

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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**W7a**

April 5, 2019

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: John Ainsworth, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, April 2019

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

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

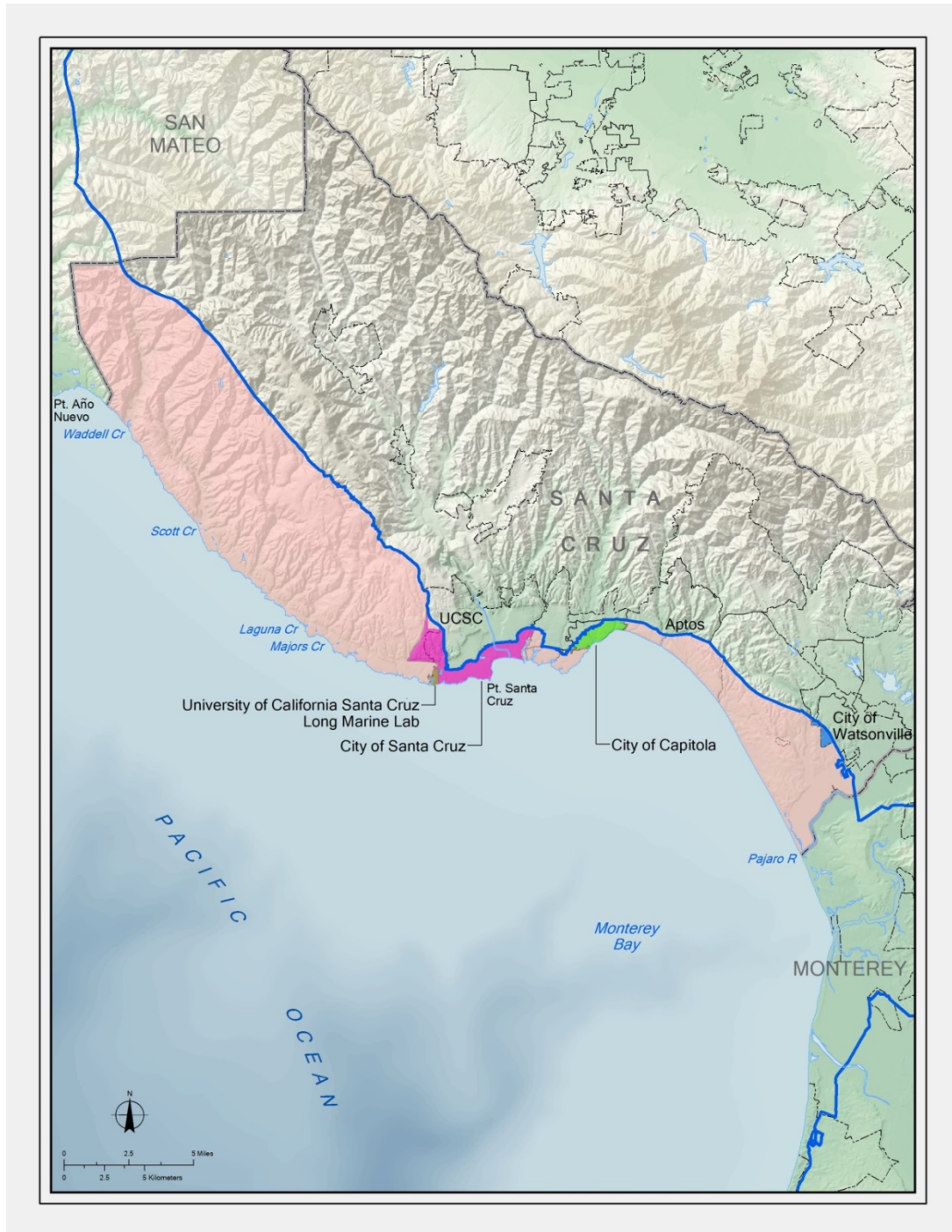
The Central Coast district stretches from the San Mateo/Santa Cruz County border near Año Nuevo State Reserve in the north to San Luis Obispo County's southern border with Santa Barbara County near the Guadalupe Dunes in the south, nearly 300 miles of coastline. The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary 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, Sand City, 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). 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 comprehensively updated in 1994. A primary task the County is currently working on is updating the coastal hazards components of the LCP and Commission staff is working actively with the County on this update, which should be submitted to the Commission in 2019.



