

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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April 11, 2016

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: John Ainsworth, Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, April, 2016

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, 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. 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 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. In April 2015, The Commission was poised to act on an updated Implementation Plan as well, but the County withdrew the update. Since then, the County has been working on a new update submittal for Commission consideration, and the County Board is scheduled to consider such updates at a hearing on April 19, 2016. 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 in the fall and anticipates bringing a revised hazards chapter to the Board as part of the updates later this month. Commission staff continues to work closely with the County to help move this update and the sea level rise planning grant efforts forward.

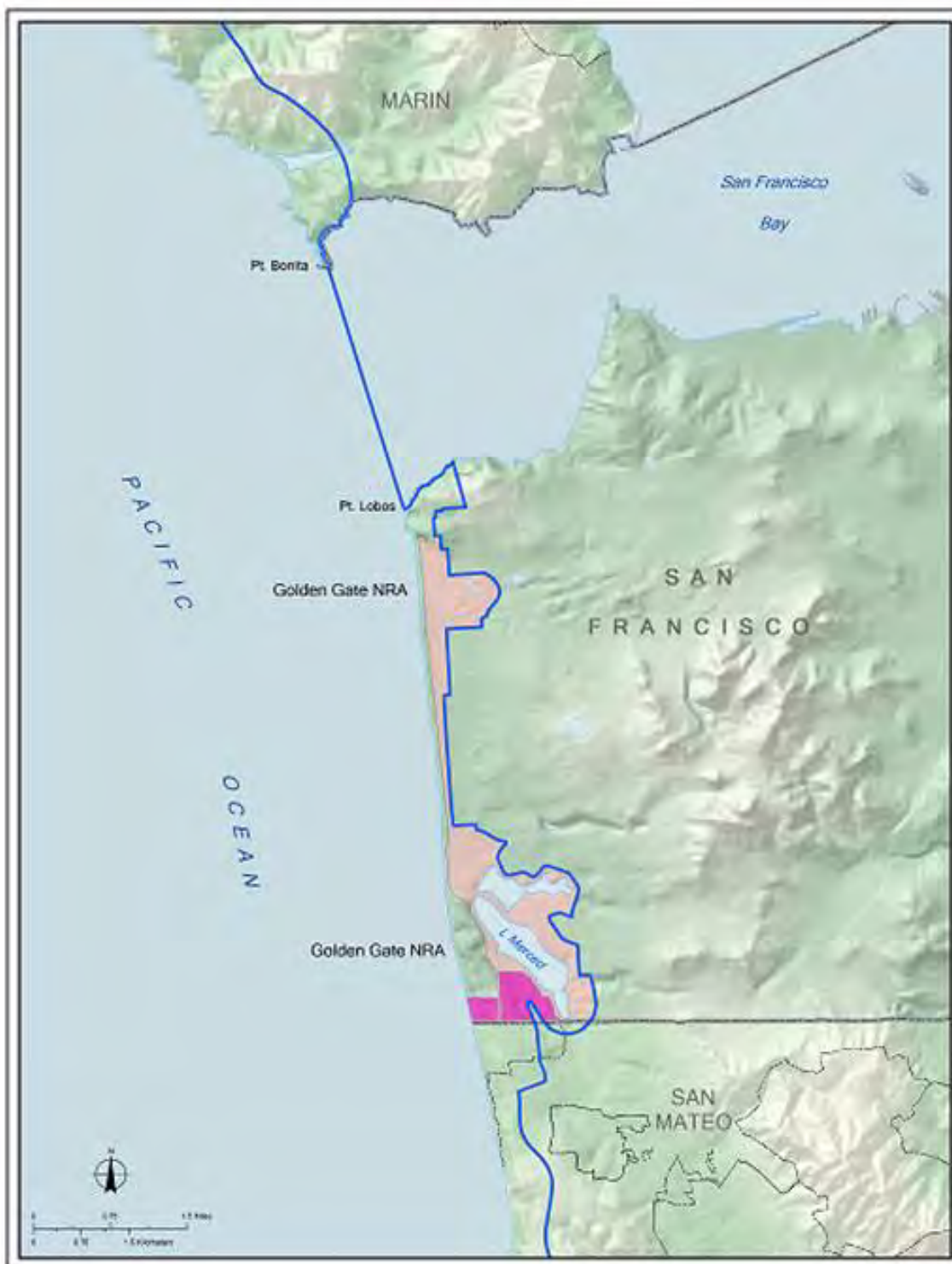
Figure 2. Marin County Coastal Zone



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. In 2015, the City commenced its LCP advisory group meetings and public outreach meetings for the LCP amendment and is currently finalizing a technical memo on locally-relevant sea level rise data and research. Commission staff continues to work closely with the City and County as it develops the LCP amendment and anticipates it being submitted to the Commission in late 2016.

