



California Coastal Commission Final Strategic Plan 2021–2025

Protecting California's Coast
for Present and Future Generations

OUR MISSION: PROTECTING & ENHANCING CALIFORNIA'S COAST

The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective inter-governmental coordination.

THE COASTAL COMMISSION'S 2021–2025 Strategic Plan provides a framework of goals, objectives, and actions to set agency priorities and guide performance for the next five years. These goals, objectives and actions are mutually supportive to provide for effective implementation of the Coastal Act and protect the coast for present and future generations.

Progress on staff implementation of the Strategic Plan will be reported to the Commission and the public on an annual basis during the five-year timeframe. Evaluation criteria are part of each goal to help the Commission and the public better understand how the Commission's progress on the plan will be evaluated and reported.

The 2021–2025 Strategic Plan accounts for the dynamic imperatives of climate change and sea level rise (Goal 4), which are already adversely affecting marine and terrestrial ecosystems and threatening the safety and economic health of our coastal communities. Building resilient communities while preserving public beaches and open space in the

face of climate change is essential if the coast is to endure as a vital part of California's social and cultural fabric, and the coastal economy is to remain strong throughout the 21st Century and beyond.

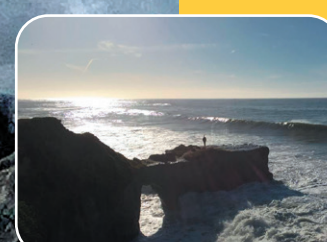
The Strategic Plan also recognizes the pressing and critical need to address historic social inequities through environmental justice principles and tribal consultation (Goal 5). While the Coastal Act is a statute grounded in the principles of public inclusion and equity, the statute's vision of coastal protection and access for all people has not been fully realized. The Commission is committed to achieving equity and environmental justice in all the work we do.

Together, a total of nine goals frame out
50 objectives with 199 specific actions

GOALS

- 1 Enhance Agency Capacity and Maintain an Effective and Diverse Workforce
- 2 Maximize Public Access and Recreation for All
- 3 Protect and Enhance Coastal Resources
- 4 Support Resilient Coastal Communities in the Face of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise
- 5 Advance Diversity, Equity, Environmental Justice, and Tribal Relations
- 6 Continue to Enhance the LCP Planning Program and Refine Implementation of the Regulatory Program
- 7 Expand and Enhance the Enforcement Program
- 8 Continue to Develop and Maintain Partnerships and Enhance Public Presence
- 9 Enhance Information Management and E-Government

2021–2025





OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- The California coast is available for all to enjoy through thousands of public access ways to and along the shoreline, a completed California Coastal Trail, a well-supported network of parks and open spaces, and a wide range of visitor-serving facilities, including lower-cost campgrounds, hostels, and hotels.
- The rich ecological diversity of the coast and ocean, including beaches, rocky shorelines, wetlands, riparian areas, and sensitive terrestrial habitats, is protected and thriving.
- Scenic rural landscapes are maintained, coastal agriculture is flourishing, cultural resources are protected, and the coastal communities and neighborhoods that attract so many visitors retain their unique character, social and economic viability.
- The California Coastal Commission works collaboratively with local governments, other agencies, and an engaged and knowledgeable public committed to coastal stewardship to support and manage environmentally-sustainable development, including assuring priority for coastal-dependent and related uses of land and water, concentrating new growth in existing urban areas, providing multi-modal public access and transportation, and promoting well-adapted, equitable, and resilient communities in the face of global climate change.
- The coast endures as a vital part of California's social and cultural fabric and the coastal and ocean economy is strong.

THE CORE VALUES OF THE COMMISSION guide its implementation of the mission and shape the norms of behavior for the Commission, its staff, and an engaged public. The Commission is committed to public service, stewardship, science/objectivity, equity, maximum public participation, excellence, rule of law, team work, integrity, problem-solving, diversity, and balance.

THE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS support the ultimate objective of effective Coastal Act implementation and the Commission's mission to protect the coast for present and future generations. Goal 1, Improving Agency Capacity, is fundamental to the success of the Commission's core programs. Consequently, even in uncertain economic times and the effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Strategic Plan's highest priorities concern securing increased funding for the agency, addressing staff salaries, succession planning, and building staff capacity as opportunities and circumstances allow. Without these actions, effective implementation will remain difficult or become unattainable.

History of the California Coastal Commission

FIFTY YEARS AGO, as the people of California saw their coast threatened by unprecedented growth and development, they had another vision for the future of California—one that would prioritize natural resources and enshrine the concept of public access. That vision was ultimately translated into Proposition 20, the Coastal Initiative, which voters passed by a wide margin in 1972. Prop 20 created the Coastal Commission and entrusted it with a bold mandate: protect and enhance California's coast for present and future generations. That mission endures today as the Coastal Act passed by the Legislature in 1976 and implemented by the Commission.

If not for the Coastal Act, the coast of California would surely be almost unrecognizable today. Californians owe an enduring debt of gratitude to the activists and policy makers of an earlier generation. Now, 50 years on, it falls to this generation to safeguard the coast for the next generation of dreamers, policy makers, public advocates, and coastal visitors and residents.

The Commission has been nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in coastal resource protection. Public support for the program remains strong. An overwhelming majority of Californians (77% in the 2019 PPIC Poll) believe coastal and ocean protection, and access to the coast, is "very important" to their quality of life.

Since 1976, the Commission and local governments have approved more than 175,000 permits for new development in the coastal zone. The State of the US Ocean and Coastal Economies Report, National Ocean Economic Program (NOEP), 2016 estimates that the coast and ocean economy contributes more than \$44 billion to the state each year. Planning for growth and development that avoids or mitigates impacts to coastal resources and maintains the community character of our unique coastal places has supported California's burgeoning coast and ocean economy while allowing its habitats to flourish, coastal agriculture lands to produce, communities to thrive and iconic scenery to endure.

Photos credits (top to bottom)

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