### **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 an extremely 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 received a Round 5 LCP grant, as well as grant funding from Caltrans, to address sea level rise impacts and to develop a shoreline adaptation and management plan. Both grant efforts will be coordinated, and will result in a full LCP update, and Commission staff continues 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 an IP update, and Commission staff is working closely with City staff on this effort. The IP update should be submitted to the Commission in 2019.

### **City of Watsonville**

A small portion (less than 10%) of the City 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. 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 990-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 campsites. Commission staff worked collaboratively with State Parks on a new campground, dune restoration, and public access enhancement project. The Commission approved the project in July 2017, and State Parks' staff has indicated that construction of the project will begin in the fall of 2019.

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 (commonly known as "17-mile Drive") 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 and cypress 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. 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, 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. A consent cease and desist order for that plant's operations is also scheduled to be heard by the Commission at the July 2017 hearing. 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. The City received a Round 4 LCP grant and is in the process of completing a sea level rise vulnerability assessment and comprehensively updating its LCP. Commission staff is working actively with the City on this update.

### **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. Through the grant project, the City completed outreach; an Existing Conditions Report (including an analysis of sea level rise vulnerability); a Vision, Goals, and Objectives Report; and an adaptation alternatives report. Commission staff continues to work closely with the City to support development of its comprehensive LCP. Currently, the LCP is divided into five subareas as described below, but the intention of the grant is to update, consolidate, and adopt a single 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 no Implementation Plan has 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 City Council 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 in 2019.

### **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)**

### **San Diego Climate Summit**

On March 26, Commission staff attended the 2019 San Diego Climate Summit cohosted by the Climate Science Alliance, the Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and the NOAA-affiliated California-Nevada Climate Applications Program. The Summit focused on sea level rise, coastal vulnerabilities, adaptation and resiliency, and community climate messaging. It included presentations and panel discussions from top climate scientists and practitioners, and it highlighted the findings of California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment for the San Diego region.

### **North-Central California Outer Coast Living Shoreline and Resilience Workshop**

On Tuesday, April 2, four Commission's staff participated in the North-Central California Outer Coast Living Shoreline and Resilience Workshop, held in Stinson Beach and organized by a multi-agency team including the National Marine Sanctuaries and Coastal Conservancy. Dr. Mary Matella, sea level rise team staff scientist, was invited to offer a regulatory perspective amongst a series of presentations intended to illustrate the diverse aspects of living shorelines work. Dr. Lauren Garske-Garcia, staff ecologist, was invited to present on design and monitoring considerations, and both sat on a panel with colleagues for a broader discussion about advancing the use of living shorelines in California. Dr. Peter Allen, staff Caltrans/transportation liaison, and Karen Vu, Commission's 2019 Sea Grant Fellow, also



attended along with approximately 50 people representing a spectrum of agencies, non-profits, and community members from throughout the region.

## **Meetings and Events**

### **2019 Annual Washington DC Trip and Federal CZM Funding**

The Coastal Commission Executive Director, Jack Ainsworth and Federal Programs Manager, Michelle Jespersen, traveled to Washington, DC March 11 – 16, 2019 to attend the Coastal States Organization (CSO) Winter Meeting and to meet with California Congressional offices. The meetings with Congressional representatives and/or their staff were conducted with staff from the Coastal Commission, State Coastal Conservancy, Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) and Reserve Managers from California's three National Estuarine Research Reserves and focused on the importance of federal Coastal Zone Management Grant funding to our state. Staff met with 16 Congressional offices.

The trip also included attendance at the annual NOAA Program Managers Meeting, which included officials from NOAA's Office of Coastal Management officials and program managers from other coastal states and territories. Attendance at the NOAA meeting is a requirement of the federal Coastal Zone Management (CZM) grant.

The 2020 President Budget was released on March 11, 2019 and again, the President's Budget proposes \$0 funding for Coastal Zone Management Grants to coastal states in NOAA's budget. Commission staff will be working through the Congressional appropriations process to provide information and justification to Congress for the continuation of these funds for California.

