

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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November 11, 2014

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: Charles Lester, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, November, 2014

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

## **LCP Program Status – North Central Coast**

The North Central Coast district stretches from the north end of Sonoma County at the Gualala River to the San Mateo/Santa Cruz County border near Año Nuevo State Reserve in the south, approximately 258 miles of coastline. It encompasses three offshore National Marine Sanctuaries (Gulf of Farallones, Cordell Bank, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries).

The district has four coastal counties (Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo) and four incorporated cities (San Francisco, Daly, City, Pacifica, and Half Moon Bay), each with certified LCPs. There are also two major harbors (at Pillar Point in San Mateo County and Bodega Bay in Sonoma County), two public entities with Public Works Plans (the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District and the Montara Water and Sanitary District), and one with a coastal long range development plan (University of California's Bodega Marine facility).

The North Central coastal zone is diverse, with rugged Sonoma and Marin County coastlines to the north giving way at the Golden Gate Bridge to more urban areas of San Francisco, Daly City, and Pacifica, and even through to Half Moon Bay, then transitioning to more rural landscapes all the way to the Santa Cruz County border and beyond. Planning issues include protecting agriculture and scenic rural areas and responding to coastal erosion and sea level rise in the more urban parts of the district. The district also has significant public park lands and popular visitor destinations, intensifying the need to provide visitor-serving facilities and opportunities. As summarized below, each of the North Central Coast District LCPs are undergoing some form of update currently, including comprehensive updates in Marin, Sonoma, Pacifica and Half Moon Bay.

### **Sonoma County**

Sonoma County has about 69 miles of shoreline. The Sonoma County coast supports agricultural lands, timber preserves, open space areas, and an extensive network of recreational lands, parks, and beaches. About one-half of coastline property is in public ownership, including holdings of the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department and the University of California's Bodega Marine facility. California State Parks owns Fort Ross State Historic Park, Salt Point State Park, Kruse Rhododendron State Natural Reserve, and Sonoma Coast State Park, which includes 17 miles of coastline from Bodega Point to Jenner. The Sonoma County coast also supports an important harbor facility for commercial and recreational boating at Bodega Bay.

The Sonoma County LCP was originally certified in 1981, and a major update was approved by the Commission in 2002. Work for another major update to the LCP has been underway since 2009, during which time Commission and County staff have regularly coordinated. The update will focus on sea level rise, biotic resources, water quality, geologic hazards, and public access. County staff anticipates that a draft version of the update will be made available for public review and workshops in early 2015. The County was a recipient of grant funding from the Commission last year for sea level rise assessment and adaptation work for the LCP update.

**Figure 1. Sonoma County Coastal Zone**



### **Marin County**

Marin County has approximately 106 miles of coastline from Sonoma County to Point Bonita near the Golden Gate Bridge. The coastal zone contains approximately 130 square miles (82,168 acres) of the County's 520 square miles of total land area. Of this total, approximately 53 square miles (33,913 acres) are owned and managed by the federal government, mostly within either Point Reyes National Seashore or Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Approximately 75 square miles (48,255 acres) comprise the County's LCP jurisdiction. The protection of agriculture is a primary LCP concern -- nearly two-thirds of the County's LCP jurisdictional area (30,781 acres out of the total 48,255 acres) is zoned Coastal Agricultural Production Zone (C-APZ), the LCP's primary agricultural zoning classification.

The Marin County LCP was originally certified in 1982. In recent years the County worked on developing its first major update to the LCP, and in May 2014, the Commission approved an updated LUP with suggested modifications. The IP portion of the update is pending. Marin

County received a FY 13-14 LCP planning grant from the Commission designed to further refine coastal hazard policies in light of sea level rise.

