

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

August 9, 2016

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: John Ainsworth, Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, August 2016

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

LCP Program Status – Monterey, Santa Cruz Counties (SP Goal 4)

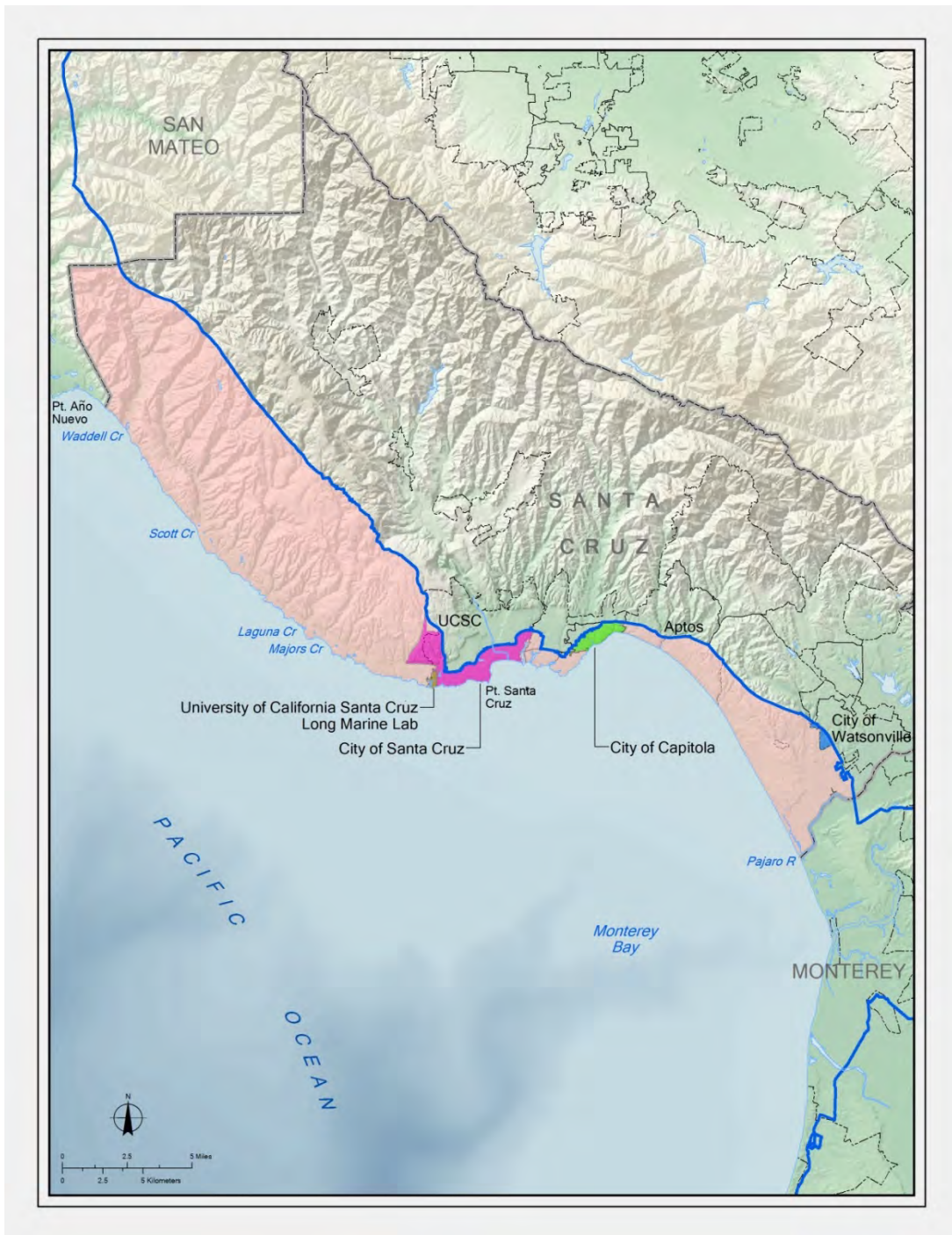
The Central Coast district stretches from the San Mateo/Santa Cruz County border near Año Nuevo State Reserve in the north to San Luis Obispo County's southern border with Santa Barbara County near the Guadalupe Dunes in the south, nearly 300 miles of coastline. The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary lies offshore for much of this length. The district has three coastal counties (Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo) and twelve incorporated cities (Santa Cruz, Capitola, Watsonville, Marina, San Jose, Seaside, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel, Morro Bay, Pismo Beach, and Grover Beach), each with certified LCPs with the exception of the cities of Monterey and Pacific Grove. There are also five major harbors (in Santa Cruz, Moss Landing, Monterey, Morro Bay, and Port San Luis), numerous State Parks' Public Works Plans, and one coastal long range development plan (for the University of California at Santa Cruz's Marine Science Campus).

