

Coastal Currently March 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 has finalized its [2026 – 2030 Strategic Plan](#), which includes goals, objectives and actions to guide the agency's work through the end of the decade.
- The Coastal Commission released its [Key Metrics Report for 2025](#), summarizing the agency's actions on permits, appeals and LCPs.
- Staff leadership traveled to Washington D.C. for the annual meetings of the Coastal States Organization and NOAA Program Managers.
- Coastal Commission staff attended in February the California Natural Resources Agency's [Outdoors for All Convening](#) in Sacramento. The event included community groups, tribal partners, advocates and others supporting equitable access to the outdoors.
- Executive Director Huckelbridge and Coastal Conservancy Executive Officer Amy Hutzler participated in a [panel discussion](#) hosted by California Secretary of Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot, focusing on the 50th anniversaries of the Coastal Act and the State Coastal Conservancy.

Environment

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a restoration project in the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve in Huntington Beach, including removing non-native vegetation and planting fire-resistant native plant species.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) forest restoration activities to reduce wildfire risk in the Santa Cruz Mountains, including in Big Basin Redwoods State Park, Butano State Park and other areas.

Commercial

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the city of Ventura's new rules for short-term rentals, creating a comprehensive permitting and regulatory framework.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a five-year permit for the Newport Beach International Boat Show, with protections for water quality and other coastal resources.

Enforcement

The Coastal Commission [issued](#) an order to protect the endangered Pacific Pocket Mouse by limiting visitation hours at Dana Point Preserve. The Center for Natural Lands Management, which manages the preserve, agreed to the changes.

Housing

The Coastal Commission [cleared the way](#) for a new four-story apartment building in the Venice neighborhood of Los Angeles, including 19 market-rate units and six low-income units.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) changes to Santa Barbara County's Local Coastal Program to streamline the approval of housing projects.

The Coastal Commission granted permit waivers for accessory dwelling units in [Los Angeles](#) and [San Clemente](#).

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) changes to Humboldt County's Local Coastal Program to facilitate the permitting of emergency shelters to serve people struggling to secure housing.

Sea Level Rise

The Coastal Commission [adopted](#) the agency's latest guidance document on sea level rise planning, titled "Nature-Based Adaptation Strategies."

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) changes to Ventura County's Local Coastal Program to address sea level rise and other coastal hazards.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the construction of a new oceanfront home in Dana Point with requirements to address coastal hazards, flooding and water quality impacts.

**All actions taken at the Coastal Commission's [public hearings](#) in Ventura on March 11 and 12, 2026. ([video](#))*

***Banner photo by [Kathy McGaffigan](#), submitted for the [2025 California Ocean & Coastal Amateur Photography Contest](#).*