

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

July 7, 2015

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: Charles Lester, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, July, 2015

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

LCP Program Status – Ventura County (SP Goal 4)

Ventura County comprises about 85 miles of shoreline. This includes two Channel Islands, Anacapa island (part of the Channel Islands National Park) and San Nicolas island (military lands). The coastal zone area totals approximately 78 square miles of the County's 2208 square miles of total land area and contains the County of Ventura and 3 incorporated cities: the Cities of Ventura, Oxnard and Port Hueneme. Also, the area contains one of the 4 major Ports identified in Chapter 8 of the Coastal Act: the Port of Hueneme (Oxnard Harbor District), the only deep water harbor between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay.

The County includes beach communities and state beaches and parks that provide significant access and recreation, agricultural resources of the Oxnard plain, the Ventura and Santa Clara River estuaries, Mugu Lagoon (one of the largest remaining salt marshes in southern California), recreational harbors at Ventura Harbor and Channel Islands Harbor, and military lands. South of Point Mugu are portions of the resources of the Santa Monica Mountains

All jurisdictions in this area have LCPs certified in the early to mid-1980s. The Ventura County LCP was certified in October 1983, the City of Ventura in February 1984, the City of Oxnard in April 1985 and City of Port Hueneme in November 1984. The Port Master Plan for the Port of Hueneme was approved in May 1979. A Public Works Plan for Channel Islands Harbor was approved in September 1986.

LCP update planning is underway in this area. A phased update is currently underway for the Ventura County LCP, with the first portion of the update certified in 2013 and a second portion of the update to be complete by December 2016. Portions of the City of Ventura LCP in the Downtown and Midtown areas were updated in 2011 and an update of the Ventura Harbor Master Plan is underway. The cities of Oxnard and Pt. Hueneme have not been comprehensively updated since certification, but a comprehensive update, that will be primarily focused on addressing climate change and sea level rise, is underway in the City of Oxnard for which the City received an LCP Update grant of \$150,000 (including an \$110,000 grant directly from the Commission and a \$40,000 grant from OPC to be administered by the Commission) in June 2015 and which is scheduled to be complete by April 2016.

Figure 1. Ventura County Coastal Zone LCP Jurisdictions



Budget Update

The Coastal Commission's budget for FY 15-16 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016) was approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. The Budget is essentially as was proposed by the Governor in January 2015 and described in previous staff reports to the Commission. (See [February 10, 2015 staff report](#) on the Budget for details on the FY 15-16 Budget.)

There were some small costs adjustments and changes to the Final Budget because of ongoing changeover to FISCAL (the new comprehensive state financial information system) and some elements in the overall State Budget that will affect the Commission's Enacted Budget numbers. Staff will provide the Commission with a detailed description of the Enacted Budget numbers in a future budget report. The \$2.5 million in Cap and Trade funds that had been included by the legislature in the Commission's Budget for adaptation climate change were not included in the FY 15-16 Budget. Legislative action on Cap and Trade funding was deferred until August 2015.

Overall the Commission's Enacted Budget includes:

- **TOTAL** of all funds and expenditure authorization \$22,058.00
(Sources: General Fund, Coastal Act Services Fund, Environmental License Plate Fund, California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Fund, Protect Our Coast and Ocean Fund, Prop 40 Bond Funding, Federal Funds, Reimbursements)

- 167 authorized positions (160.2 regular and 6.8 temporary)
- FY 15-16 funding for enhanced LCP staff funding \$1 million in Environmental License Plate Funds (ELPF) and \$2 million from the Coastal Act Services Fund.
- FY 15-16 is the last year of currently approved augmented LCP staffing funding. The Commission staff will be submitting a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) in August 2015 for consideration for requested funding for FY 16-17 and thereafter.
- \$3 million for LCP Local Assistance Grants from the Coastal Conservancy from Prop 40 Bond Funds (\$1 million per year for FY 15-16, FY 16-17, FY 17-18).

