

Coastal Currently

April 2026



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:

- The Coastal Commission [awarded](#) \$2 million in Whale Tail grants to [47 recipients](#), including schools, nonprofits and tribes.
- The Coastal Commission updated its popular online map that helps the public find coastal access points and other amenities. It can be found at [YourCoast.org](#).
- Coastal Commission Access Program Manager Linda Lockin spoke at the International Coastal Access Symposium.
- Coastal Commission staff joined the Port of San Diego for a public event celebrating improvements to Pepper Park in National City, including a new waterfront playground, splash pad and increased public access.
- The Coastal Commission announced the results of its [2026 Coastal Art and Poetry Contest](#), which received nearly 2,200 entries from students across the state.
- The Coastal Commission released its most recent Public Access Spotlight video: [Santa Cruz Coastal Campus and De Anza Beach Trails](#). The video is also available in [Spanish](#).

Environment

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a plan by SeaWorld San Diego to conduct up to 110 aerial light shows using drones. The yearlong pilot program will provide new information about how to reduce the environmental impacts of fireworks displays over Mission Bay.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a drone light show on the Santa Monica Pier in June to celebrate the FIFA World Cup. Permit conditions include protection for water quality as well as public access, including for bicycle and pedestrian routes along the shoreline.

The Coastal Commission [upheld](#) a staff determination that the Big Bang on the Bay event in Long Beach must abide by permit conditions agreed to in 2025 that restrict the use of fireworks to protect water quality and nesting birds.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the restoration of habitat at Point Saint George in Del Norte County for the federally endangered western lily through the removal of woody vegetation and low-intensity prescribed burning.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) public access improvements and restoration of riparian vegetation along the Smith River in Del Norte County.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) restoration efforts to improve water quality and aquatic habitat at the Elk River Estuary in the city of Eureka. The project includes public access amenities, including upgraded trails, overlooks and non-motorized boat launches.

Housing

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) height and zoning changes in San Francisco to accommodate up to 1,200 new housing units.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) land use and zoning changes in the city of Newport Beach to allow for increased housing development in accordance with state law.

The Coastal Commission approved permit waivers for accessory dwelling units in [Solana Beach](#), [Venice](#), [San Pedro](#), [Santa Barbara County](#) and [Seal Beach](#).

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the conversion of a five-unit apartment building in the Venice neighborhood of Los Angeles into condominiums and accessory dwelling unit.

The Coastal Commission [cleared the way](#) for the remodel of a two-story home in Pacific Grove, including the addition of a new accessory dwelling unit.

Flooding and coastal erosion

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a 10-year program to add sand to beaches in Los Angeles County, including Zuma Beach, Will Rogers State Beach, Dockweiler State Beach, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) land use changes in the city of Santa Cruz to minimize coastal hazards associated with new development through a phased adaptation approach.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) an emergency permit to remove accessory structures on a blufftop residence in San Diego threatened by erosion.

Commercial

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) rules for short term rentals in Santa Cruz County, limiting STRs to 20% of the parcels on any given block in designated areas. The county's new policy, among other things, requires signage identifying properties as STRs with operator contact information.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the demolition of a drive-in movie theater in Goleta in Santa Barbara County and the construction of an industrial warehouse, including bicycle and electric vehicle parking.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the [Statewide Strategy for the Coexistence of California Fishing Communities and Offshore Wind Energy](#).

**All actions taken at the Coastal Commission's public hearings in Gonzales on April 15, 16 and 17, 2026. (video)*

***Banner photo by Troy Kingshaven for the 2016 California Ocean & Coastal Amateur Photography Contest.*