

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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October 5, 2015

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: Charles Lester, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, October, 2015

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

LCP Program Status – LA County/Long Beach (SP Goal 4)

Los Angeles (LA) County includes 135 miles of mainland shoreline (include the ports) as well as Santa Catalina Island (65 shoreline miles) and San Clemente Island (57 shoreline miles). The coastal zone area totals approximately 276 square miles of the County's 4,751 square miles of total land area and includes portions of the County of Los Angeles and 12 incorporated cities. These cities are: Malibu, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Long Beach and Avalon, on Santa Catalina Island 22 miles off the coast. The coastal zone in LA County also includes the Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach.

The County includes the resources of the Santa Monica Mountains in the northwest, a series of broad sandy beaches in several beach cities extending around Santa Monica Bay, the hills, rocky beaches and coves of the Palos Verdes Peninsula to industrial harbor complexes at San Pedro Bay and sandy beaches from Long Beach to Alamitos Bay. There are also thousands of recreational and commercial boating slips at facilities throughout the county. Over 10 million residents (around 26% of the state)¹ reside in the County and cities in Los Angeles, and the area is among the most diverse in the state. The coastal jurisdictions support significant urban development, beaches, visitor and commercial recreation and varied natural resources.

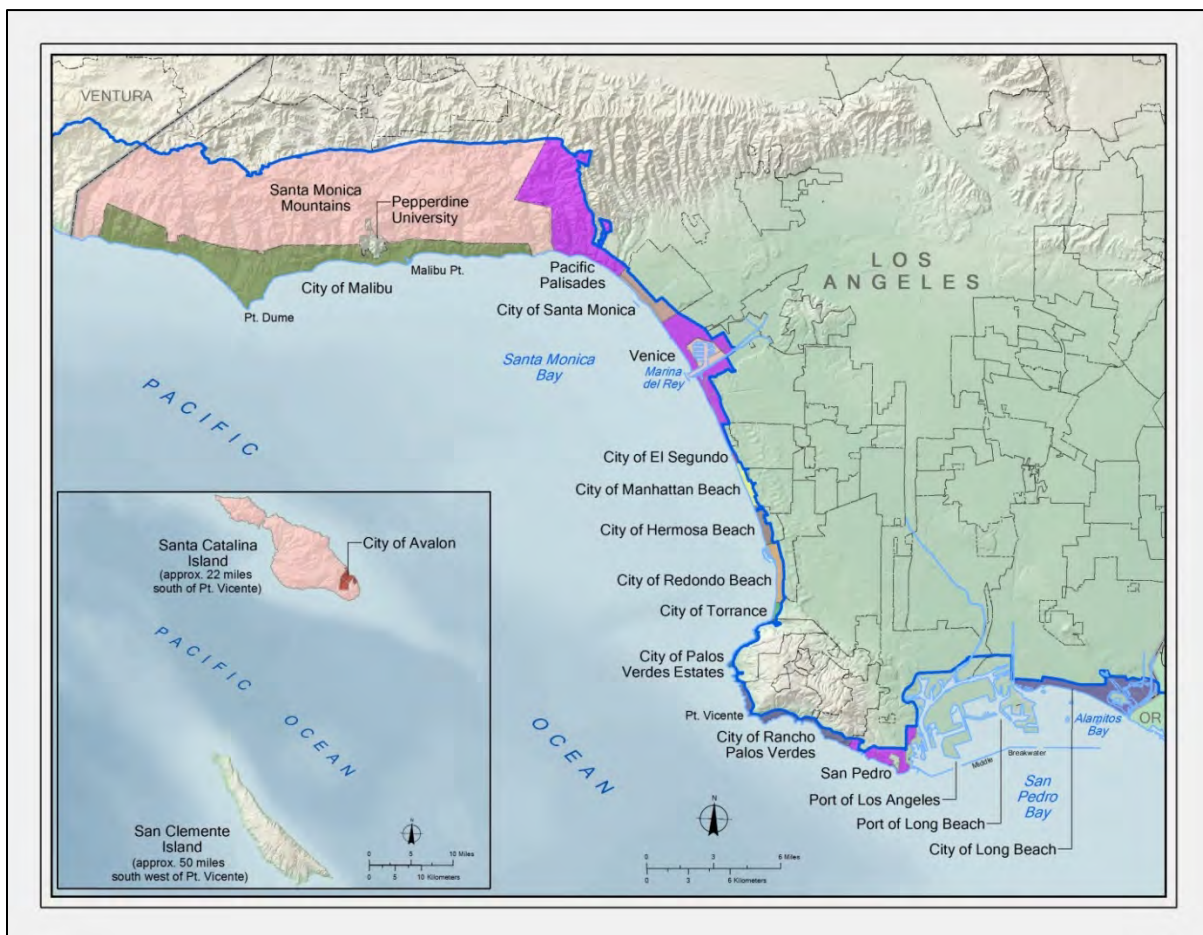
With the certification of the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program (LCP) segment in 2014, the County of Los Angeles LCP now has 3 of 4 segments certified. The remaining uncertified segment is the Playa Vista A segment. The remaining Playa Vista A segment consists of lands that were transferred to the State in 2003 to be managed by the Wildlife Conservation Board. Management and/or restoration plans have not been developed and thus no LCP is currently being developed.

