

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
 VOICE (415) 904-5200
 FAX (415) 904-5400
 TDD (415) 597-5885

**W6a**

October 7, 2014

TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Charles Lester, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, October, 2014

Significant reporting items for the month. [Strategic Plan](#) (SP) reference provided where applicable:

LCP Program Status – Orange County

The Orange County shoreline is about 43 miles long. The coastal zone area totals approximately 59 square miles of the County's 948 square miles of total land area and includes portions of the County of Orange and 10 incorporated cities.

Figure 1. Orange County Coastal Zone LCP Jurisdictions

When LCP planning first began in the early 1980s, substantial areas of the county coastal zone were unincorporated. The large southern portion of the County included several large undeveloped landholdings, such as those of the Irvine Company and the Aliso Viejo Company. The County divided their LCP into several segments for LCP planning and during the years from 1983-1989, the County certified LCPs for many of these segments (the Sunset Beach segment, the Newport Coast segment (formally known as the Irvine Coast), the South/Emerald Bay segment, the South/Aliso Viejo segment, the South/Aliso Creek Remainder segment, the South/South Laguna segment, South/Laguna Niguel segment, South/Dana Point segment, and the South/Capistrano Beach segment. LCP planning in Orange County in the 1980s included addressing major statewide issues related to public access and protection of resources, including in areas such as the Bolsa Chica wetlands, the Newport (Irvine) Coast/Crystal Cove State Park areas, and the Aliso Greenbelt lands.

Since those original certifications, numerous cities annexed county lands or areas incorporated as new cities and thus new LCPs were required to be certified for these previously unincorporated areas. Currently, there are LCPs certified for the Newport Coast, Emerald Bay and Aliso Viejo segments of the County, and for the cities of Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, and Dana Point. The LCPs for the cities of Seal Beach, Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Aliso Viejo and San Clemente are not yet certified.

The County of Orange has not updated any of its LCP segments (some of which may no longer exist or are now reduced in size as a result of incorporations.) None of the full LCPs for the cities have been comprehensively updated, although the cities of Huntington Beach and Newport Beach have comprehensively updated their LUPs and partial updates of the LCPs for Laguna Beach and Dana Point have been completed. The Commission awarded a \$90,000 FY 13-14 LCP planning grant to the City of San Clemente to complete their LCP Certification. For the second round of grant funds (FY14-15), the Coastal Commission received one application for local LCP assistance grant funds in Orange County from the City of Newport Beach, requesting \$87,540 to complete the Implementation Plan for submittal to the Coastal Commission for certification.

LCP Assistance Grants Update (SP Goal 4)

As reported in September, Commission LCP Grants awarded in January, 2014, are well underway. Also as previously reported, the second round of the LCP Assistance Grant application period closed, and staff received 16 applications for Coastal Commission funds, requesting a total of \$2,072,134. The grant applications are available on the Commission's website: <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/lcp/lcpgrantprogram.html>.

Staff conducted a joint-solicitation for applications with the Ocean Protection Council LCP Sea Level Rise Grant Program and received 18 total applications requesting over \$3.2 million. Staffs of the CCC and OPC have been coordinating during application review, as several applicants have applied to both programs to fund a LCP project. The Commission now is tentatively scheduled to consider the award of grants through a two-hearing process in November and December to facilitate coordination with the OPC grant review process. In addition, the OPC

staff has requested that the Commission administer the OPC's FY2014/2015 grant projects in coordination with the Coastal Commission LCP Assistance Grant Program. The OPC staff is recommending that the OPC approve entering into an interagency agreement to transfer administration of the grant program to the Coastal Commission, and to provide 15% of the total OPC grant funds for this second round of grants to the Coastal Commission to cover administration costs. A single grant administrator for both grant programs will allow jurisdictions that receive grants from both the OPC and the Coastal Commission to develop one work program and to execute a single contract with the Coastal Commission for both awards. This will streamline the grant execution process, reduce the administrative burden for local governments, and increase the ability of the Coastal Commission to track progress on grant implementation and monitor projects for success.