**Figure 2. Marin County Coastal Zone**



**San Francisco City and County**

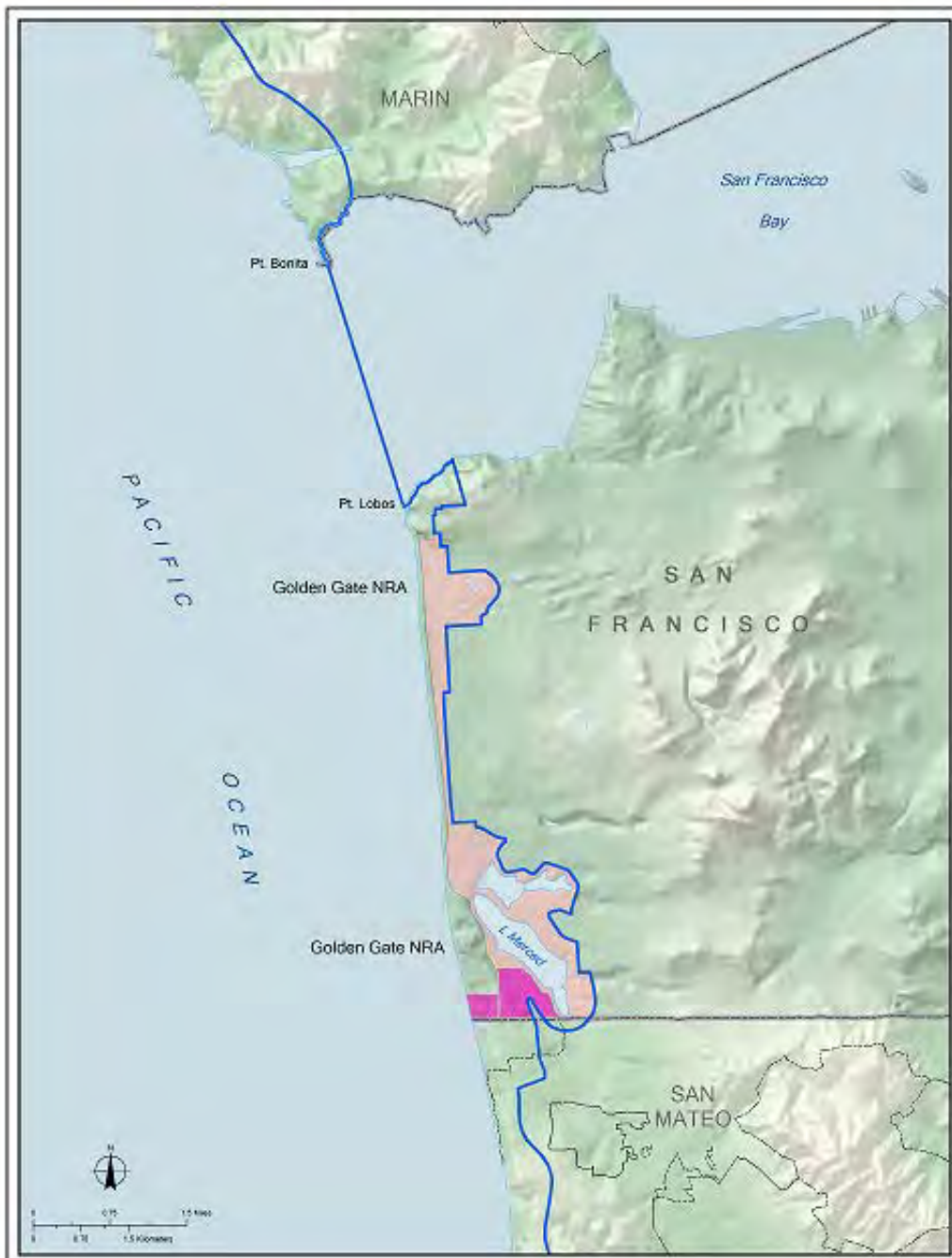
The City and County of San Francisco's coastal zone area extends approximately 6 miles from the Fort Funston cliff area north to the Golden Gate Bridge. Most of the 1,771 acre coastal zone is publically owned. Golden Gate Park, the San Francisco Zoo, and Lake Merced, which are owned by the City and County of San Francisco, make up 60% of the coastal zone area. Another 25% of the coastal zone is within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Only 14% of the land in the coastal zone is privately owned, 5% of which is private residential and commercial property, and the remaining 9% is within the Olympic Club area.

The City and County of San Francisco LCP, called the Western Shoreline Plan, was certified in 1986. However, because of an issue regarding whether the Olympic Club property should be zoned for future use as either residential or open space use in the event the Club ever ceases operation, the segment of the LCP covering the Olympic Club property within San Francisco was not certified.