Civil Service Testing for Coastal Program Analyst I & II Level (SP Goal 7.6.2)

The management team of the Coastal Commission and the California Coastal Commission's Human Resources Office, in conjunction with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), administered the Coastal Program Analyst I and II examinations simultaneously in San Francisco and Long Beach from June 22, 2015 through June 26, 2015. Over 200 applicants met the minimum requirements for admittance into the Coastal Program Analyst I and/or Coastal Program Analyst II examinations. Of the 226 applicants who applied and were admitted to the examinations, 115 took and successfully passed the examination; 66 withdrew from the examination; and 45 did not appear on the date of their scheduled interviews. Because of the number of applicants admitted to the examinations, there were double panels of both chairpersons and subject matter experts from the Coastal Commission and BCDC in both San Francisco and Long Beach. The results of the examination were disseminated to senior staff at both Commissions on July 2, 2015. The new Coastal Program Analyst I and Coastal Program Analyst II civil service lists are now available to be used for hiring. Job announcements for numerous vacant positions are currently posted on the Commission's website and job announcements were mailed to candidates in reachable ranks on the Coastal Program Analyst I and II lists.

Commission staff conducted a broad recruitment and outreach effort to seek candidates for this June exam. Staff is analyzing the results of the recruitment to identify ways to improve recruitment for future exams.

The Coastal Program Analyst I and Coastal Program Analyst II examinations are typically given two to three times each year. The next Coastal Program Analyst I and Coastal Program Analyst II examinations likely will be given in November, 2015.

Sea Level Rise Guidance Update (SP Goal 3, Objective 3.1)

The revised *Sea Level Rise Guidance* was released on May 27, 2015 and a public hearing and discussion was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 (see item [W6c](#)). The revised draft is an update to the draft guidance released on October 14, 2013. The Guidance provides recommendations for local governments, applicants, and others for how to address sea level rise in Local Coastal Programs and Coastal Development Permits. It also provides a background of the best available

science on sea level rise, and describes the importance of avoiding hazards and protecting coastal habitats and Coastal Act resources as sea level rises.

The Commission will hold a second public hearing at the July Commission meeting in Ventura to hear additional public testimony. The public hearing will be continued open until the August Commission meeting in San Diego. Staff requests that any written comments be submitted by Friday, July 10. The testimony at the June and July public hearings and the written testimony will be considered and needed revisions will be included in the draft *Sea Level Rise Guidance* version that is forwarded to the Commission for the August hearing. The Commission will consider adoption of the final draft *Sea Level Rise Guidance* at its August meeting in San Diego.

For more information including information about webinars, and to download the draft document, visit: <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/climate/slrguidance.html>. In addition to the opportunities for comments during Commission hearings, written comments can be submitted to SLRGuidanceDocument@coastal.ca.gov.

Oil Spill Hearing

Commission staff attended a joint oversight hearing of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Select Committee on the Refugio Oil Spill, held in Santa Barbara on June 26, 2015. An archived recording of the hearing may be viewed at the following link: <http://original.livestream.com/asmdc/video?clipId=plae1f37414-bf87-4d79-aa9b-0cfb561a2e41>. Here is the [Agenda](#) for the hearing.

The Commission is on Facebook

The Commission is pleased to announce the launching of a new Facebook page for the agency at <https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaCoastalCommission>. The page will convey information about California's coast and coastal program, educate the interested public about coastal management and current issues, and communicate more broadly about the work of the Commission. This new page joins the page of the Commission's Public Education program, which has been on Facebook for many years focusing more generally on coastal and ocean related topics, stewardship activities, and ways to get involved: <https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaCoast>.



YourCoast.org – A New Public Access Resource Launches

The Commission released a new public access resource this week – the YourCoast.org Web application. This app enables users to find and learn about 1530 access and recreation resources up and down California's coast with a mapping interface. In addition to providing the location of each access site, it provides information from the Commission's public access guides about each of the sites, such as contact information, amenities, and photos. This new Web app is the result of collaboration and input from multiple Commission programs, including Public Access, Public Education, Statewide Planning, Public Relations, Mapping and Technical Services, Publications

and Information Technology. The Commission anticipates the completion of a complementary application for iOS devices (e.g. iPhone) in the near future as part of the 2013 Enforcement settlement with Sean Parker.