The Central Coast district coastal zone is diverse, with both rugged and more pastoral rural areas interspersed between population centers. 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. Each of the Central Coast District LCPs within Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties are summarized below.

Santa Cruz County

Santa Cruz County totals approximately 607 square miles, 113 square miles of which are located in the coastal zone, and contains approximately 45 miles of shoreline. The physical environment of Santa Cruz County is beautiful and diverse. With a spectacular coastline, accessible beaches, and wooded mountains all in proximity to several northern California metropolitan areas, Santa Cruz County is an important vacation and recreation area. Within its borders are several State parks (including portions of Big Basin State Park) and a number of State beaches (including Twin Lakes, Seacliff, Sunset and Manresa State Beaches). The County also contains a large stretch of Highway 1, including the incredibly scenic area located north of the City of Santa Cruz to San Mateo County. The topography of the County is varied in character, containing such features as agricultural lands and the forested Santa Cruz Mountains in the north and northeast, the mid-County coastal terraces (where a large portion of the County's population is located), and the alluvial south County, which is predominately in agricultural use. The central California coast location and the County's topographic features contribute to the ideal Mediterranean climate of Santa Cruz County. Due to this climate and the variety of landscape types, the County

contains a diverse economic base which is often natural resource-based and includes visitor-serving and service industries, agriculture and manufacturing. The dominant economic activities are generally centered in the agricultural and food processing of the south County and services and tourism in the North County. Other economic activities include quarrying, forestry, wood products, fishing and other manufacturing. The County's LCP was originally adopted in 1983 and was last updated in 1994. The County is currently updating the hazards components of the LCP and Commission staff is working actively with the County on this update.



City of Santa Cruz

The City of Santa Cruz has about eight miles of shoreline and occupies a picturesque location along the banks of the San Lorenzo River, between the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Cruz Mountains. The majority of the City's coastal zone is urbanized, but open space and natural areas (e.g., Natural Bridges State Beach, Moore Creek Preserve, and UCSC's Terrace Point lands) are also found within the City's coastal zone. Steamer Lane, a famous surfing spot, is located just off of Lighthouse Point along scenic West Cliff Drive. The Santa Cruz Harbor is located in the City and is an important harbor facility for recreational and commercial fishing in Monterey Bay. The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, adjoining commercial establishments, and the City's Municipal Wharf are located on and adjacent to the City's Main and Cowell Beaches. These areas together form a popular beach and general visitor destination with an estimated one million visitors annually. The City is also home to many historic structures, including many buildings designed in a variety of Victorian architectural styles. The Commission certified the original LCP in 1981 and approved a major update of the LCP in 1995. The City is currently pursuing a full LCP update, and Commission staff continue to work closely with the City on that effort.

City of Capitola-by-the-Sea

The City of Capitola-by-the-Sea has about two miles of shoreline along Monterey Bay. Even though Capitola is highly urbanized, the City has many natural features, including New Brighton State Beach, several monarch butterfly groves, and Soquel Creek. The Esplanade in Capitola Village is a vibrant commercial visitor-serving district located adjacent to Capitola Beach and the mouth of Soquel Creek. The unarmored cliffs of Depot Hill located downcoast of Capitola Beach contain a rich assemblage of well-preserved marine fossils. The Commission certified the City's LCP in 1990, and certified three areas of deferred certification (Rispin Mansion, Shadowbrook, and El Salto parcels) in 2005. The City is currently working on a full LCP update, and Commission staff is working closely with City staff on this effort.

