



# Get to Know the California Coastal Commission

## Who We Are:

The California Coastal Commission is a state agency with both staff members and a decision-making body committed to **protecting** and **enhancing** California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education and outreach, and effective intergovernmental coordination.

## What We Do:

The Commission analyzes projects and plans across the **Coastal Zone** in California for consistency with the Coastal Act. Staff prepare project findings and recommendations that are presented at **monthly public hearings** to a 12-member decision-making body, made up of appointed Commissioners from all over the state. **Public participation** is a fundamental element of the decision-making process. Members of the public are invited to submit public comment to inform the Commissioners of their perspectives.

## How to Participate:

In addition to engaging in Commission public hearings, Californians are invited to participate in the largest one-day volunteer event in the country, **California Coastal Cleanup Day**, occurring on the third Saturday in September. Check out our website to find a local clean-up in your neighborhood! Members of the public are also welcome to submit to a range of contests, including: Coastal Art & Poetry, Amateur Photography, and Climate Video Challenge.

## What is Coastal Development?

The Coastal Act defines development broadly (with a few narrow exceptions), to include not only typical land development activities such as construction of buildings, but also changes in the intensity of use of land or water, even where no construction is involved. Development within the coastal zone generally may not commence until a **coastal development permit** has been issued by either the Commission or a local government.

## Links to Tools & Resources:

California Coastal Commission  
Website



Coastal Development Permit  
Applications & Appeal Forms