### **Legislative Hearings on Commission Budget**

On March 27 (Assembly Budget Sub-committee) and April 4 (Senate Budget Sub-committee), held their initial hearings on the Commission's budget. The Commission's Executive Director was asked to make presentations on the Commission's sea level rise adaptation planning efforts and LCP grants; our San Francisco office move; and Lisa Haage, Enforcement Director, gave a presentation to the Assembly Sub-committee on the Commission's administrative penalties report. Both subcommittees left most of our budget items open for the moment, which is not unusual. It was encouraging to see several representatives from environmental NGOs and environmental justice groups testify in support of more resources for the coastal agencies' adaptation planning efforts. We expect added Budget Sub-committee hearings in late April and early May.

### **Oceans Day in Sacramento**

On March 19, Chairwoman Bochco joined Commissioners Brownsey, Luevano and Turnbull-Sanders and several commission staff in Sacramento for Oceans Day. This is an annual public education and lobby event aimed at raising awareness in the Capitol about coast and ocean protection. This was the 15<sup>th</sup> annual event and the largest yet, with over 200 citizen lobbyists volunteering for the day who had travelled in from all over the state. Latinos Marinos, organized by Azul, made up the single largest cohort, with over 90 advocates from as far away as Oxnard and San Ysidro. It was really inspiring to see how passionate and dedicated these young Californians are about protecting the coast and ocean, and it was a honor for the Commission to lend a hand at the event they work so hard on every year. Chair Bochco joined Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot and Controller Betty Yee for an inspirational lunchtime address to participants. Throughout the day, Commissioners met with several members of the Legislature, the administration and other constitutional offices, to bring attention to the Coastal Commission's work on sea level rise, public access, and environmental justice.

### **CSU Panel - Sea Level Rise and Impacts to Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Communities**

As part of Oceans Day, Cal State University (CSU) Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology hosted a panel on sea level rise and impacts to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. The panelists included Professor Dr. Kiki Patch, CSU Channel Islands, who talked about science behind climate change and sea level rise. Dr. Juliano Calil, Middlebury Institute of International Studies, who is working with the City of Santa Cruz on their climate and sea level rise adaptation plan which specifically addresses adaptation planning for vulnerable disadvantaged communities within the city. Dr. Serge Dedina, Mayor of Imperial Beach and co-founder/Executive Director of WILD COAST, who discussed the challenging issues related to adaptation planning in Imperial Beach, which is a disadvantaged community. Finally, the Commission's Executive Director discussed the Commission's sea level rise adaptation planning efforts across the state and the intersection of these adaptation planning efforts with environmental justice principles to ensure we are protecting vulnerable communities from climate change and sea level rise hazards and involving these communities in the planning process.

### **Legislature - Environmental Caucus**

On March 20, the Commission's Executive Director joined the Office of Planning and Research Director Kate Gordon and UCLA Ocean and Climate Professor Dr. Alex Hall for a briefing to legislators on sea level rise and climate change science and adaptation planning for the Environmental Caucus. About 20 legislators from both houses were in attendance, which is encouraging evidence of the increasing attention that the Legislature is paying to climate change and sea level rise issues.

### **Meeting with Resource Secretary Crowfoot**

On March 27, the Executive Director had an opportunity to meet the new Secretary of Natural Resources Agency, Wade Crowfoot, and discuss some of the high priority issues that the Commission will be dealing with this year. I am continuing to meet with legislators regarding district issues and legislative matters whenever I am in the Capitol.

### **Hollister Ranch Access Program Update**

On March 28, the Directors from California State Parks, State Lands Commission, Coastal Conservancy, Coastal Commission and Chair Bochco met with representatives of the Hollister Ranch Owners Association for a tour of the Ranch and to discuss the Hollister Ranch Access Program. The Ranch representatives indicated they are interested in working cooperatively with all parties in the development of the new access program. We talked in general about the process for public engagement in the development of the plan. The agency directors and Chair Bochco also emphasized the importance of an open and transparent public process in the development of the plan with the goal of achieving meaningful public access to the ranch while protecting the sensitive environmental, marine and cultural resources of the ranch.