City of Watsonville

Only a small portion (less than 10%) of the City of Watsonville lies within the coastal zone. This coastal zone area constitutes approximately 300 acres and is mostly made up of undeveloped farmlands and sensitive habitat areas. Developed areas in the City's coastal zone include the City's wastewater treatment facility located on the Pajaro River, the City's landfill, and Pajaro Valley High School. The Commission certified the City's LCP in 1988. The City has submitted only five LCP amendments since 1988, all of which were approved by the Commission. At this time, no LCP update is planned.

Monterey County

Monterey County is located on the southern half of Monterey Bay along the central California coast. The Monterey County coastline extends approximately 136 miles from the flat coastal plain south of the Pajaro River to the rugged mountainous shoreline of Big Sur just south of the town of Gorda. Coastal estuaries, bays, and rivermouths add another 56 miles of shoreline to the coastal zone. Monterey County has four Land Use Plans (LUPs) for specific defined areas: North County, Del Monte Forest, Carmel Area, and Big Sur. There are three Areas of Deferred Certification in the County, at Fort Ord Dunes State Park, Mal Paso Beach, and Yankee Point.



North County segment: The North County portion of the LCP was first certified in 1982. The North County coastal zone encompasses the unincorporated area of the county from the Pajaro River to the Marina city limit. This LCP segment includes roughly nine miles of shoreline and associated coastal dune habitat, thousands of acres of prime agricultural lands, rural and low-density residential development, and also includes Elkhorn Slough, which is one of California's principal estuaries and wetland features and a National Estuarine Research Reserve. Moss Landing Harbor and the Dynegy power plant are located in the unincorporated town of Moss Landing. The Harbor lies at the western edge of the Elkhorn Slough watershed and supports approximately 155 recreational motor and sail boats, and approximately 455 commercial, research, and recreational boats, including commercial fishing and oceanographic research vessels. Commission staff has been working with the County on updates to the North County portion of the LCP, including the Moss Landing Community Plan, that addresses additional protections for agricultural lands, groundwater resources, ESHA, wetlands, and other sensitive habitats; new provisions to address sea level rise and flood hazards; long-term planning for Moss Landing Harbor; and a General Development Plan for the reuse of the former National Refractories site at Moss Landing.

Fort Ord Dunes State Park (Area of Deferred Certification): Fort Ord Dunes State Park is a new, roughly 980 acre state park located west of Highway 1 in northern Monterey County. The park encompasses roughly four miles of shoreline and currently provides for limited day use. These lands were transferred from the federal government to State Parks in 1994. In 2004, the Fort Ord Dunes State Park General Plan was approved by the State Parks and Recreation Commission, which contemplates specific park improvements, including the establishment of environmental campsites. Commission staff is currently working with State Parks on a campground, dune restoration, and public access enhancement project.

Del Monte Forest segment: The Del Monte Forest portion of the LCP was first certified in 1984. This area extends inland three to four miles in places and is located along roughly 7 miles of central California shoreline on the Monterey Peninsula (occupying much of the peninsula landform) and is bounded roughly by the cities of Pacific Grove and Monterey to the north and northwest, and Carmel to the south; State Highway One skirts the Del Monte Forest a couple of miles inland. A circuitous private road system winds through the Del Monte Forest. The Pebble Beach Company owns the roads and almost all of the undeveloped land in the Forest. The Del Monte Forest has long been recognized for its natural beauty and is well known for its mostly craggy shoreline that extends through the bluff platform and large areas of dunes up through and into a sloped landform mantled by native Monterey pine forest. The Del Monte Forest is home to a variety of plant and animal species, including some that are exceptionally rare. This LCP segment was the subject of a partial update in 2012 that also provided for a final build out and preservation plan for the Pebble Beach Company's remaining undeveloped landholdings in the Del Monte Forest.

Carmel Area segment: The Carmel Area portion of the LCP was first certified in 1983. The Carmel Area of unincorporated Monterey County follows roughly seven miles of rugged shoreline south of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea. South of the Carmel River, the Carmel area coastal zone encompasses a variety of habitat types and land uses including Monterey pine forest habitat, river, estuarine, and wetland habitats, chaparral, creeks and riparian habitats. Land uses include low-medium density residential, agricultural lands, commercial visitor-serving, and watershed protection areas. The County is beginning to undertake an update for this LCP segment. Primary issues are the preservation of agricultural lands and sensitive habitats,

regulation of vacation rentals, addressing flood and sea level rise impacts, development and alignment of the California Coastal Trail, and expanding access into recently acquired public lands.