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.

El Niño Storm Damage Update(SP 3.1.4, 7.8.3)

The 2015/2016 El Niño is one of the strongest on record, based on the major indicators of El Niño – the sea surface temperature in the equatorial and east Pacific Ocean. El Niño conditions were strongest in the fall and winter of 2015 and they have been weakened through the late winter and early spring 2016 season. Recent reports from NOAA predict continued weakening, followed by a possible transition to a La Nina condition (cooler ocean waters in the east and equatorial Pacific) by Fall 2016.

To date, most of the damages have occurred in central and southern California and this is reflected in the El Niño related permit activity for the different Commission offices. As of April 6, 2016, the Commission has issued 67 El Niño related permits, and only 2 of these have been for emergencies north of San Francisco. The 2015/2016 El Niño has not matched the 1997/1998 El Niño season when every coastal county had been included in a Presidential Major Disaster declaration and the Commission issued over 120 emergency permits. Nevertheless, significant staff time has been dedicated to review and process the 2015/2016 El Niño related permits and significant additional time will be required in the coming months for regular CDP follow-up.

Researchers are now examining the 2015/2016 El Niño and attempting to analyze it and compare it to other strong El Niño, such as 1997/1998 and 1982/1983. Some early observations as to the differences in 2015/2016 El Niño include:

- Only in mid-November and mid-December did major storms coincide with high water levels (Flick, Reinhard. 2016. California Tides, Sea Level and Waves – Winter 2015-16, Shore & Beach, in process).
- A persistent high pressure system deflected northward many of the storms that were heading toward the southern and central coast (Swain, D. 2016, California Weather Blog, March 9, 2016; <http://www.weatherwest.com/archives/author/thunder>).
- There were no ‘perfect storm conditions’ as occurred early in 1983, when there was a convergence of distant storm waves , multiple local storms and peak high tides.
- The peak 2015/2016 El Niño and high tide conditions occurred earlier in the winter season before the beaches fully shifted to a narrow winter profile.
- The strongest storms tended to occur early in the season, rather than at the end of the winter season when the beaches would have been eroded by previous storm events.

As noted in the February 2016 summary, most of the permit actions in the early months of September into November were for preparation efforts such as clearing flood channels, undertaking facilities maintenance and construction of temporary sand berms. Some of these

were done through emergency permits and others through regular permits. By December, all the El Niño related permit requests were all for emergency responses, mostly for shoreline protection in response to damage from some of the large storms or combination of storms and high tide events. Most of the recent emergency permits have authorized the temporary placement of rock, concrete blocks or sand bags. Tables 1 and 2 show the temporal and spatial distribution of El Niño related permit actions. Appendix 1 provides a summary of all the El Niño related permits, as of April 6, 2016.

Table 1. El Niño Permit Actions, by Month, as of April 6, 2016

	Emergency Permits	Waivers	Regular Permits	Total
September			1	1
October	3	1	7	11
November	6	1	1	8
December	6			6
January	10	1		11
February	16			16
March				
April	14*			14
TOTAL	55	3	9	67

*This list includes two Emergency permit applications for work that had been completed before an emergency permit could be issued. Projects will require regular CDP review.

Table 2. El Niño Permit Actions, by District, as of April 6, 2016

	Emergency Permits	Waivers	Regular Permits	Total
North Coast	2			2
North Central	8			8
Central	11			11
South Central	12	1	2	15
South Coast	12	1	7	20
San Diego	9*	1		10
Energy	1			1
TOTAL	55	3	9	67

* This list includes two Emergency permit applications for work that had been completed before an emergency permit could be issued. Projects will require regular CDP review.

