

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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January 30, 2019

TO: California Coastal Commissioners and Interested Public

FROM: John Ainsworth, Executive Director
Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director
Michelle Jespersen, Federal Programs Manager
Shana Gray, Statewide Coastal Program Supervisor

SUBJECT: **California Coastal Commission Public Review Draft Five-Year Strategic Plan. Continued Public Hearing and Discussion only. No Commission action.**

Exhibit 1: Public Review Draft 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan

Background

In April 2013, the Coastal Commission (Commission) adopted a five-year Strategic Plan to meet a requirement from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under the Commission's 2008 Coastal Zone Management Act Section 312 federal evaluation. Prior to that point, the Commission's last Strategic Plan was approved in 1997. The 2013 – 2018 Strategic Plan provided a strong framework for strategic action across seven goals and associated objectives. Status reports on the Commission's progress under the 2013 – 2018 were reported annually to the Commission and can be reviewed on the Commission's [Strategic Plan](#) webpage under "Implementation Updates."

Development of 2020 – 2025 Public Review Draft Strategic Plan (Draft Strategic Plan)

Commission staff has been working over the past 15 months to develop an updated draft strategic plan to guide the agency's work for the next few years. Considerable staff time and effort went into developing the proposed Draft Strategic Plan (Exhibit 1), including proposed actions and objectives provided by all programs and units within the Commission, an internal web portal to allow for individual staff input, and many meetings and deliberations by the Commission's Executive Management Team. Staff also reviewed the status of the actions under the 2013 – 2018 Strategic Plan for potential inclusion for items that were ongoing, incomplete or deferred.

In addition, the Commission solicited early input from the public for consideration in the development of the strategic plan. Commission staff received a number of comments through an online portal on the Commission's website and through a dedicated Strategic Plan email address. In total, the Commission received 148 comments through the public portal, emails, and letters, including five letters from local governments.

These comments ranged from project-specific feedback to broader recommendations on "high priority" topic areas on which to focus, such as addressing climate change and sea level rise and maximizing public access. The public also raised concerns about short-term rentals, marine debris, and a loss of coastal resources due to development pressures and encouraged decommissioning oil platforms and banning oil drilling and fracking. Local government letters focused on improving coordination opportunities, requested more community-based outreach and e-government options, and discussed facilitating housing while also providing for short-term rentals. Other topics covered included recommendations to balance needs of the public with private property rights, to allow armoring for coastal development, and to reduce the regulatory burdens associated with permitting.

The public comments were reviewed in tandem with staff input and factored into the development of the goals, objectives and actions provided in the Draft Strategic Plan. Finally, Commission staff members were provided an opportunity to review and comment on an internal Administrative Draft Strategic Plan before this public review draft was completed.

Draft Strategic Plan Overview

The Public Review Draft Strategic Plan for 2020 – 2025 presented here updates and builds on the Commission's previous strategic plan. This updated plan provides a framework of 9 goals, 49 objectives and 189 specific actions to guide the agency's performance over the next five years. Staff believes these goals, objectives, and actions will support effective implementation of the Coastal Act and achievement of the Commission's mission and vision.

Goal 1 starts off the plan with objectives and actions to continue to build the agency's organizational capacity for the future. Goal 2 and 3 focus attention on objectives and actions related to maximizing public access for all (Goal 2) and protecting and enhancing coastal resources (Goal 3). The Draft Strategic Plan accounts for the dynamic imperatives of climate change and sea level rise, which are already adversely affecting marine and terrestrial ecosystems and threatening the safety and economic health of our coastal communities (Goal 4).

The updated plan also adds new focus on emerging issues to address historic social inequities through environmental justice principles and tribal consultation (Goal 5). The plan includes objectives and actions focused on the core work of the agency's regulatory and LCP planning programs (Goal 6) and for enforcement (Goal 7). Finally, the plan emphasizes the need to collaborate and coordinate closely with state and local agency partners (Goal 8) and highlights a suite of objectives and actions to continue to modernize the agency's operations and improve e-government and information management responsibilities (Goal 9).

All objectives and actions in the plan are important and they are not listed in order of priority. The Commission plans to complete these actions within the next five years, provided that adequate staffing capacity and funding are available or acquired (where noted). Many of these actions can be undertaken simultaneously during the five-year timeframe, as the tasks will be carried out by the relevant staff in the Commission's program departments and district offices.

Companion to the Goals, Objectives, and Actions in the body of the document, Appendix A provides an abbreviated list of the objectives and actions. These actions will be tracked and reported to the Commission and the public on an annual basis for the five-year timeframe. In addition, many of the actions proposed in the plan involve enhancing coordination or collaboration with various governmental and non-governmental resource management partners and serving on working groups and task forces. This work is discussed in Goal 8 and further highlighted in Appendix B.

Current Public Review/Next Steps

Commission staff is now seeking input from the Commission, other agencies, and the public on the proposed goals, objectives and actions in this Draft Strategic Plan. The Draft Strategic Plan was released for public review on the Commission's website and via social media on December 6, 2019. This Draft Strategic Plan was shared directly with state agency partners to seek input and offer opportunities for discussion.

The public is invited to provide comments on the Draft Strategic Plan in writing or verbally at the Commission's February 2020 meeting. The public comment period for written and oral comments will remain open through February 14, 2020.

Written comments must be received by February 14, 2020 and can be mailed to:

California Coastal Commission
Executive Division
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

Or sent via email to:

StrategicPlanComments@coastal.ca.gov

After the February Commission public hearing and close of the public comment period on February 14, 2020, Commission staff will review and incorporate feedback from the Commission members and the public into a proposed final 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan. The proposed final Strategic Plan will be brought back to the Commission for a public hearing and Commission action. This will likely occur at the April or May 2020 Commission meeting.