The City of Los Angeles has six segments, all of which are uncertified. The Commission awarded LCP grants in FY 13 and FY 14 to the City of LA to work toward certification of the Venice LCP segment. The Cities of Santa Monica and Hermosa Beach are uncertified but also received LCP grants to complete their LCPs. The City of Torrance is also uncertified. LCPs were certified for the other jurisdictions in the county: the City of Malibu (2002), the City of El Segundo (1982), the City of Manhattan Beach (1994), the City of Redondo Beach (2010), the City of Palos Verdes Estates (1991), the City of Rancho Palos Verdes (1983), the City of Long

¹ http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/estimates/e-2/documents/July2014_package.pdf accessed 12/18/14.

Beach (1980 - one of the earliest) and the City of Avalon on Santa Catalina Island (1981). Port Master Plans were certified for both the Port of Long Beach (1978) and the Port of Los Angeles (1980).

In addition to the planning underway to achieve certification of new LCPs, some work is underway in the City of Long Beach to update portions of its LCP. The City is currently working on completing the LCP for the Los Cerritos Wetlands area and updating the Southeast Area Development and Implementation Plan (SEADIP), including related parts of the LCP (see http://www.lbds.info/seadip_update). The Port of Los Angeles updated its Port Master Plan in February 2014, although this update primarily involved reformatting and making the document more user-friendly. Information on the status of the LCP grants is available in the September, 2015 [Executive Director's Report](#).



Commission Workshop with Local Government on November, 6, 2015

The Commission is preparing for its third workshop with local government officials, scheduled for Friday, November 6, 2015 in Half Moon Bay. The Commission has used prior workshops to identify and discuss issues related to the improving the implementation of the LCP program. In conjunction with the Commission staff-led working group with local government representatives, the workshops have led to the development of guidance: [Tips/Best Practices for Processing LCP Amendments](#). The November workshop will focus on issues related to managing state and local perspectives, LCP planning coordination, and the LCP update and grant process; as well as implementation of the Commission's Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance.

Jobs! Open Examination for Coastal Program Analyst Positions Scheduled

The Commission's Human Resources Office has posted the examination bulletins for the Coastal Program [Analyst I](#) and Coastal Program [Analyst II](#) positions with the Coastal Commission. This examination is a necessary first step for anyone interested in working with the Commission as a coastal program analyst. **The required state application (Form 678) must be received in the Human Resources Office or postmarked by Friday, October 16, 2015.** The examination will be held from November 9th through November 13th in San Francisco and Long Beach. No interviews will be scheduled for November 11th due to the holiday (Veterans' Day). Actual exam dates in each location will depend on the number of applicants. More information is available on the Commission's website (<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/jobs/>).

Coastal Cleanup Day 2015 Results

This past September 19th was the 31st Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, the Commission's largest public event. Results are still coming in from around the state and as of the end of September, they indicate that about 63,000 volunteers participated, including 3,000 students through the Commission's new Schoolyard Cleanup Program. The volunteers removed more



than 865,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from over 900 cleanup locations in 54 counties around the state. Staff worked to focus efforts on inland locations this year in an effort to remove debris from waterways before the expected El Nino arrives, which has the potential to wash hundreds of tons of debris out to the coast and ocean. As a result, Coastal Cleanup Day actually had more cleanup locations off the coast than on it, and this past event had the largest geographic reach that the Cleanup has ever achieved.

The organizing effort was streamlined this year thanks to a new Coastal Cleanup Day site map produced with the help of the Commission's IT Department. Based on the Commission's new Coastal Access map, the [Cleanup map](#) allowed volunteers to easily find their preferred cleanup location and register directly with the local organizer. Producing the map was a huge effort this past summer, greatly aided by our summer intern Rachael Neustadt; the map will be a fantastic tool for the Commission for years to come. There are Cleanups continuing through October, and staff is encouraging additional efforts before the rains (hopefully) begin. Public Education staff will be providing a final update on this year's results at the December meeting.

