

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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October 7, 2022

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: John Ainsworth, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, October 2022

Offshore Wind Energy Study Tour

Senior Deputy Director, Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, joined state, tribal, environmental justice and NGO leaders from California on an offshore wind energy study tour of Scotland, Denmark and Germany. The California delegation toured existing facilities and manufacturing plants and met with government officials and industry representatives to learn about how offshore wind has evolved in Europe and what lessons California can learn as it seeks to develop a floating offshore industry. Highlights included boat and helicopter tours of OSW installations in Scotland and Denmark, a tour of OSW port facilities in Esbjerg, Denmark, exchange sessions with Danish and German regulators, and spirited policy and problem-solving discussions on the tour bus.

Cutting Green Tape Exchange

On September 7, the California Landscape Stewardship Network hosted the 5th virtual Cutting Green Tape Exchange. The Cutting Green Tape initiative was launched by California Secretary for Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot and other leaders to improve permitting and funding efficiencies for ecological restoration projects. The Commission staff continues to be active participants in this initiative, and at this meeting, the Commission's Deputy Executive Director, Madeline Cavalieri, received the Cutting Green Tape Hidden Hero Award, which recognizes the innovation and dedication of public employees who are increasing the pace and scale of environmental stewardship in California and working with creativity and commitment to improve governmental processes so that we can implement California's natural resource goals and plans more efficiently and cost-effectively.

New Commission Offshore Wind Energy Development Two-Pager

The Commission's 2022 Sea Grant Fellow, Korrin Davis, has worked with staff to publish a [two-pager on offshore wind energy development in California](#), highlighting the Commission's role in reviewing impacts, the status of the state's two current wind energy areas, and ongoing coordination efforts with other state agencies. The informational two-pager can be found on the Commission's website under the offshore wind tab.

55th Annual Native American Day in Sacramento

The Commission's Public Education and Tribal Liaison units participated in the 55th Annual Native American Day in Sacramento on September 23. Staff from across the Natural Resources Department shared a tent at the event which featured traditional singing, dancing and other events. The day's theme was "Stand Strong Together," and honored the years spent apart and the historical and cultural contributions by California Native Americans.

West Coast Sediment Regulations Workshop

Dr. Joe Street, Commission's Geologist, and Dr. Jeremy Smith, Commission's Coastal Engineer, attended the "West Coast Sediment Regulations Workshop" on September 13th organized by the Coastal States Organization (CSO) and American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA). They heard from federal and state agencies from California, Oregon, and Washington on innovative approaches to the beneficial use of dredged material and case studies in collaboration. They also participated in discussions and heard from a variety of stakeholders on the challenges and opportunities related to sediment management, collaboration, and environmental policy and research. We are looking forward to continued collaboration with Coastal States Organization on their final report

American Shore and Beach Preservation's National Conference

Dr. Street and Dr. Smith also attended the American Shore and Beach Preservation's National Conference in Long Beach: Shifting Shores, Surf, and Sediment where they heard from a multitude of speakers on innovations in nature-based adaptation strategies, coastal hazard assessments, and sea level rise adaptation policies. The luncheon talk was given by LA County's Executive Director of Racial Equity on Government-Led and Community-Oriented Collaborations for Undoing Systemic Racism: Returning Bruce's Beach. Dr. Lesley Ewing, the Commission's former Coastal Engineer, was awarded the organization's President's Award for her outstanding contributions to the field over her long career.

Public Education Program

California Coastal Cleanup Day Results

On Saturday, September 17th, the Coastal Commission celebrated the 38th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day. Tens of thousands of volunteers turned out to more than 600 cleanup sites throughout the state, from the Sierra all the way to the sea. This year we celebrated a return to almost full capacity in terms of the number of cleanup sites statewide and volunteer enthusiasm

ran extremely high. Our current volunteer count stands at 35,000 volunteers who turned out to remove over 144 tons of trash from California's coast and inland waterways. Reports are still coming in from across the state, and these numbers will be updated over the coming weeks. staff looks forward to providing a more complete picture of the event during this year's Public Education Annual Briefing.

Emergency Permits

North Coast District – Humboldt County

Emergency CDP Waiver No. G-1-22-0004-W (Humboldt Community Services District).
Emergency repair of a water main break necessary to maintain essential public water service to the greater Eureka area, including, removal, replacement, and reinforcement of approximately 40 feet of 8" diameter pipe, near the Elk River at the south end of Eureka, Humboldt County.

Central Coast – Monterey County

G-3-22-0028 (Caltrans) Emergency repairs to the northwest Elkhorn Slough bridge abutment slope including installation of buried concrete blocks behind the existing sheet pile wall (above the mean high tide line) and tying back the wall with cables to reduce future deformation and erosion of the wall and to bring the area back up to grade. Elkhorn Slough, Monterey County

South Coast District – Orange County

G-5-22-0031 (Cabrilla MGC L.L.C). Emergency repair of a broken water main valve associated with the Cabrillo Mobile Home Park that crosses some marsh grass. City of Huntington Beach, Orange County.