Under the revised schedule, a preliminary staff recommendation will be available in late October, for discussion at the November hearing. The Commission may choose whether to award the grants at the November, December, or later hearing.

The LCP grant review criteria, adopted by the Commission on August 14, 2013, are available here: <http://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2013/8/W31b-8-2013.pdf>.

Lower-Cost Visitor-Serving Subcommittee Meeting Held (SP 1.2.2, 1.3.4)

The Commission's informal subcommittee (Commissioners McClure and Cox) met with staff concerning a Commission workshop on lower-cost visitor-serving overnight accommodations tentatively planned for the December meeting. The workshop will consider background information, Commission implementation, and policy issues related to Coastal Act Policy 30213, which states:

Lower cost visitor and recreational facilities shall be protected, encouraged, and, where feasible, provided. Developments providing public recreational opportunities are preferred.

The commission shall not: (1) require that overnight room rentals be fixed at an amount certain for any privately owned and operated hotel, motel, or other similar visitor-serving facility located on either public or private lands; or (2) establish or approve any method for the identification of low or moderate income persons for the purpose of determining eligibility for overnight room rentals in any such facilities.

Interested members of the public can learn more or provide input by contacting Commission staff member Madeline Cavalieri at 831-427-4890 or by email: Madeline.Cavalieri@coastal.ca.gov.

Committee Hearing on Seawater Desalination (SP 2.2.1, 2.2.3, 7.2.6)

On September 24th, Commission staff participated in a hearing on seawater desalination convened by the Assembly Select Committee on Coastal Protection. The committee, chaired by Assembly member and former Coastal Commissioner Mark Stone, invited representatives from state agencies, water districts, and NGOs to present their perspectives on several issues associated with seawater desalination. The main topics presented included desalination's effects on marine life and how to avoid them, and the role of desalination in local and regional water portfolios. The hearing agenda, briefing packet (including Commission staff presentation), and video of the hearing are available through the following link:

<http://coastalprotection.assembly.ca.gov/seawaterdesalinationimpacts>. This participation implements Strategic Plan Objective 2.2 – “Protect Marine and Ocean Resources through Inter-Agency Coordination, Policy Review, and Updated Guidance” and Action Items 2.2.1, 2.2.3, and 7.2.6, concerning developing guidance for desalination projects and participation with interagency work groups and the select committee on coastal protection.

Meetings, Presentations, and Outreach

- The Executive Director will be presenting an invited keynote address as part of a panel at the *Coast to Coast Conference 2014* in Western Australia on October 29, 2014. The panel discussion topic is Coastal Hazards Adaptation Planning. Information on the conference is available at: <http://www.promaco.com.au/coasttocoast2014/>. [NOTE (10/09/14): no state funds will be used for this travel.]
- The Executive Director spoke briefly with other officials at the inauguration of the La Conchita Pedestrian Undercrossing and Bikepath on Monday, September 29, sponsored by Caltrans, Ventura County Transportation Commission and the Santa Barbara Council of Governments. Working with Caltrans and other stakeholders, the Commission played an important role in the review and design of the project to assure maximum public access and consistency with other Coastal Act policies along this stretch of coast.





**The U.S. Highway 101 La Conchita Pedestrian Undercrossing
and Bike Path Inauguration**

The California Department of Transportation, Ventura County Transportation Commission and Santa Barbara Council of Governments welcome you to the U.S. Highway 101 La Conchita pedestrian undercrossing and bike path inauguration.



The pedestrian undercrossing and bike path were constructed to provide coastline access that includes all modes of travel and are both elements of the six-mile U.S. Highway 101 HOV lane project from Mobil Pier Road in Ventura County to Casitas Pass Road in Santa Barbara County, which is estimated to complete in spring 2015.

Speakers:

Caltrans District 7 Construction Deputy
Mark Archuleta

Federal Highway Administration
Associate Division Administrator
Richard Backlund

California Coastal Commission Executive Director
Dr. Charles Lester

Ventura County Supervisor
Steve Bennett

Santa Barbara County Supervisor
Salud Carbajal

Ventura County Transportation Commission
Chair **Ralph Fernandez**

