



Coastal Currently

May 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:

- Coastal Commission staff participated in the [California Bicycle Summit](#) in Sacramento to learn more about the most recent [complete street and bike lane designs](#). As part of the conference, staff provided a presentation on recently approved complete streets projects in the Coastal Zone.
- Coastal Commission staff worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Caltrans and the nonprofit Point Blue to host a workshop in Santa Cruz on [advancing natural solutions to sea level rise](#).
- The Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program partnered with [Cleaner California Coast](#) and local groups to hold two water cleanup events in Tomales Bay.
- Coastal Commission staff participated in the launch of a Caltrans effort to update the [Big Sur Coast Highway Management Plan](#), which will focus on preserving and enhancing the natural environment, highway safety and public access.
- The Coastal Commission released a new video in the agency's Public Access Spotlight series: [Terranea Discovery Trail and Beach in Rancho Palos Verdes](#).

Public access

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the repair and expansion of a rock revetment to protect public access at the Ventura Promenade, a pedestrian walkway spanning much of the city's downtown waterfront. The project includes improvements to public benches and a beach access stairway.

Environment

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a vegetation management and habitat restoration project to reduce wildfire risk at the University of California Santa Cruz.

Housing

The Coastal Commission held a [public workshop](#) to gather feedback on its draft guidance for local governments on how to simplify permitting of accessory dwelling units. The Commission prepared the guidance in coordination with the Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to [recent legislation](#). ([video](#))

The Coastal Commission [cleared the way](#) for construction of a new 448-unit multifamily housing project in Encinitas, which includes 90 units for low-income residents.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a long-range development plan amendment for the University of California Santa Barbara, which will allow for the construction of a 1,688-bed residential complex.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) zoning changes in Santa Cruz County to encourage the construction of new housing in the communities of Aptos and Live Oak.

The Coastal Commission granted permit waivers for accessory dwelling units, in [Venice](#), [Pacific Palisades](#), [San Pedro](#), [Laguna Beach](#), [San Clemente](#) and [Solana Beach](#).

Transportation

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a permit waiver for geotechnical studies conducted by Caltrans associated with the potential replacement of the Albion River Bridge on state Route 1 in Mendocino County.

**All actions taken at the Coastal Commission's [public hearings](#) in San Pedro on May 13 and 14, 2026. ([video](#))*

***Banner photo by Jean Zuo submitted for the [2023 California Ocean & Coastal Amateur Photography Contest](#).*