Opening of Carbon Beach West Public Accessway in Malibu

The Commission is pleased to announce the official opening of a new public accessway – Carbon Beach West -- in Malibu. The access is located at 22466 Pacific Coast Highway and comes after a decade long dispute about the property owner's obligation to provide the public access originally required as part of a Commission permit for a new beach house at the site. The beach path is open an hour before sunrise to an hour after sunset, though the beach is open into the evening hours. This path is third public walkway to Carbon Beach, joining the Zonker Harris accessway, which was opened in 1983 and named for a character in the comic strip Doonesbury, and the Carbon Beach East path, opened in 2005. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority will manage the accessway on behalf of the public.

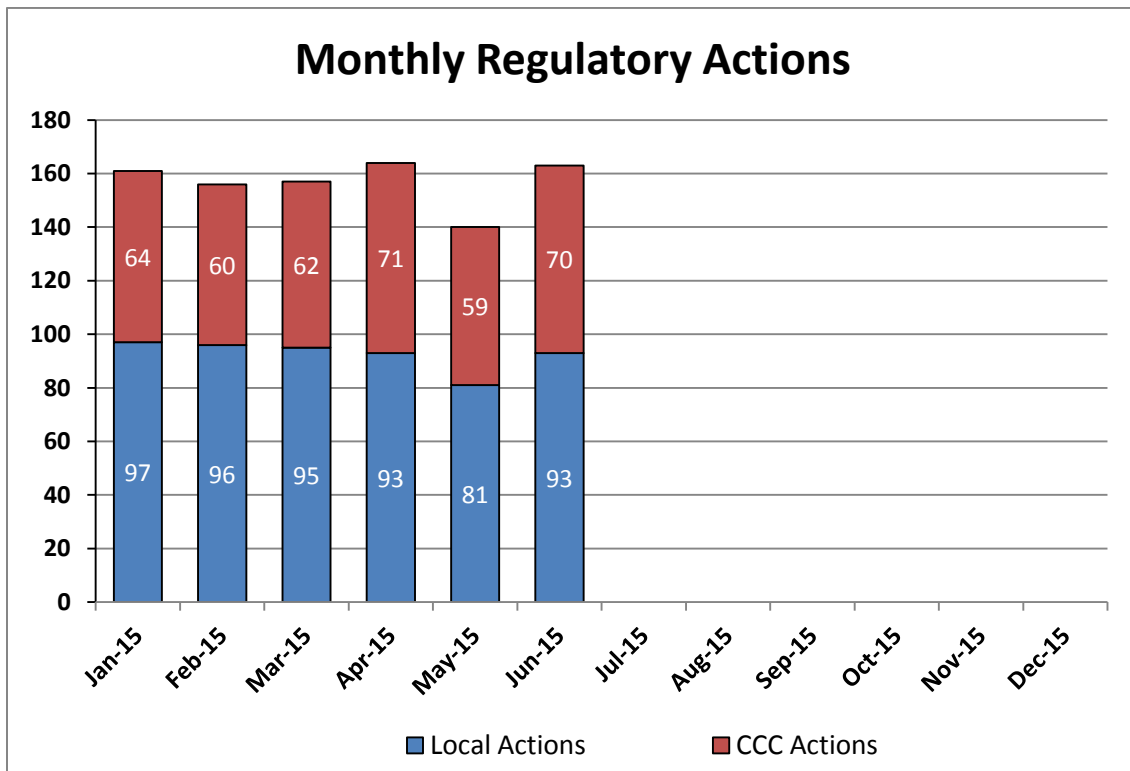
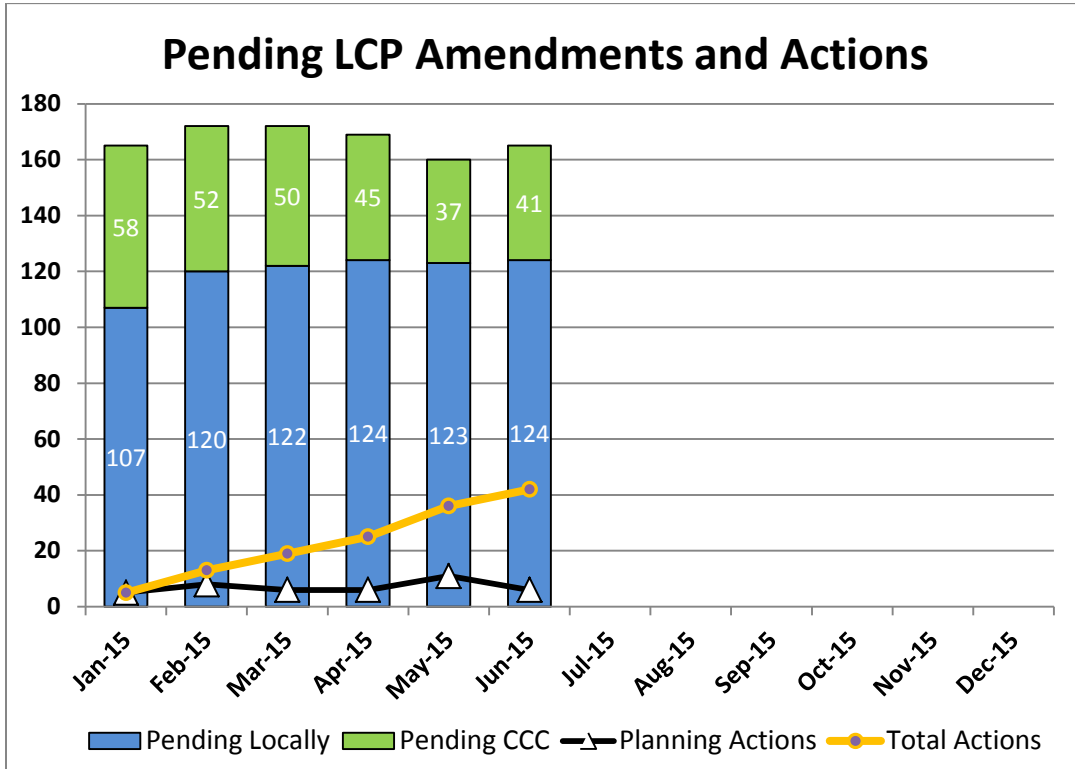


