

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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# W6a

November 12, 2021

**TO:** California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

**FROM:** John Ainsworth, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report, November 2021

## CalTrans Gleason's Beach Managed Retreat Project Groundbreaking

On October 19, 2021, I attended and spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Gleason Beach Roadway Realignment Project in Sonoma County just north of Bodega Bay. The Commission approved this historic managed retreat project in [November 2020](#) to realign Highway 1 inland to secure it from coastal erosion and the projected impacts of sea level rise.

In my comments, I emphasized that this critical infrastructure managed retreat project provides an excellent example of the need to adapt to sea level rise and our changing coastline, and that partnerships with State, local government and other stakeholders are instrumental in those efforts. I also highlighted that the project includes important historic salmon habitat restoration, a new segment of the California Coastal Trail, secured beach access and other public access amenities, a bluff hazards clean-up program to remove old shoreline armoring debris, and significant coastal terrace prairie habitat restoration.

Also in attendance was California State Senator Mike McGuire (Senate District 2); a representative from Sonoma County Supervisor Lynda Hopkins office and Sonoma County Planning staff; leadership, engineering, and project delivery staff from Caltrans; other Commission staff; and Tribal representatives of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria and Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.



## **Monarch Overwintering Training**

On Tuesday, October 26, Dr. Jonna Engel was a presenter for a CDFW staff Monarch Overwintering Training. Dr. Engel covered the Commission's definition of ESHA, our ESHA protection policies, and the work we have done to protect monarch overwintering sites in the coastal zone. Emma Pelton, Senior Endangered Species Conservation Biologist for the Xerces Society, talked about west coast monarch biology and habitat and the decline of and threats to monarchs. Hillary Sardinias, Pollinator Coordinator for the CDFW Wildlife Diversity Program, discussed the state and federal status of monarch butterflies. Coming up this Tuesday, Nov. 30, Ms. Pelton and Dr. Sardinias will give these same presentations to Coastal Commission staff.

## **Public Education**

### **California Clean Boating Network Meeting**

On November 4, staff hosted a virtual meeting of the California Clean Boating Network. Topics included: microplastic research and management, the California Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange Program, and efforts to reduce copper loading in San Diego Bay

### **Emergency Permits**

The following are a list of the emergency permits that are being reported to the Commission under the District Directors reports this month.

#### Central Coast District

- G-3-21-0051: Diversion of Aptos Creek to flow directly across Rio del Mar State Beach and directly out to the ocean to prevent the meandering creek from flooding or undermining public facilities, including a public parking lot and State Parks' restrooms protect, Santa Cruz County.
- G-3-21-0052: Breech lagoon and manage a channel between the lagoon and Carmel Bay to reduce the water level in the lagoon to avoid/minimize flooding of existing residences and State Beach facilities upstream of the lagoon fronting Carmel River State Beach, Monterey County.

#### South Coast District - Orange County

- G-5-21-0053: Removal of a damaged cantilevered deck in Huntington Harbor, Orange County.

#### North Coast District

- G-1-21-0048: Spot repairs to a coastal dependent industrial dock involving the removal of twelve damaged/failing wood piles and installation of six steel piles, Samoa, Humboldt County.