The Commission's [climate change webpage](#) has been updated to reflect new El Niño information and research. The El Niño storm season is winding down so we should see fewer emergency permit applications for shoreline protection structures and other development to protect development from shoreline erosion resulting from storm waves.

Sea Level Guidance Implementation Outreach (SP 3.1.4)

Commission staff have been providing regular outreach and training sessions to support implementation of the newly adopted Sea Level Rise (SLR) Guidance and in support of LCP Grant work. In March presentations included:

- Coastal commission staff and the San Diego Regional Climate collaborative held a joint outreach event on March 29, 2016 focusing on sea level rise adaptation planning. The San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative was recently awarded grant through NOAA's Regional Coastal Resilience Grant Program, and will continue its ongoing work in the region focusing on coastal hazard protection and resilience.
- Commission staff presented the Commission's SLR Guidance at the UC Davis Environmental Law Symposium on March 11.
- Commission staff presented Commission's SLR Guidance to the Channel Coast Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC Ventura/Santa Barbara) on March 16.

Meetings and Events

Dr. Lesley Ewing participated on a panel at a hearing of the Assembly's Select Committee on Coastal Protection convened by Assembly member Mark Stone on March 18th in Moss Landing. The hearing can be viewed at: [Beach Erosion and Declining Sand Supplies](#)

Round 3 LCP Grant Application Period Now Open.(SP Goal 4)

The application period for the third round of LCP grants is now open. The deadline to submit applications is May 20th at 5:00pm. The Commission's LCP grant team is conducting outreach to our local government partners on this grant opportunity. More information and links to the application are posted to our homepage and LCP grants page: <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/lcp/lcpgrantprogram.html>. Staff will be providing an update on the status of the 24 round 1 and 2 grants in the Executive Directors report for May Commission meeting.

Water Quality MOA with The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (SP, 2.4.3, 7.8.3)

On April 4th, Commission staff signed an updated Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, joining state and federal partners to continue the successful collaboration to protect water quality in the watersheds that drain into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Since 1992, the Commission has worked with this partnership to devise and implement new strategies to address water quality problems more effectively.

The signatories to this updated MOA include: the U.S. Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Ocean Service, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries through Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the California State Water Resources Control Board, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region, the

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, and the Coastal Commission. The MOA partners recognize the added value of leveraging opportunities and collaborating between programs and their respective authorities to guide ecosystem-based water quality management that protects the nationally significant resources and compatible uses of the Sanctuary. Under the MOA, each agency agrees to roles and activities that will ensure cooperation in improving water quality and ecosystem health in the Sanctuary.

As the Sanctuary is adjacent to almost three hundred miles of California's coastline, and receives drainage from approximately eight thousand square miles of land in ten major watershed areas, it is susceptible to impacts from non-point, urban, rural, and agricultural sources of pollution. The Commission therefore agrees to use our authorities under the Coastal Act and the Federal Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments to protect water quality through regulatory permit and appeal reviews of development, Local Coastal Programs, Federal Consistency reviews, and the implementation of educational, technical assistance, and monitoring programs. The Commission will also continue to coordinate with Regional Water Boards to ensure that LCPs are consistent with Clean Water Act requirements and, as appropriate, that Coastal Development Permits are consistent with the strategies in any Action Plans for water quality, wetlands and riparian corridor protection developed for the watersheds surrounding the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Public Records Act Requests

Since January 1, 2016 staff has received 67 public records requests related to a variety of matters. Although a number of these requests involved issues related to the dismissal of the Executive Director staff has also received a number of requests related to other matters. These requests have resulted in a significant increase in workload for our legal, planning and support staff. These requests must be processed within prescribed legal timeframes.

Appendix 1: 2015 – 2016 El Nino – Commission Actions, as of April 6, 2016

September 2015 (Note – Months indicate when actions were reported to the Commission)

South Coast Office

- 5-14-1345 – LA County Beaches & Harbors --Venice, Dockweiler and Hermosa Beaches - Construct 9 seasonal sand berms

October 2015

Central Coast Office

- G-3-15-0024 – Monterey County -- Manage the sandbar at Carmel River

South Central Office

- 4-14-1806 – City of Carpinteria -- Winter sand berm on Carpinteria City Beach
- G-4-15-0028 – City of Santa Barbara -- -- Remove sediment and vegetation from existing channel from Laguna Pump Station, E. Cabrillo Blvd.