Archive of Commission Staff Reports (SP 6.4.3)

Commission staff has completed an effort to link scanned meeting packet materials to previous agendas on the Commission's public website for the period November 1995-July 2015. This effort included scanning and linking more than 8900 staff reports to the Commission's on-line archive of meeting agendas. This project is part of the Commission's efforts to complete a digital archive of Commission actions, as outlined in Action 6.4.3 of the Commission's adopted Strategic Plan. It is important to note that these linked documents are agenda materials and may not in all cases reflect the Commission's final action or constitute its final adopted findings. The creation of an on-line archive of final adopted findings of Commission actions is under development as component of the future public interface for the Commission's Coastal Data Management System. In the meantime, this valuable resource may be found on the Commission's website at: (<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/meetings/mtgpast.html>).

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			0		
Aug			0		
Sep			0		
Oct			0		
Nov			0		
Dec			0		
YTD	348	207	555	25	7.2%

Meetings and Events

- Coastal Future Conditions Workshop. Dr. Lesley Ewing, Senior Coastal Engineer and Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director gave presentations on community resilience issues and the Coastal Commission's draft *Sea Level Rise Guidance*, at the California Shore and Beach Preservation Association Coastal Future Conditions Workshop on June 22 and June 23 in Pacifica.
- The Executive Director will be presenting a keynote address at a [workshop](#) titled "Fostering Climate Resilient Coastal Communities" at UC Irvine on July 23, 2015.