Commission Staff Trains Sheriffs on Public Access

Coastal Commission staff provided training about the Coastal Act and public access to the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department division that covers Malibu. The catalyst for this training was an incident of private security guards harassing beach goers, which prompted a Commission staff investigation and encounter that was widely reported in several newspapers both locally and internationally (e.g., <http://www.cnn.com/2015/09/05/us/malibu-day-at-the-beach/index.html>). During the encounter, the LA County Sheriff's office was called and two Deputies arrived at the beach. While Coastal Commission staff presented evidence to show that staff was located on a public access easement and had the legal right to be on the dry sand, the Deputies did not have enough background information to help identify the public beach area.

In addition to following up on this enforcement matter with the Homeowner's Association who hired the security guards, as well as the security company, Enforcement Supervisor Andrew Willis contacted the Sheriff's office to discuss the issue and determine next steps. Andrew and Linda Locklin, Access Program Manager, set up a meeting with the Sheriff Deputies in the Lost Hills Station to hold a session to explain the Coastal Act, public beach rights, public access easements, etc., and to provide

the Deputies with beach easement maps prepared by the Commission's public access and mapping units and links to on-line and print access guides produced by the Commission and its partners in protecting coastal access. The Captain in charge made it clear that understanding and protecting the public's beach access rights was a high priority and 30



Deputies attended this one hour training. The Sheriff's Department posted a summary on their Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/LostHillsSheriffsStation?fref=nf>.

California Marine Protected Area (MPA) Statewide Leadership Team (SP Goal 2, Action 2.2.11)

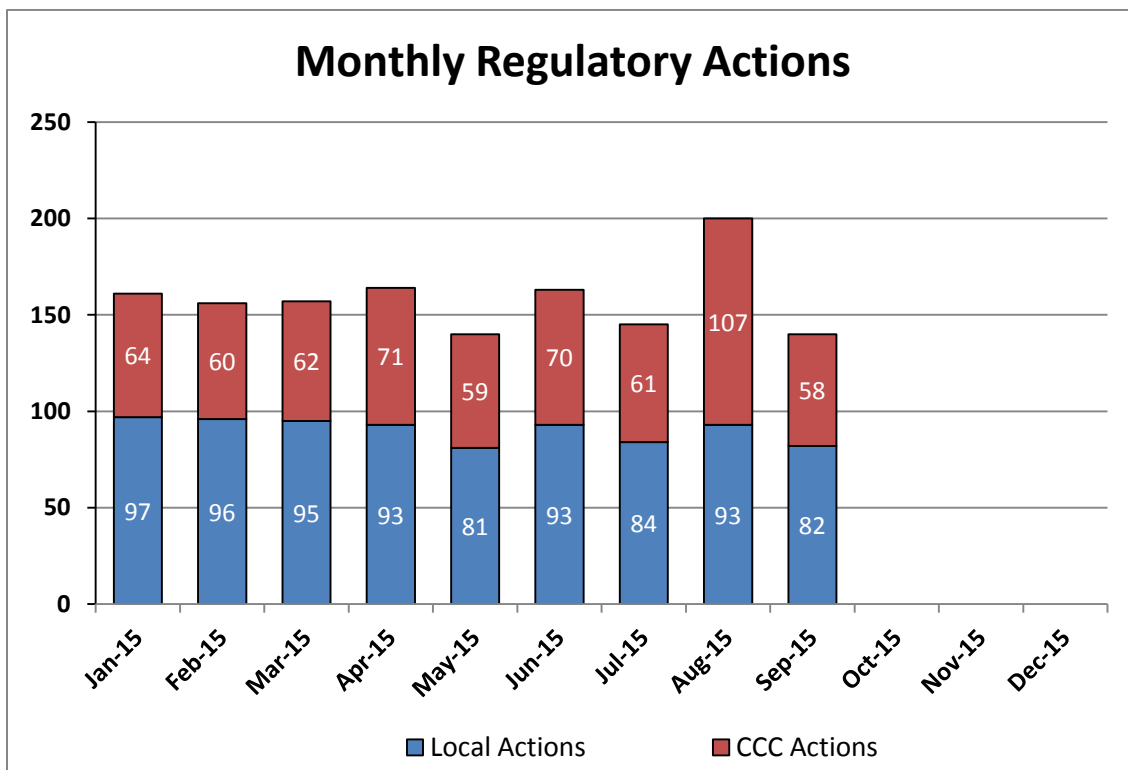
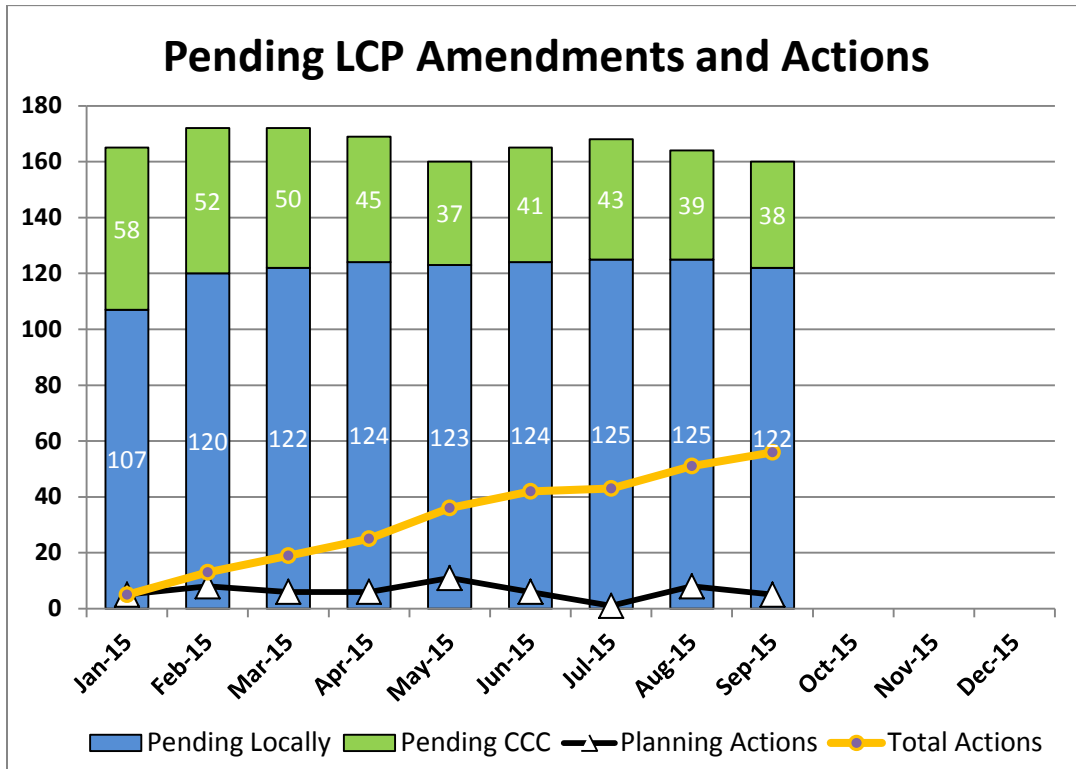
In September 2015, the Ocean Protection Council formally endorsed the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan developed by members of the MPA Statewide Leadership Team (Leadership Team) to enhance communication, coordination and problem-solving among the MPA network management partners. The Leadership Team includes staff of agencies charged with management of the statewide MPA network, regulatory agencies (such as the Commission) that have jurisdictions that include MPAs and overlap with MPA management activities, as well as the Ocean Protection Council, California Ocean Science Trust, and MPA Collaborative Network. Commission staff is actively involved on the Leadership Team and assisted in development of the work plan. The plan establishes strategic priorities, actions, and outcomes within four focal areas – outreach and education, enforcement and compliance, research and monitoring, and policy and permitting. The full text of the plan may be found [here](#). Going forward, Commission staff will continue its involvement on the Leadership Team and implementation of the approved work plan.