South Coast District

- 5-15-1026 – LACFCD – Remove trash, debris and non-native/invasive vegetation from the San Gabriel River.
- 5-15-1028 – LACFCD – Remove trash, debris and vegetation from Rustic Creek.
- 5-15-1029 – LACFCD -- Minor structural repairs to the channel of Rustic Creek.
- 5-15-1046 – LACFCD -- Minor structural repairs of the riprap levees and outlet structures along San Gabriel River.
- 5-15-1064 – LACFCD -- Minor structural repairs throughout the riverside slopes of the channel reach of Ballona Creek.
- 5-15-1065 – LACFCD – Remove trash, debris and non-native/invasive vegetation from Ballona Creek.
- 5-15-1577-W - LA County Beaches and Harbors -- Construct a berm on the Dockweiler Beach, south of Ballona Creek.
- G-5-15-0025 – D & E Bruno -- Foundation underpinning of an existing single-family residence.

November 2015

North Central Coast

G-2-15-0026 –San Mateo County – Replace culvert at Sharp Park Culvert, Pacifica, CA,

South Central Coast

- 4-15-1346 – City of Santa Barbara Public Works Department – Remove sediment and vegetation from the channel bottom at Laguna Pump Station (Follow-up to EP action)
- G-4-15-0035 – Caltrans – New 75 linear foot rock revetment at Postmile 4.2, Ventura County.
- 4-15-1602-W – LA County Beaches and Harbors -- Sand berm at Surfrider Beach, Malibu Lagoon.

South Coast

- G-5-15-0031 – City of Laguna Beach, CA, Orange County – Remove dead and non-native vegetation.
- G-5-15-0032 – City of Laguna Beach, CA, Orange County – Remove dead and non-native vegetation.
- G-5-15-0033 – LAFCO – Repair Storm Drain #5241 at Dockweiler State Beach in Playa Del Rey.
- G-5-15-0030 – Santa Catalina Island Company -- Timber shoring to temporarily support the Bluewater Grill Restaurant, Avalon.

December 2015

Central Coast

- G-3-15-0041-- Reinforce concrete cutoff wall along the toe of the existing Rockview Drive seawall, Pleasure Point, Santa Cruz.
- G-3-15-0038 – RJ Walker Trust -- Demolish distressed masonry stairs at Opal Cliffs, Santa Cruz.

South Central

- G-4-15-0036 – Caltrans -- Slope repair and shoreline protection along shoulder of PCH, Santa Monica Mountains.
- G-4-15-0037 – Caltrans -- Relocate/reconstruct an unpermitted rock revetment approximately 25 feet landward, along PCH in Ventura County.
- G-4-15-0039 – County of Santa Barbara – Winter sand berm on Goleta Beach, west of Goleta Pier.

San Diego

G-5-15-0022 – City of San Diego – Repair water pipeline.

January 2016

North Coast

G-1-15-0046 – Wildlands Conservancy – Remove sediment from Eel River Estuary Preserve, Humboldt County and place on historic berm.

Central Coast

- G-3-15-0047 – San Luis Obispo County – Breach sandbar at the mouth of San Luis Creek, Avila Beach.
- G-3-15-0051 -- Monterey County Water Resources Agency -- Repair of the existing culvert tide gates at Moss Landing Road.

South Central

G-4-15-0045 – City of San Buenaventura – Construct rock revetment along Promenade, Surfers Point

South Coast

- G-5-15-0042 – LA County Flood Control – Replace damaged section of White Point Storm Drain.
- G-5-15-0043 – Capistrano Bay District -- Place either sand bags and/or water filled K-rails in front of up to 196 single family residences along Beach Road in the City of Dana Point.
- G-5-15-0044 – Orange County – Rock revetment to protect parking lot at Capistrano County Beach Park.

San Diego

- 6-15-2099-W – Wigmore and Blondin – Winter sand berm at base of coastal bluffs in Encinitas.
- G-6-15-0048 – Camino Del Mar, LLC – Rock revetment along the shore in Del Mar, San Diego County.
- G-6-15-0049 – City of Carlsbad – Rock revetment seaward of Carlsbad Boulevard.