The Coastal Conservancy has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for consultants to facilitate the public outreach and engagement efforts for development of the access program. The RFP will close on April 19 and the consultant selection process will begin immediately.

### **Coastal and Marine Policy Class**

On Tuesday, March 5, Dr. Jonna Engel, senior staff ecologist, was a guest lecturer and panelist for Dr. Katy Seto's Coastal and Marine Policy class at UCSC. Dr. Engel spoke about the Coastal Commission's organizational structure, the Coastal Act, and the Commission's role regulating development in the Coastal Zone. Dr. Engel also met with graduate students in the new UC Santa Cruz Coastal Science and Policy Program to field their questions and talk about their graduate projects.

### **Environmental Protection Agency - Framework for Assessing and Evaluating Wetland Systems**

On Monday, March 11, Dr. Engel joined numerous agency representatives for the initial meeting of the EPA's one-year effort to develop a draft analysis framework for assessing and evaluating wetland systems that are proposed to be converted from one wetland class to another (e.g. salt pond to tidal marsh, in-stream wetland to stream). The issue of wetland conversion often arises during complex restoration efforts, through compensatory mitigation discussions, as well as agency decisions regarding compliance with various policy mandates. Currently there is little concrete, transparent or consistent guidance on how to approach this issue. The over-arching goal of this effort is to produce a draft analysis framework for how to approach wetland type conversion that is based on the current state of the science nationally (i.e. literature review) and informed by California regulatory/resource agencies' best professional judgement and current practices.

## **Public Education**

### **Economist Magazine's Sustainability Summit**

On March 21, Eben Schwartz, public education staff, was asked to speak to the Economist Magazine's Sustainability Summit in London about the importance of addressing plastic pollution even in the face of catastrophic climate change. Travel expenses were covered by the Economist Magazine. Eben spoke along with fellow panelists Philip Lymbery, the CEO of Compassion in World Farming and Tom DeLay, the CEO of Carbon Trust. Despite some differences in approach, and a brief dispute over the value of Life Cycle Analyses in determining the true impact of various materials on the environment, there was widespread agreement that plastic pollution is an important issue to address even as we work to address carbon. There was also great admiration expressed about the progress California has made in this area, and the role that the Coastal Commission has played in pushing this issue to the forefront.

### **National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation**

In March, two Public Education staff members completed a six-month study circle to join the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation. They were trained in research-based communication methods and will be using these skills in their work and sharing their knowledge with other staff.

### **Community Resources for Science Teachers' Fair in Oakland**

Public Education staff tabled at the Community Resources for Science Teachers' Fair in Oakland on March 16 and presented a workshop on March 30 at the statewide spring conference of the Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators on the topic of expanding park access on the California coast.

### **Youth Outside - Training**

Through a Commission whale tail grant, the nonprofit organization Youth Outside provided trainings in the Bay Area on March 18 and 19, and Orange County on March 28 and 29, for Commission Whale Tail Grantees. The first day of the trainings focused on providing participants with a greater understanding of the intersection between cultural relevancy, equity and inclusion as they relate to environmental education. A second day focused on applying these concepts to grantees' own curricula and program development.

### **Clean Boating Events**

Public Education Staff held a number of clean boating events in March including: two clean boating seminars at the Marin Yacht Club and Oyster Point Yacht Club on March 2 and 23, respectively; three dockworker trainings in Los Altos on March 12, in Sonoma County on March 16th, and in Orange County on March 30th; and an Oil Spill Response Communication workshop in conjunction with the OSPR and the California Office of Emergency Services on March 14th in Oakland. In addition, staff

partnered with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership to host a booth at the Sacramento Boat Show on March 8 to 11.

### **Winners of the California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest**

The winners of the 2019 California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest were announced and are highlighted on our website. The art and poetry will begin a year-long traveling exhibition at the end of April.

### **Coastal Trail Videos (SP 1.4)**

The Coastal Commission funded a series of short videos about segments of the California Coastal Trail along California's coast. The videos are produced by Rigler Creative with support of a Commission Whale Tail grant. This month we are highlighting the segment of the Coastal Trail along the magnificent Monterey Bay: <https://www.kcet.org/shows/california-coastal-trail/from-rails-to-trails-the-monterey-bay-coastal-recreation-trail>

### **Coastal Commission Staff State Service Certificates**

Executive Director Jack Ainsworth and Commission Chair, Dayna Bochco have signed certificates of service for all Commission employees with five or more years of state service.