Big Sur segment: The Big Sur coast area of unincorporated Monterey County is over 70 miles in length and stretches from the Carmel area in the north, south to the San Luis Obispo county line just south of the town of Gorda. As the largest planning area in Monterey County (some 150,000 acres), the Big Sur region is also the most geographically distinctive. The Big Sur coastal zone stretches well inland and encompasses a variety of habitat types including chaparral, redwood forest, oak woodland, coastal scrub, river and estuarine, to name a few. The Big Sur coast is world famous for its dramatic scenic shoreline vistas and landscapes, with sweeping undeveloped views of the Santa Lucia Mountains, coastal bluffs, rocky coastline, beaches, and the ocean from Highway 1. The County is in the process of updating this LCP segment and has held public workshops to gather input on a range of issues from identification and protection of sensitive habitats, provision of secondary dwelling units, vacation rental rules, fire protection and fuel modification, California Coastal Trail planning, and provision of water and other public services. Commission staff is working actively with the County on this update.

City of Marina

The incorporated City of Marina is a small coastal community in North Monterey County and is situated roughly between the Salinas River mouth and the Fort Ord Dunes State Park. The City has about three miles of shoreline fronted by restored coastal dune habitat, most of which is in public ownership. The last remaining sand mining plant on the Monterey Bay operates just above the surf line in the northern portion of the City. The coastal zone inland of Highway 1 is limited to roughly 60 acres that includes commercial retail development, visitor-serving overnight accommodations, coastal dunes, and three significant vernal ponds/coastal wetlands. The LCP was certified in 1982 and there have been relatively few amendments. No updates are planned currently.

City of Sand City

The Sand City coastal zone extends from the southern boundary of Fort Ord Dunes State Park to the City of Seaside on the south. West of Highway 1, Sand City has approximately 1.5 miles of shoreline and is comprised primarily of sand dunes. The coastal zone area includes the entire areas west of the highway and a strip of land 200 feet in width inland and adjacent to the highway right-of-way. In addition, the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way and 100 feet on the western side of the right-of-way are also located in the coastal zone. Inland areas are developed at urban intensities with residential, commercial, and industrial uses. The LCP was certified in 1982. No updates are planned currently.

City of Seaside

The City of Seaside coastal zone encompasses roughly 90 acres of land that extends from the shoreline inland of the highway to the terminus of Canyon Del Rey Creek. The Seaside coastal zone includes 500 feet of shore frontage west of Highway 1. A former estuarine complex comprised of Robert's Lake and Laguna Grande makes up the vast portion of the coastal zone inland of the highway. Land uses within the coastal zone include residential, commercial, and park/open space. Habitats found in the Seaside coastal zone include sand dune, estuarine, emergent wetland, and coastal oak woodland. The Seaside LCP was certified by the Commission in 2013.

City of Monterey

The City of Monterey has divided its Land Use Plan (LUP) into five segments: Cannery Row, Harbor, Del Monte Beach, Skyline, and Laguna Grande (the Laguna Grande LUP remains uncertified). The City does not have a certified Implementation Plan. The Commission awarded the City a Round 2 LCP grant (\$235,000) to help support an LCP certification process. Commission staff continues to work closely with the City to support development of its comprehensive LCP. The City is about halfway through the scheduled work program and has made significant progress on the planned tasks, including outreach, an Existing Conditions Report (including an analysis of sea level rise vulnerability), and a Vision, Goals, and Objectives Report. Future tasks include development of an Alternatives Report and the LCP. Currently, the LCP is divided into five subareas as described below, but the intention of the grant is to update, consolidate, and adopt one Land Use Plan and Implementation Plan for the City,

Cannery Row LUP: The Commission certified the Cannery Row LUP in 1981. The Cannery Row coastal zone is narrow and primarily extends only to the inland portion of Cannery Row itself. Cannery Row is a popular tourist destination, which contains many shops, restaurants, several hotels, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The Cannery Row coastline is generally rocky but there are two accessible beaches: McAbee Beach and San Carlos Beach. Public and visual access to the coastline is blocked in many locations by development, but there are seven public access areas along the 0.7-mile stretch of Cannery Row. A popular recreational trail (part of the California Coastal Trail (CCT)) passes through the Cannery Row coastal zone.

