

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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January 8, 2021

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: John Ainsworth, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, January 2021

Transportation Permitting Task Force

Commission staff continues to participate in the AB 1282 Transportation Permitting Task Force, consisting of the State Transportation Agency, Natural Resources Agency, CalEPA, California Transportation Commission, Caltrans, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Resources Control Board, Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Commission. Per the legislative mandate, the Taskforce developed roughly 40 specific recommendations across six categories for delivering needed infrastructure projects while furthering the missions of both transportation and environmental protection agencies; the Taskforce's Final Report covering these recommendations was delivered to the Legislature in the fall.

Throughout 2020, Commission staff participated in working groups to pursue four initial recommendations, including ones aimed at incorporating resource considerations into Caltrans cost/benefit analyses, expanding Caltrans' Corridor Management Plan guidelines to address environmental factors, such as sea level rise, and improving how Caltrans responds to emergency repairs. In December, the Taskforce's Implementation Management Workgroup initiated efforts to pursue one of the most significant recommendations aimed at creating a structured early coordination process between participating transportation and resource agencies to promote greater environmental policy consistency throughout the various stages of transportation project development and thereby improve the efficiencies of the final permitting processes. This will be a major focus of the interagency work group efforts in the upcoming year.

Meetings and Events

LOSSAN San Diego Regional Rail Corridor Working Group

On December 21, Commission staff participated in a meeting to discuss the Final Report that summarizes a year-long effort by the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) San Diego Regional Rail Corridor Working Group to identify the pathway and funding for short-term projects to stabilize the Del Mar bluffs for the next 30 years (Del Mar Bluffs Stabilization Phases 5 & 6), as well as set the stage for long-term planning solutions through realignment of the rail corridor off the bluffs. The working group contributed to the scope of SANDAG's Long-Term San Diego Regional Rail Alternative Alignment Study, which will be completed in 2022.