The City and County has applied for grant funding from the Commission and the Ocean Protection Council to amend its LCP. The proposed amendment would reflect the vision of the multi-stakeholder process which resulted in the Ocean Beach Master Plan, including addressing the shoreline erosion and hazard challenges at South Ocean Beach. The amendment would also include sea-level rise adaptation policies. Commission staff has participated in the development of the Ocean Beach Master Plan for several years, and has coordinated closely with staff from the City and County over the last year in preparation for the process of amending the LCP.

**Figure 3. San Francisco County Coastal Zone LCP Jurisdictions**



## **San Mateo County**

San Mateo County has about 59 miles of shoreline. The coastal zone area totals approximately 153 square miles (or just over a third) of the County's 448 square miles of total land area. The coastal zone includes unincorporated San Mateo County lands and 3 incorporated cities: the Cities of Daly City, Pacifica and Half Moon Bay. Each of the cities as well as the County has certified LCPs. In the County, the Commission has also approved Public Works Plans for the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District and the Montara Water and Sanitary District.

The San Mateo County coast supports significant agricultural lands, a commercial fishing harbor at Pillar Point, and major public access to parks, beaches and other recreational lands, substantial marine and other natural resource areas, and extensive scenic resources. San Mateo County has many popular coastal visitor destinations for millions of residents of the Bay Area. The rugged northern coast of the County through the suburban cities of Daly City and Pacifica contain rocky bluff tops and significant beach resources that provide important recreational opportunities but present significant development hazards challenges. The MidCoast County area supports unincorporated communities such as Montara, Moss Beach, Princeton-by-the-Sea, El Granada, and Miramar extending to the City of Half Moon Bay. The City of Half Moon Bay presents a balance of providing for urban development and services, while protecting significant wetland resources, and maintaining a small town character, in part through an existing urban/rural boundary established in the LCP. South of the City of Half Moon Bay to the Santa Cruz County line, mountains drop down to rolling agricultural and grasslands on marine terraces, with redwood forests, oak woodland and chaparral found inland. This area includes the communities of San Gregorio and Pescadero, and contains significant access and recreation areas, agricultural resources, extensive scenic resources, and a major wetland at Pescadero.

All jurisdictions in this area have certified LCPs. The San Mateo County LCP was one of the earliest LCPs submitted. The entire LCP was first certified in April 1981 and addressed major growth, agricultural, resource and development issues. The LCP for the MidCoast area of the County was comprehensively updated in 2012. The LCP for the City of Daly City was first certified in April 1984 and the LCP for the City of Pacifica was first certified June 1994. The LCP for the City of Half Moon Bay was first certified in April 1996.

LCP update planning is underway throughout the County. Pacifica completed an administrative draft of their LCP update in April of this year and plans to submit the LCP to their City Council later this year or in early 2015. Commission staff is currently working to provide the City with comments on the draft LCP.

The Commission awarded a \$75,000 LCP grant in FY 13-14 to the City of Half Moon Bay to help support an LCP update effort. Half Moon Bay has recently revised their benchmark timeline for the grant and is hoping to complete an administrative draft of the LCP by August 2015. Commission staff plans to work closely with the City to support development of their draft LCP in 2015.

The County is working to complete an update for the Princeton Planning Area. This update is to be accomplished through "Plan Princeton" which is currently in process. The County released its Draft Conceptual Alternatives report for Plan Princeton on September 25, 2014

for public review and comments. A Preferred Plan will then be drafted based upon the public's comments and input on the alternatives. The Preferred Plan will serve as a base for the drafting of amendments for the LCP. Commission staff has reviewed and provided comments on the Plan Princeton Alternatives and will continue to coordinate with the County during its planning process.

**Figure 4. San Mateo County Coastal Zone LCP Jurisdictions**



### **California Shellfish Initiative (SP 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 5.4.2, 7.8.3)**

On October 15th Commission staff participated in the first meeting of the California Shellfish Initiative. The Initiative's goals include expanding California's shellfish resources while protecting and restoring marine and estuarine habitats, improving coordination among the regulatory agencies, and an "improved permitting process." In addition to Commission staff, agency participants include the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District. Topics covered at this first meeting included the shellfish aquaculture industry's need to increase its compliance with regulatory and permitting requirements; potential opportunities for strengthening the efficiency of multi-agency permitting; and enhancing industry and agency understanding of the regulatory process and key environmental issues and areas of concern. 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 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 5.4.2 and 7.8.3, concerning interagency coordination and collaboration; developing guidance for aquaculture projects; and outreach regarding Commission permit requirements and enforcement programs. This participation was in addition to Commission staff's continuing implementation of Strategic Plan Action Item 2.2.7 through its role on the CDFW Aquaculture Development Committee, which met most recently on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Lower-Cost Visitor-Serving Workshop (SP 1.2.2, 1.3.4)**

