

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*

**Coastal Commission Selects Dr. Kate Huckelbridge to Lead Agency**

Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, 47, has been selected as the first woman to lead the California Coastal Commission in its 50-year history. She will succeed current Executive Director Jack Ainsworth, who will be retiring in February. Dr. Huckelbridge currently serves as the Commission’s Senior Deputy Director and has worked for the agency since 2009 in a number of different roles, including as a senior environmental scientist and as the Deputy Director over the Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Unit. She also served as the Tribal Liaison for the Commission.

“Dr. Huckelbridge is an exceptional environmental engineer and scientist with years of experience at the Commission,” said Commission Chair Donne Brownsey. “Given the challenges ahead for the California coast, we are confident that Dr. Huckelbridge is the right leader for these times.”

Born in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Dr. Huckelbridge completed her undergraduate studies at Northwestern University with an environmental engineering degree. After working briefly as a consultant, she went on to earn a masters and a PhD in environmental engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research focused on water quality dynamics and modeling in managed wetland systems. Since coming to the Commission, she has worked on a wide range of projects related to oil and gas development, power plants, wind energy, wetland and marine habitat restoration and mitigation, mitigation banking, and transportation, and more. In addition to her technical work, Dr. Huckelbridge served as one of the Commission’s representatives at the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, which was a two-year state agency training on advancing racial equity in California government. In her spare time, Kate enjoys hiking, kayaking, skiing, and listening to music of all kinds