Harbor LUP: The Commission certified the Harbor LUP in 2003. The Harbor LUP segment is comprised of shoreline property along Monterey Bay and is located west of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School Property and southeast of Cannery Row. This segment is a hub of the tourist and fishing industry and includes the recreational Fisherman's Wharf (Wharf No. 1), the commercial fishing facilities on Wharf No. 2, and two marinas. Window-on-the-Bay Park, the recreational trail (a segment of the CCT), and a portion of Monterey State Beach all lie within this segment. The area contains many of the historic sites of the Monterey State Historic Park.

Del Monte Beach LUP: The Commission certified the Del Monte Beach LUP in 2003. This area abuts the Harbor planning area to the west and the Seaside City limit to the east. Major properties in this area include: the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School; an abandoned wastewater treatment pump station; the Del Monte Beach Tract 2 subdivision (the Commission approved a re-subdivision of this area in 2002, which reduced the number of developable parcels from 60 to 11); the Del Monte Beach Tract 1 subdivision; the oceanfront Ocean Harbor House condominium complex; City and State Parks beach properties; the CCT recreation trail; and the shorefront Monterey Beach Hotel at the Seaside City limit. The Del Monte Beach LUP area contains significant sand dune resources. The Naval Postgraduate School has restored portions of its property with native vegetation. The Commission required four-and-a-half acres of dune habitat to be restored as part of the Del Monte Beach Tract 2 re-subdivision. Portions of the State Parks properties have been restored, with plans for additional restoration in the future.

Skyline LUP: The Commission certified the Skyline LUP in 1992. The most important environmental element of the Skyline planning area is its significant stands of native Monterey pine forest, which shelters unique and sensitive plant associations and endemic species. Existing development in this planning area includes Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and the U.S. Army Presidio.

Laguna Grande LUP: This LUP was never certified, and an Implementation Plan was not developed.

City of Pacific Grove

The City of Pacific Grove is a relatively small coastal city in Monterey County, located immediately west of the City of Monterey and upcoast of the unincorporated Del Monte Forest area. The city's coastal zone is 458 acres, stretching from the Monterey Bay Aquarium to the Asilomar Conference Grounds. The coastal zone includes numerous land use types, including residential and commercial development near its downtown core, as well as restored dune habitat located within Asilomar State Beach. The Land Use Plan was certified by the Commission in 1991, but the Implementation Plan has not yet been approved. As such, the Commission continues to issue coastal development permits in Pacific Grove's coastal zone. The Commission approved a Round 1 LCP Grant in 2013 (\$130,000) for the city to complete its LCP. This grant period ran from April 2014 to April 2016, and resulted in extensive public outreach on core coastal resource issues and a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, both of which helped form the basis for an updated LUP and a new IP which are currently being heard by the City's Planning Commission and are expected to be submitted to the Coastal Commission shortly. Commission staff continues to work closely with City staff on its LCP update, which will ultimately result in a fully certified LCP for the City.

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea

The City of Carmel is located west of Highway 1 and south of the Monterey peninsula between the Del Monte Forest and the Carmel planning area of Monterey County. The City is renowned for its mile-long stretch of white sand beach and quaint residential dwellings nestled among a forest of Monterey pine and oak trees. Land uses within the City are primarily residential, commercial, and open space recreation. The central core of the village is commercial and is comprised of a mix of restaurants, art galleries, and shops that attract visitors from around the State and beyond. Beyond the commercial core are residential uses and visitor serving accommodations, with the remaining area consisting of predominantly open space and parklands. Carmel's LCP was certified in 2004 and contains specific measures to protect the unique village character including historic residences, forest resources, public views, and the spectacular white sand beach.

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 July staff participated in one event:

On July 21st, Coastal Commission staff participated in a panel presentation at a day-long conference hosted by UC Irvine titled "*California Coastal Resiliency: Communities in Action*". The panel included staff from the Ocean Protection Council and the Coastal Conservancy and was focused on state policies, programs, and priorities for coastal resiliency. Commission staff discussed the general CCC efforts related to sea level rise, the SLR Policy Guidance, and adaptation planning within the context of LCPs and CDPs. Staff also participated in a related breakout workgroup that discussed needs, barriers, and strategies for encouraging and assisting coastal community efforts related to sea level rise adaptation planning. Other presentations throughout the day from a variety of stakeholders from local government, tribal, academic, and non-profit sectors, as well as Chair Kinsey,

who addressed the challenges for vulnerable communities, science and tools, planning processes, and gaining political support for adaptation planning efforts.

