

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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## **Coastal Commission celebrates environmental justice leader after more than a decade of service**

Effie Turnbull Sanders formally announced Thursday that she's decided to step down from her role as Commissioner on the California Coastal Commission. Her decision was motivated by a desire to allow others to serve on the agency's decision-making panel.

"Serving on the commission has been the honor of my life," she said. "I'm deeply grateful to Governor Gavin Newsom, my colleagues, commission staff and most importantly the coastal communities and advocates who have inspired me every step of the way."

Turnbull Sanders' last day on the commission will be Wednesday, Oct. 8 at the upcoming public hearing in Redondo Beach.

"It has been particularly rewarding to help steward the passage of our environmental justice policy, which makes clear that coastal protection is inseparable from access, equity and the fair treatment of communities of color and California's First Nations," she said.

As an attorney and community leader based in Los Angeles, Turnbull Sanders was first appointed to the Coastal Commission in 2014 by then-Governor Jerry Brown.

"Effie has been a transformational leader on the Coastal Commission," said California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot. "For over a decade, Effie's led the way to ensure that all Californians can access our extraordinary coast and that communities impacted by our decisions have a voice at the Commission. She's helped us navigate complex issues with vision, collaboration, and remarkable commitment. Our state is a better place thanks to Effie's public service."

The principles of environmental justice were enshrined in the state Coastal Act in 2016, prioritizing the “fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, income and national origins.” Under the leadership of Turnbull Sanders, the Coastal Commission adopted its official environmental justice policy in 2019.

“We are forever grateful to Effie for her leadership integrating environmental justice into the commission’s work,” said Coastal Commission Executive Director Kate Huckelbridge. “I am proud to have worked alongside her. She will be dearly missed.”

With a law degree from UCLA, Turnbull Sanders started her career as a presidential appointee with the United States Commission on Civil Rights. As an attorney, she represented both private and public sector clients in the areas of land use, transactional law and general litigation.

Turnbull Sanders also served as a board member of the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters and was the executive director of the South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone. Since 2020, Turnbull Sanders has served as the vice president of civic engagement at the University of Southern California.

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