

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

February 6, 2017

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: John Ainsworth, Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, February 2017

Significant reporting items for the month. [Strategic Plan](#) (SP) reference provided where applicable:**LCP Program Status – Orange County**

The Orange County shoreline is about 43 miles long. The coastal zone area totals approximately 59 square miles of the County's 948 square miles of total land area and includes portions of the County of Orange and 10 incorporated cities.

Figure 1. Orange County Coastal Zone LCP Jurisdictions

When LCP planning first began in the early 1980s, substantial areas of the county coastal zone were unincorporated. The large southern portion of the County included several large undeveloped landholdings, such as those of the Irvine Company and the Aliso Viejo Company. The County divided their LCP into several segments for LCP planning and during the years from 1983-1989, the County certified LCPs for many of these segments (the Sunset Beach segment, the Newport Coast segment (formally known as the Irvine Coast), the South/Emerald Bay segment, the South/Aliso Viejo segment, the South/Aliso Creek Remainder segment, the South/South Laguna segment, South/Laguna Niguel segment, South/Dana Point segment, and the South/Capistrano Beach segment. LCP planning in Orange County in the 1980s included addressing major statewide issues related to public access and protection of resources, including in areas such as the Bolsa Chica wetlands, the Newport (Irvine) Coast/Crystal Cove State Park areas, and the Aliso Greenbelt lands.

Since those original certifications, numerous cities annexed county lands or areas incorporated as new cities and thus new LCPs were required to be certified for these previously unincorporated areas. For instance, the City of Huntington Beach and Long Beach district staffs are currently coordinating on an LCP amendment that will incorporate the Sunset Beach segment, which was recently annexed into the City, into the Huntington Beach LCP.

Currently, there are LCPs certified for the Newport Coast, Emerald Bay and Aliso Viejo segments of the County, and for the cities of Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, and Dana Point. The LCPs for the cities of Seal Beach, Costa Mesa, Aliso Viejo and San Clemente are not yet certified.

Newport Beach is the most recently certified jurisdiction, with the confirmation of the final certification of the Implementation Plan occurring at the Commission hearing on January 13, 2017. This effort was supported in part by an FY 14-15 LCP planning grant of \$67,000.

The County of Orange has not updated any of its LCP segments (some of which may no longer exist or are now reduced in size as a result of incorporations).

None of the full LCPs for the cities have been comprehensively updated, although the cities of Huntington Beach and Newport Beach have comprehensively updated their LUPs and partial updates of the LCPs for Laguna Beach and Dana Point have been completed. The Commission awarded a \$90,000 FY 13-14 LCP planning grant to the City of San Clemente to support their LCP Certification. Under this grant, the City completed technical reports to inform the LCP amendment and undertook extensive work updating the LUP and preparing the IP. The LUP Amendment was submitted to the Long Beach office on March 17, 2016, and Commission staff continues to work closely with the City on the draft IP. To support this continued work, the City was recently awarded a Round 3 (FY 16-17) LCP Grant to perform additional technical studies and continue development of the IP, which will lead to certification of the full LCP. Finally, Round 3 (FY 16-17) grants were recently awarded to the Cities of Seal Beach and Dana Point to support sea level rise vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning as well as LCP development and these projects will commence in early 2017.

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 January staff participated in one event:

FEMA Resilience Workshop, San Mateo County

As previously reported, Commission staff, along with partners from the Coastal Conservancy, NOAA, USC Sea Grant, and USGS, have been working with FEMA Region 9 to develop workshops designed to engage local government staff and other relevant stakeholders in a discussion about community resilience to hazards and climate change. On January 19, Commission staff from the Sea Level Rise Team and the North Central Coast District Office participated in the second of these multi-agency resilience workshops in San Mateo County. This workshop brought together federal and state agency partners along with local planners, emergency managers, and others from the County and incorporated cities to discuss hazards and vulnerabilities in the community and to learn about tools, guidance documents, and grant programs to support resilience planning (including the Commission's Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance and LCP Grant Program). Commission staff gave a joint presentation with a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Specialist to discuss similarities among LCPs and Local Hazard Mitigation Plans and to identify opportunities to enhance alignment among these plans and other grant programs to leverage resources and better support proactive sea level rise adaptation planning. The team was also pleased that Commissioner Groom was able to attend and give some opening remarks in her capacity as a San Mateo County Supervisor.

California Climate Change Symposium

Commission staff attended the California Climate Change Symposium on January 25-26 in Sacramento to participate and learn about cutting-edge research addressing the impacts of climate change on the state. Staff presented posters on sea level rise products and tools being developed through the Climate Coastal Impact Assistance Grant and the new LCP sea level rise policy guidance underway funded by a NOAA Project of Special Merit. Copies of posters will soon be available at <http://californiascience.org/>.

Meetings and Events

Wetlands Recovery Project – Board of Governor's Meeting (SP 2.1.2 & 7.8.3)

On January 20th, the Acting Executive Director attended the Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) Board of Governors Meeting in Costa Mesa. The WRP is a partnership of state and federal resource agencies working cooperatively to fund projects that acquire, restore and enhance wetland habitats in southern California. Over the past 15 years the WRP has coordinated more than \$631 million to fund over 200 wetland projects in the region. The WRP has acquired more than 8,200 acres and restored 5,000 acres of wetlands throughout coastal Southern California. At the meeting the Board approved the 2017 Work Plan for 14 wetland enhancement and restoration projects throughout southern California. The Board also approved the proposed Vision, Mission and Guiding Principal statements for the WRP. Several presentations were given on:

- The Wetlands Recovery Project In-lieu Mitigation Program.
- San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Broad Supplemental Environmental Projects.
- Coordinating Position 1 Funding.

- State Water Board's Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program.
- Science Based Quantitative Regional Wetland Restoration Objective.
- Intermittently Open Estuaries Management Guidance Recommendations.
- UCSB North Campus Wetland Restoration Project.

Application Period Open for 4th Round of LCP Local Assistance Grants

On February 1, the Coastal Commission's LCP Local Assistance Grant program opened the application period for its fourth round of funding. Approximately \$550,000 will be awarded to local governments to complete or update their LCPs, with special emphasis on planning for sea level rise and climate change. This round of grants will distribute the remaining funds available from an original sum of \$3 million in Prop 40 bond funds that were transferred from the State Coastal Conservancy to the Coastal Commission through an Interagency Agreement. The application materials are posted on the Coastal Commission website (<https://www.coastal.ca.gov/lcp/grants/>), and applications are due May 31, 2017.

Budget Update

At the January 2017 Commission meeting, staff verbally updated the Commission on the Governor's Proposed FY 17-18 Budget and on the Department of Finance, Office of State Audits and Evaluations (OSAE) Evaluation of the Coastal Commission's Fiscal Management and Related Internal Controls. The Commission Chair established a Commission sub-committee on budget issues with Commissioners Groom and McClure as the members. This Sub-committee is currently working with the Commission staff to review the draft Corrective Action Plan that is required to be submitted to address the OSAE evaluation.

The Commission Sub-committee met with staff on January 13, 2017 and provided input on important elements to include in the Corrective Action Plan. The Sub-committee also was given a draft of the draft Corrective Action Plan for their review and comments. The draft Corrective Action Plan will be posted on the Commission's website and the Commission will have the opportunity to discuss the Corrective Action Plan at the Commission meeting on Wednesday, February 8. The final Corrective Action Plan is due to be submitted to OSAE by March 1, 2017.

Commission staff will prepare a report on the status of the current FY 16-17 budget and the Governor's proposed budget for FY 17-18 for discussion at an upcoming Commission meeting.