Meetings and Events

- Commission staff toured Ocean Beach in San Francisco on September 16, 2015 with the Acting Director of NOAA's Office of Coastal Management (OCM), Jeff Payne, and his staff to discuss on-going collaborative planning at this location in response to sea level rise and coastal erosion, including grant-funded Commission LCP planning work with the City. State Coastal Conservancy staff and the Policy Director for [SPUR](#) also participated in the discussion, highlighting the work of SPUR in developing the [Ocean Beach Master Plan](#).
- As previously reported, the Executive Director presented a keynote address at a [workshop](#) titled "Fostering Climate Resilient Coastal Communities" at UC Irvine on July 23, 2015. The workshop was focused on learning how to build resilient coastal communities with communication and planning tools, funding strategies and resilient coastal design. A video of the keynote address is available [here](#). The event was sponsored by UCI Oceans, Empowering Sustainability, The Newkirk Center for Science and Society, and the Blue Earth Corporation.

LCP and CDP Workload Data

Monthly Commission and local government planning and permit activity is reported below, as provided by the Commission's Coastal Data Management System (CDMS).



Final Local Action Notices and Appeals -- 2015

Month	Appealable	Not Appealable	Total	Appeals	Appeal Rate
Jan	51	46	97	4	7.8%
Feb	67	29	96	3	4.5%
Mar	55	40	95	1	1.8%
Apr	71	22	93	7	9.9%
May	51	30	81	5	9.8%
Jun	53	40	93	5	9.4%
Jul	50	34	84	9	18.0%
Aug	62	31	93	2	3.2%
Sep	48	34	82	10	20.8%
Oct			0		
Nov			0		
Dec			0		
YTD	508	306	814	46	9.1%