We are proud of the commitment of our staff to public service and to the implementation of the California Coastal Act. The list of employees with over five years of state service is attached and includes the specific number of years of service as of January 1, 2019. Going forward twice each year we will issue certificates to employees when they meet the five year or above service level in five year increments.

We are currently developing customized retirement certificates that will be delivered to recent Commission retirees and will be used for future staff retirements.

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**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION STAFF WITH 5 OR MORE FULL YEARS  
 OF STATE SERVICE AS OF 01/01/2019  
 CERTIFICATES SIGNED BY DAYNA BOCHCO, COMMISSION CHAIR  
 AND JOHN AINSWORTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**5 Years**

Peter Allen  
 Justin Buhr  
 Donna Hubbard  
 Heather Johnston  
 Jeannine Manna  
 Zachary Rehm  
 Melody Varner  
 Shannon Vaughn

**6 Years**

Robert Cook  
 Kevin Kahn  
 Alexander Llerandi  
 Jacqueline Phelps

**7 Years**

Janesse Eubanks  
 Katherine Huckelbridge  
 Eric Stevens  
 Denise Venegas

**8 Years**

John Del Arroz  
 Kanani Leslie

**9 Years**

Chantel Brame  
 Katherine Butler  
 Tamara Doan  
 Tammy Nguyen

**10 Years**

Toni Accardo  
 Robin Mayer

**11 Years**

Gabriel Buhr  
 Ginger Hertz  
 Michelle Jespersion  
 Owen Omphua  
 Jessica Reed  
 Tamara Richardson  
 Liliana Roman  
 Cassidy Teufel  
 Louise Warren

**12 Years**

Jonna Engel  
 Lisa Haage  
 Melissa Kraemer  
 Laura Taylor

**13 Years**

Deanna Christensen  
 Madeline Cavaleri  
 Gracie Ruffino  
 John Wu

**14 Years**

Nolan Veesart  
 Andrew Willis

**15 Years**

Rebecca Hammonds  
 Laurie Hardison  
 Corinne Young

**16 Years**

Jessica Chan  
 Peggy Chan  
 Margaret Vaughn  
 Melanie Wong

**17 Years**

Jonathan Bishop  
 Shana Gray  
 Alex Helperin  
 Thomas Luster  
 Vanessa Metz  
 Patricia Sexton  
 Marsha Venegas

**18 Years**

Elisabeth Bloch-Lee  
 Susan Craig  
 Juanita Evans  
 Douglas Macmillan  
 James McCunn  
 Aaron McLendon  
 Christopher Pederson  
 Eben Schwartz  
 Fernie Sy

**19 Years**

Colleen Cuffe  
 Clarita Tagab

**20 Years**

Greg Benoit  
 Karl Schwing

**21 Years**

Maria Elena Marquez  
 Julie Reveles

**22 Years**

Allyson Hitt  
 Steven Hudson

**23 Years**

Scott Collier

**24 Years**

Paul Langley  
Diana Lilly  
Zhernan Zabala

**25 Years**

Dan Carl  
Vanessa Miller  
Darryl Rance

**26 Years**

Michael Watson

**27 Years**

Diana Chapman  
Ann Cheddar  
Barbara Rodriguez  
Larry Simon

**28 Years**

Alison Dettmer  
Pamela Wu

**29 Years**

Purificacion Babaran  
Jerome Banaag  
Lesley Ewing  
Henry Traylor

**30 Years**

John Ainsworth  
Melisa Arellano  
Barbara Carey

**31 Years**

Ana Ramirez  
Al Wanger

**33 Years**

Christiane Parry

**35 Years**

Margaret Chew  
Michael Sandecki

**37 Years**

Robert Merrill  
Jeff Staben-Mihalek

**39 Years**

Joanne Ginsberg

**40 Years**

Deborah Lee  
Linda Locklin

**42 Years**

Mark Prinz-Delaplaine

**44 Years**

Susan Hansch