

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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August 6, 2021

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: John Ainsworth, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, August 2021

20th Anniversary Celebration of Boys and Girls Club Sailing Program

On August 2nd, I participated in the 20th anniversary celebration of the Boys and Girls Club Fast & Fun Sailing Program in Marina del Rey. The Coastal Commission was instrumental in establishing this program 20 years ago through in-lieu mitigation fees from dock redevelopment projects to provide low-cost boating opportunities for underserved youth. The Commission has been able to continue the support of the program over the years through in-lieu fees and more recently through a \$382,000 settlement payment negotiated as part of a Commission enforcement consent order (Bel Air Bay Club). This program has brought hundreds of underserved youths from inland areas to Marina del Rey for boating, water recreation and water safety programs.



Coastal Groundwater Briefing for September Commission Meeting

The September 2021 Commission meeting will include an informational briefing from a team of scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey and University of Arkansas who developed a new statewide dataset showing how sea level rise could cause coastal groundwater to rise. This dataset is now hosted on Point Blue Conservation Science's [Our Coast Our Future](#) website alongside existing USGS data on sea level rise flooding, erosion, and shoreline change. Groundwater

hazards have long been included in the analysis of coastal hazards in Commission regulatory items, but these analyses – particularly with regard to how future groundwater tables could be impacted by sea level rise – have often been limited by data availability.

Rising groundwater is an important hazard to consider in the context of sea level rise because it has the potential to flood communities from below, damaging buried infrastructure, flooding below grade structures, reducing storm sewer capacity, liberating pollutants, compromising foundations, and emerging above ground as an urban flood hazard that can amplify overland storm flooding. This informational briefing will describe how this new statewide dataset was developed and how it can be used in hazard analyses moving forward. Please tune in next month to view the briefing.

Public Education

Coastal Cleanup Day.

The Public Education Program is preparing for the 37th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day on September 18th. We will be returning to hosting in-person cleanup sites at hundreds of locations across the state, keeping local public health guidelines in mind. In addition to the traditional event on the third Saturday of September, the Commission is continuing to encourage neighborhood cleanups throughout the month to continue last year's highly successful effort to increase access to the program while keeping volunteers safe. More information is available at coastalcleanupday.org.

National Academy of Sciences Committee on US Plastic Waste.

Since last October, Public Education marine debris expert Eben Schwartz has been working on a committee of the National Academy of Sciences to develop a report to the US Congress on the US contributions to global ocean plastics. The initial draft of the report is now complete and will be going out for review over the next month. The final report will be published in early November, and we will be inviting you to join the webinar for the first public reveal of the report.

Ocean and Coastal Amateur Photo Contest

The Commission's 22nd Annual California Ocean and Coastal Photography Contest took place in June and July. You can view the four winners and thirteen honorable mentions on the [Commission's website](#).

Coastal Access Film Wins an Emmy

I'm very excited to announce the coastal access film I mentioned in my report last month has won the Emmy award! The film is called "[California Coast: Within Sight, Scent and Sound of the Ocean](#)". It was created by Rigler Creative and is the culmination of a project funded by the Whale Tail® License Plate Grant program. You can view this one-hour documentary via a link in the Highlights section of CCC homepage, or on the [Public Ed Program's YouTube page](#). The film covers past history and current challenges as it weaves together footage and stories from the [California Coast video series](#) and the [California Coastal Trail video series](#). – which are also linked [on the CCC website](#).