters from the Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facility, which is slated for decommissioning. The project is subject to several permit conditions, including that all work will be temporarily suspended if marine mammals are seen within 500 feet of the work site.

## Tribal

The Coastal Commission [voted to review](#) a project to overhaul Axel Lindgren Memorial Trail in the city of Trinidad. The commission agreed with the Tsurai Ancestral Society that proper tribal consultation had not taken place. Final action on the project will be considered at a later date.

The Coastal Commission [cleared the way](#) for a two-story mixed-use development in San Luis Obispo County. The project includes two motel units and one residential unit on a vacant parcel.

\*All actions were taken at the Coastal Commission's [public hearing](#) in Fort Bragg on Sept. 10 to 12, 2025.

\*\*Banner photo by Paul Priebe, submitted for the [2022 California Ocean & Coastal Amateur Photography Contest](#).

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