An initial Commission workshop and discussion on lower-cost visitor-serving overnight accommodations is planned for Wednesday of the December meeting in Monterey (December 10). This is the first of a series of at least two workshops/Commission discussion sessions on lower-cost visitor-serving issues. The Commission Chair established an informal Commission sub-committee (Commissioners Cox and McClure) that has met once; another discussion is scheduled in Half Moon Bay.

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.

### **Sea Grant Fellowship (SP 7.6.4)**

On November 3-4, Chief Deputy Director, Susan Hansch, Senior Coastal Engineer Lesley Ewing, and current Sea Grant Fellow Mary Matella, participated in the annual California Sea Grant State Fellows Program Matching Workshop for the Class of 2015. The Sea Grant Fellowship has been a successful recruitment and training program to bring coastal management professionals to the agency. The last two Sea Grant Fellows are now members of the Commission staff. The Sea Grant Fellowship Program is funded in part by Sea Grant, the Ocean Protection Council, and the Commission pays a portion of the Fellow's salary and provides operating expenses. There were 18 excellent candidates to be matched with host agencies with a Fellowship start date in late January or February 2015. The Commission is planning to accept two Fellows for 2015, to do a broad range of duties on statewide and district issues. This effort implements Objective 7.6 of the adopted Strategic Plan, "Develop a Staff Recruitment Strategy" which includes action 7.6.4: *Continue to take full advantage of fellowship opportunities offered by the NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship Program, California Sea Grant and others.*

### **Sea Level Rise Guidance (SP 3.1)**

- Commission staff plans to bring revised Sea Level Rise Guidance back to the Commission for review and possible action in December in Monterey. The staff postponed the completion of the revisions of the draft Sea Level Rise Guidance until the comprehensive [Safeguarding California Plan](#) was released by the California Natural Resources Agency. Commission staff is updating and refining the draft guidance to address Commission and public comments received.
- On Friday, November 7, Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director and Jack Ainsworth, Senior Deputy Director testified in Santa Barbara at the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management, chaired by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. The subject of the hearing was "Climate Change Impacts on Critical Infrastructure: Implications for Emergency Management in California". Commission Vice-Chair Jana Zimmer and Sarah Christie, the Commission's Legislative Director, also attended the hearing. The full hearing recording is provided at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VDXRtcljyo> (Commission staff testimony begins at approximately 1:05).

### **Briefing on Civil Service Hiring/Recruitment and Agency Diversity (SP 7.6.1, 7.6.2, 7.6.3 and 7.6.4)**

At the December hearing in Monterey the Chief of Human Resources and the Chief Deputy Director will provide background information on the diversity in the Commission staff and discuss civil service processes, and recruitment, including discussion of actions taken and planned to address Strategic Plan Actions 7.6.1, 7.6.2, 7.6.3 and 7.6.4.

### **Meetings, Presentations, and Outreach**

- The Commission's Executive Director and Federal Programs Manager met on October 20, 2014, with government officials from Sabah, Malaysia, to discuss the Commission's experience with managing coastal development, with particular focus on visitor-serving and tourism land uses and economic development.



- The Executive Director presented an invited keynote address on the challenges of adapting to sea level rise at the *Coast to Coast Conference 2014* in Western Australia on October 29, 2014. The ED also participated in a conference workshop concerning coastal hazards and adaptation planning. Information on the conference is available at: <http://www.promaco.com.au/coasttocoast2014/>. [NOTE: no state funds were used for this travel.]
- On November 5, 2014, Senior Deputy Director Jack Ainsworth participated in a panel discussion at the Marina Recreation Association Conference in Monterey, CA with representatives from CA Department of Boating and Waterways and SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) regarding the regulation of recreational boating marinas in California.
- The Executive Director will participate in the upcoming Coastal Counties Regional Association Meeting on November 18, 2014, held at the 2014 California State Association of Counties annual meeting in Orange County (<http://www.counties.org/conference-schedule>).