

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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October 31, 2016

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: John Ainsworth, Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, November 2016

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

**LCP Program Status – North Central District (SP Goal 4) LCP Program**

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, almost all 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. The County was a recipient of grant funding from the Ocean Protection Council in 2013 for sea level rise assessment and adaptation work for the LCP update. County staff released a preliminary draft version of the updated LCP in June of 2015 for public review and held 5 public workshops throughout the summer. The County anticipates action by the Board of Supervisors in early 2017, and submittal to the Commission later in 2017. Commission staff continues to work closely with the County to provide early comments on the preliminary draft and help move this update forward.

**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 128 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. In May of 2014, the Commission conditionally certified the LUP portion of the update following a public hearing in Inverness, and in April of 2015 considered the IP portion of the update at a public hearing in San Rafael. At that 2015 hearing, the County withdrew its proposed IP update, preferring to spend more time addressing their concerns with the Commission-certified LUP and staff’s recommendations on the IP. The County recently submitted a revised LCP update for Commission consideration, and the LCP update is scheduled for a November 2, 2016 hearing. 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. The County completed their sea level rise vulnerability assessment, and has been working on their adaptation strategy since then, including through the revised updated LCP. Commission staff continues to work closely with the County to help move this update and the sea level rise planning grant efforts forward.

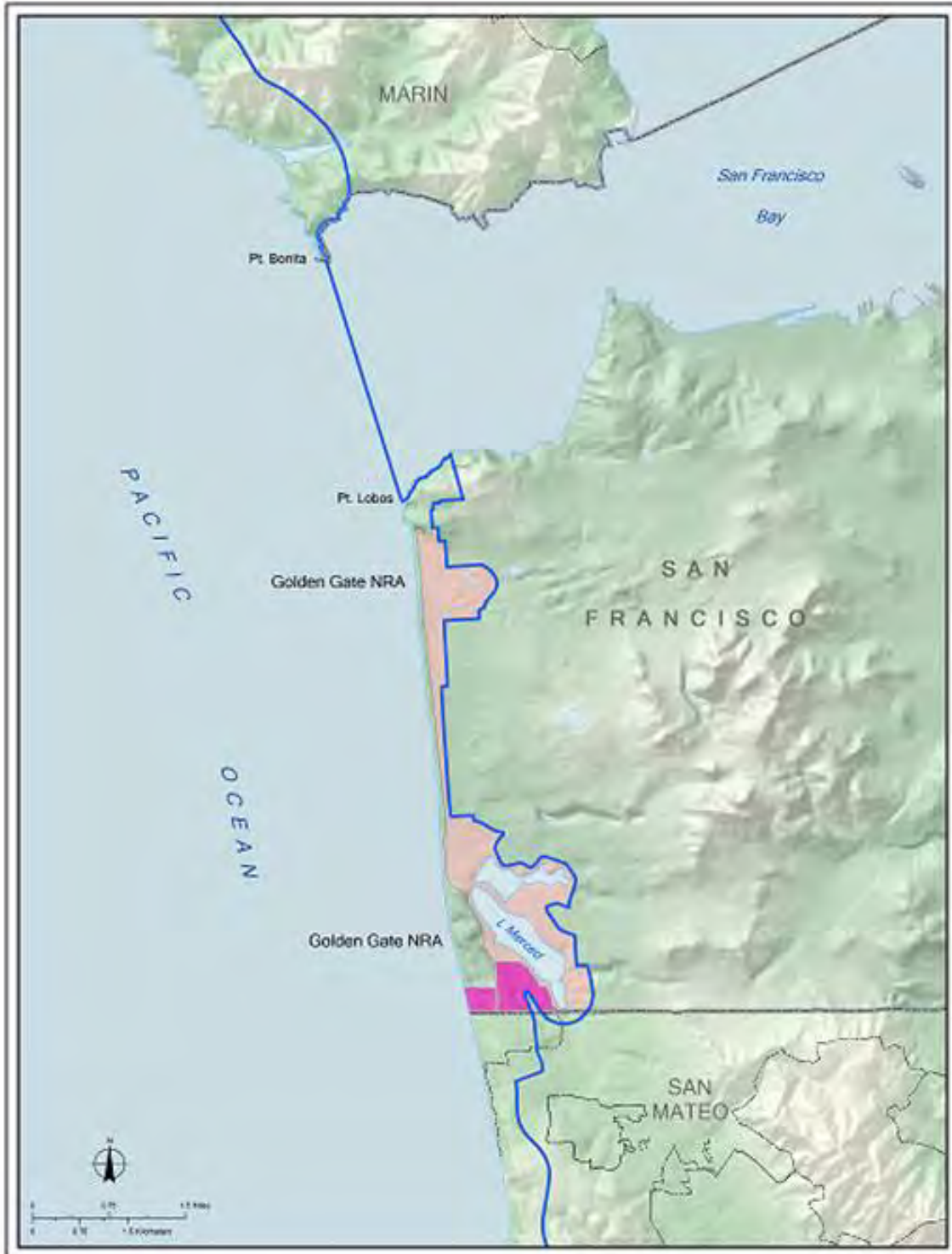
**Figure 2. Marin County Coastal Zone**



### 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

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



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 received a FY 14-15 LCP planning grant 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. The City has been working with an LCP advisory group and interested parties on their proposed LCP update, and Commission staff anticipates it being submitted to the Commission in 2017.

### **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.

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



LCP update planning is underway throughout the County. Pacifica completed an administrative draft of their LCP update in April of 2014. After a new City Council election and a new Planning Director and City Manager, the City staff is re-discussing the goals of an updated LCP with City elected officials. The City also received a third round grant from the Commission to support the completion of a vulnerability assessment, adaptation plan, and updates to the LCP to address coastal hazards and sea level rise. This additional policy development will be incorporated into the earlier update efforts, and the City and Commission staff will continue to work closely on this update to resolve issues as early in the process as possible.