Energy Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency

- 9-16-0002 – PG&E Humboldt Bay Power Plant -- Signs and temporarily closing Shoreline Trail in Eureka.

February 2016

North Coast

- G-1-15-0003 – City of Eureka -- Construct a 300 foot-long revetment near the mouth of the Elk River to protect a pressure sewer main near Truesdale Street.

North Central

- G-2-16-0007 – J. West – Construct new rock revetment at 1112 Palmetto, Pacifica.
- G-2-16-0014 – Fickers/Smith – Construct new rock revetment at 1070 Palmetto, Pacifica.
- G-2-16-0011 – Aimco Corp. – Augment existing revetment and new soil nail wall at 380 Esplanade, Pacifica.
- G-2-16-0018 – City of Half Moon Bay – Construct rock revetment seaward of Mirada Road and CA Coastal Trail, Half Moon Bay.

Central

- G-3-16-0005 – Rockview Drive – Restack rip-rap rock and install a 71 foot-long cutoff wall (replaces G-3-15-0041 that expired before the applicant could undertake the work).
- G-3-16-0017 – Candau Property, Pleasure Point – Concrete and shotcrete cave fill and new seawall.
- G-3-16-0019 – Moss Landing Boat Yard – Construct new rock revetment to protect boatyard facilities.
- G-3-16-0015 –Monterey County -- Carmel River Sandbar Management (supersedes G-3-15-0024)

South Central

- G-4-16-0012 – N. Williams – Replace short section of sewer lateral.
- G-4-16-0004 – City of Santa Barbara – Breach sand bar at Laguna Channel, Santa Barbara.
- G-4-16-0020 – Mark Magidson Trust- Construct rock revetment at 30822 Broad Beach Road, Malibu
- G-4-16-0013 – Trancas Property Owners Association – Repair rock revetment that crosses 26 properties on Broad Beach, Malibu.

San Diego

- G-6-16-0008 - City of Encinitas – New revetment between inlet to San Elijo Lagoon and Coast Highway
- G-6-16-0009 - City of Encinitas – New revetment to fill in gap in existing rip rap on seaward side of Coast Highway
- G-6-16-0010 - City of Encinitas - Sand berm and revetment in front of Moonlight Beach lifeguard tower

March 2016

North Central Coast

- G-2-16-0026 – City of Pacifica –11 warning signs and temporary barrier during demolition of buildings on Esplanade Blvd.
- G-2-16-0025 – Paul Heule; Pacifica Quarry – Signs at 3 trail heads warning of dangerous conditions.
- G-2-16-0022 – City of Pacifica – Restack rock fronting damaged section of seawall along Beach Blvd.

Central Coast

- G-3-16-0040 – Santa Cruz Port District – Entrance channel dredging, with disposal at Twin Lakes SB.
- G-9-16-0031 – MRWPCA –Place temporary sheetpile around outfall and backfilling with sand.

South Central Coast

- G-4-16-0028 – County of Santa Barbara – Construct a 2,400 foot-long sand berm, west of Goleta Pier.
- G-4-16-0027 – County of Santa Barbara – Repair 6 or more sinkholes inland of the existing revetments.

South Coast

- G-5-16-0036 – Doheny SB – Rock revetment about 815 feet long to protect parking lot and #7 Restroom.
- G-5-16-0030 – Laguna Beach -- Wood stairs for temporary beach access.
- G-5-16-0039 – Orange County – Sand bag placement to protect parking lot at Capistrano County Beach Park, replaces G-5-15-0044 for rock revetment.

- G-5-16-0029 City of LA – Clean about 285 cy of sand and debris from an existing storm drain outfall.

San Diego

- G-6-15-0052 – Oceanus GHAD – Construct a 49 foot-long tied-back seawall.
- G-6-16-0024 – UCSD – Emergency repairs to access road at Black's Beach; require follow-up CDP, Emergency Permit number assigned but not permit issued.
- G-6-16-0021 – North Cardiff SB – Add ½- and 1-ton rock to 200 foot-long section of existing revetment; require follow-up CDP, Emergency Permit number assigned but not permit issued.