Meetings and Events

Del Norte County Planning Department LCP Training. (SP 4.4.5 & 4.5.3)

On July 26 Commission staff provided an hour LCP training session for the Del Norte County planning staff. Del Norte County has a very small planning department with some new staff and they requested some guidance on LCP implementation. Commission staff covered such topics as (a) when CDPS are required, (b) differences in processing between retained vs delegated permit authority, (c) jurisdictional boundaries, (d) appealable projects, (e) exemptions and categorically excluded projects, (f) CDP application filing information and when to require certain filing information, and (g) substantive issue related to development near ESHAs, developments raising geologic hazards, and agricultural land conversions. This is just one example of staff's continuing LCP outreach and coordination efforts with our local government partners.

Completing the California Coastal Trail Walk

On Thursday August 4, 2016 two hikers, known as “MoJo”, completed their 97 day journey along the California coastline. Sponsored by a State Coastal Conservancy grant, Morgan Visalli and Jocelyn Enevoldsen are the third set of Coastwalkers to complete this magnificent 1,271 mile long walk. Their goal of promoting awareness for and completion of the California Coastal Trail was accomplished in various ways including social media posts, meeting with local government officials and members of the public along way, many news articles, etc.

The official *Grand Finale* ceremony was held at Border Field State Park in San Diego. Representatives from the four State agencies charged with leading the way toward trail completion – State Coastal Conservancy, California Coastal Commission, California State Parks, and Caltrans – attended the event along with the nonprofit advocacy group CCTA-Coastwalk.



Coastal Cleanup Day – September 17, 2016

On Saturday, September 17th, the Commission will be celebrating the 32nd Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day. 2016 is also the 40th anniversary of the passage of the California Coastal Act. Coastal Cleanup Day will be an opportunity to reach out to the public to acknowledge the 40 year Coastal Act anniversary. This is the Commission's largest public event, drawing more than 70,000 volunteers to California's beaches and inland waterways every year. Since the Commission began Coastal Cleanup Day in 1985, it has grown to become the state's largest annual volunteer event, and when combined with the International Coastal Cleanup, organized by the Ocean Conservancy, the largest such event in the world. During the past 31 years, almost 1.4 million volunteers have removed over 22 million pounds of trash, helping to keep our state's beaches and ocean free of debris at the end of the beach-going season. More than just a beach and river cleanup, the Cleanup is a fantastic entry point for Californians, young and old, and from across the spectrum of our population, to learn about coastal stewardship, the Commission's role in protecting our coast, and how they can become further involved in our efforts to keep the California coast clean, safe, and open to everyone. More information about Cleanup Day, including a comprehensive site map of the more than 850 Cleanup locations around the state, is available on the Commission's public education webpage [here](#).

The three weeks following Coastal Cleanup Day are celebrated as "Coastweeks," and the Coastal Commission creates a calendar of events related to the coast and inland waterways taking place all over California. Hundreds of events are included, hosted by many organizations and local governments. Groups can continue to submit events to PE staff to be included in the event calendar (<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/coastweeks>).



Coastal Trail Videos (SP 1.4)

The Coastal Commission recently funded a series of eight 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](http://www.kcet.org), and will also be shared through the Commission's Public Education YouTube channel, and on social media.

This month we are highlighting the video featuring the Pleasure Point segment of the Coastal Trail in Santa Cruz: <https://www.kcet.org/shows/california-coastal-trail/pleasure-point-connecting-santa-cruz-to-surf-breaks>.

Sale of “Kleen Kanteens” to Support Public Education Programs.

The Public Education Program is continuing to highlight ways that we can reduce the amount of single-use disposable products we all use. They have produced new “Kleen Kanteen” insulated bottles with the Commission's logo on one side and our iconic Whale tail license plate on the other, perfect for your cup of coffee or tea. These are going up for sale on the Commission's website (www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/shop/), and will be available to you and the public for \$30.95. The sale of the Kanteens will go to support the Coastal Cleanup Day and Adopt-A-Beach programs.