The Commission awarded two grants to the City of Half Moon Bay to help support an LCP update effort. Half Moon Bay has completed a sea level rise vulnerability assessment and an administrative draft of the updated LUP, and is currently working on updates to the IP. The current round of grant funding will support some additional technical studies as well as final revisions and local hearings for the updated LCP. Commission staff continues to work closely with the City to support development of their draft LCP.

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. A Preferred Plan has been 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 continues to work closely with the County to help move this update forward.

## **Sea Level Guidance Implementation Outreach (SP 3.1)**

Commission staff have been providing regular outreach and training sessions to support implementation of the Commission's Sea Level Rise (SLR) Guidance and in support of LCP Grant work. In October staff participated in one event:

### **Environmental Law Institute's Ocean Seminar Series**

Coastal Commission staff participated in a webinar panel presentation for the Environmental Law Institute's Ocean Seminar Series on the "Law and Policy of Sea Level Rise Adaptation" for lawyers and other environmental practitioners across the country. Staff discussed the general Coastal Commission efforts related to sea level rise, the Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance, and adaptation planning within the context of the LCP. Staff also participated in a broader discussion on legal challenges and opportunities related to resilience, the legal and environmental implications of seawalls, and on-the-ground adaptation planning and projects currently underway in San Diego County.

## **Meetings and Events**

### **Progress in Completing a *Plan for Improved Interagency Partnering between Caltrans and the Coastal Commission* ( SP 7.8.3)**

On October 25, Commission management and Caltrans management, including all of the Caltrans coastal District Directors had a meeting to discuss and finalize a partnership agreement between the two agencies. This partnership agreement will help to facilitate collaboration and communications between our two agencies. Our long term Interagency Agreement with Caltrans continues to provide the Commission with additional resources needed for more timely

coordination and review of transportation plans and projects throughout the State's coastal zone. After years of experience, and in consideration of many upcoming transportation and coastal resource management challenges demanding increased attention, both agencies agreed in late 2014 that it would be worthwhile to invest in an effort to improve coordination and communication. Caltrans entered into a contract with the Center for Collaborative Policy at Sacramento State to assist our two agencies target opportunities for strengthening our partnership in carrying out our respective missions.

The Center conducted a situation assessment and helped convene a meeting of Caltrans and Commission management to discuss the findings and provide direction for moving forward. One of the biggest themes from these discussions was that earlier coordination and cross-communication, particularly in planning phases, could better guide project development consistent with coastal policies and promote the Strategic Plans of both agencies. Areas of particular concern identified for this work were: addressing sea level rise and other climate change impacts; completing the California Coastal Trail; developing programmatic approaches to reoccurring issues; and, agreeing upon a conflict prevention strategy.

An Integrated Planning Team (IPT) comprising members of both agencies with expertise in coastal zone transportation planning and resource protection was convened and has met over the last year to develop a framework for connecting the various planning processes of both agencies as well as those of local bodies with coastal management jurisdiction and transportation planning responsibilities. They also drafted strategies for addressing sea level rise through a phased approach in plans and projects consistent with the Coastal Commission's adopted policy guidance and for working together toward the completion of the Coastal Trail in partnership with various State and local partners. Both agencies expressed support for the overall framework and provided input for revisions to be further vetted by both agencies with the goal of completing the framework plan and a partnership agreement by the end of 2016.

Key objectives of the partnership agreement include achieving a higher level understanding of each agency's statutory mandates and a better alignment of planning activities and decision making between the two agencies. This is intended to produce a more effective approach to satisfying Coastal Act requirements in the development of a safe, integrated and efficient multimodal transportation system within the coastal zone. Commission and Caltrans staffs plan to make a full report of this work to the Coastal Commission and the California Transportation Commission in early 2017.

### **Coastal Commission Recognized for Leadership Role in Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council**

On October 21, 2016 the Coastal Commission was recognized by Monterey County for its efforts in the Big Sur area of Monterey County, including its leadership role in the Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council. Commission staff was a founding member of the Advisory Council, originally formed in the mid-1980s following LCP certification, and has actively participated ever since. That group, as well as others in Big Sur, ensure that a variety of interests can be expressed, and allows for sometimes competing objectives and suggestions to be discussed in a problem-solving arena. Commission efforts in Big Sur have been instrumental in helping to weave together the California Coastal Trail, maintaining habitat values, and overall protecting the amazing beauty and grandeur of the Big Sur coast for current and future generations.



Commission staff remain committed to continued vigilance toward helping to safeguard this state, national, and worldwide treasure.

### **Coastal Trail Video - Half Moon Bay Coastside Trail (SP 1.4)**

The Coastal Commission recently funded a series of short videos about segments of the California Coastal Trail along the Central Coast. The funding was provided through a Whale Tail grant to the International Documentary Association, which supported the work of filmmakers at Rigler Creative. The new videos are on the website of public television station [KCET](#), the Commission's Public Education [YouTube](#) channel, and on social media. This month we are highlighting the video featuring the Half Moon Bay Coastside Trail:

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/california-coastal-trail/half-moon-bay-a-peaceful-passage-by-the-pacific>.

### **Budget Update for FY 15-16**

In June 2016, the Commission received a cash flow to cover expenses until payment was received from all reimbursement contracts that were billed after work was completed as of June 30, 2016. All reimbursement contracts and grant payments for FY 15-16 work have been received and funds were deposited with the State Controller's office. The State Controller's office confirmed that the cash flow loan was paid in full as of October 28, 2016.

Commission staff continues to work cooperatively with the Department of Finance, Office of State Audits and Evaluations (OSAE). The OSAE team expects to complete its report by December 31, 2016.