

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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November 10, 2022

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: John Ainsworth, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, November 2022

Non-Competitive LCP Local Assistance Grants

In October 2021, in conjunction with additional LCP Grant Program updates, the Commission approved a non-competitive grant application process by which grant proposals for up to \$100,000 could be approved by the Executive Director and announced at the following Coastal Commission meeting. The following non-competitive grant was approved last past month:

City of Arcata, \$100,000: The City of Arcata is proposing to use LCP grant funding to complete a comprehensive update to its LUP and IP. The project would build off of past grant work and would include conducting environmental impact and special studies necessary for certification, revising and submitting a proposed LUP, finishing and submitting a proposed IP, public outreach and tribal coordination on the LCP update, and submission of proposed LUP and IP updates to the Commission. The proposed LCP update will include climate-resilience and sea level rise policies, including potentially a neighborhood-based sea level rise adaptation approach.

State Parks and Coastal Commission Partnership Planning Effort

On November 8, 2022, senior management from State Parks and the Coastal Commission participated in the kickoff facilitated meeting for a new partnering effort between our two agencies. The purpose of this partnership planning effort is to strengthen the relationship between California State Parks staff and Coastal Commission staff at all levels of the agencies. Strengthening collaboration and cooperation will help both agencies better achieve their missions and benefit the State of California. Another goal is to develop a detailed Partnering Agreement similar to the agreement we have with Caltrans.

Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve Site Visit

On November 3, 2022, San Diego District staff and I had the opportunity to reconnect with our California National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) partners at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve. We met with staff from the Tijuana River NERR, NOAA, California Coastal Conservancy, and California State Parks and visited several sites, including Border Field State Park, the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center, San Diego Bayshore Bikeway, and Silver Strand State Beach, in preparation for upcoming projects, such as the Border Field Access, Education and Resilience Project; Nelson Sloan Quarry Restoration and Beneficial Reuse of Sediment Project; Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program II, Phase I; and Lower Cost Campground at Silver Strand State Beach. This is part of an effort to continue to build relationships with our federal partners across California's Coastal Management Program. Future site visits will be planned between CCC staff and other state and federal partners at the Elkhorn Slough NERR and the SF Bay NERR in the coming year.

Pesticide Working Group

In June of 2020, in collaboration with the California Department of Pesticides (DPR), Dr. Jonna Engel established a Pesticide Working Group (PWG) with Ms. Leslie Talpasanu, Environmental Program Manager from DPR's Integrated Pest Management Group and Dr. Jaime Rudd, of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Pesticide and Disease Investigations Group. Over the past two years the PWG has held numerous inter-agency informational meetings covering such topics as each other's respective laws and mandates, integrated pest management (IPM), and where, when, how and why pesticide use is the most appropriate as well as the least environmentally damaging approach.

The culmination of our collaborative efforts is the "*Pesticide Use Overview and Job Aid*" (**Attachment A**). The PWG team worked hard, with the help of many other staff from all three agencies, to develop the use overview and job aid. The hope and goal of the document is that it is a resource that will inform and assist Coastal Analysts in reviewing development proposals that involve pesticide use in the Coastal Zone. It is intended to provide background information regarding the Commission, DPR, and CDFW's respective missions, a description of relevant terms and information regarding the purposes of pesticides, a description regarding appropriate pesticide use and alternatives to pesticides, and a description of where to find important information regarding the use of pesticides. The Pesticide Work Group was a successful and valuable team effort, and the Commission is greatly appreciative of the efforts and involvement of all the staff from the DPR and CDFW.

Pathways to Inclusive Research Training

On October 18th, Senior Ecologist Dr. Lauren Garske-Garcia met with other members of the Resource Agencies Sea Grant Advisory Panel to discuss proposals for the [Pathways to Inclusive Research Training](#) (PIRaTe). A new California Sea Grant program, PIRaTe aims to broaden undergraduate coastal and marine research participation and foster a culture of belonging among underrepresented and underserved groups. Several Commission staff, including those from our

Technical Services, Environmental Justice, and Statewide Planning teams, contributed to PIRaTe reviews. We are enthusiastic about this new initiative and the opportunity to continue to support the development of diverse coastal leaders in California.

2022 California Native Plant Society Conference

On October 19th, Senior Ecologist Dr. Lauren Garske-Garcia participated in a Sensitive Natural Communities Mapping Workshop at the [2022 California Native Plant Society Conference](#) in San Jose. There, she met with technical staff from CNPS and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program as well as other participants from various walks of botany, to learn more about the field aspects and development of specific tools that the Ecology Group regularly employs in their analyses. She was also able to help test some draft tools at field sites in Santa Cruz County and contribute a Coastal Act perspective on the protection of sensitive ecological resources.

Estuary Marine Protected Areas Management Advisory Committee

On October 24th, Senior Ecologist Dr. Lauren Garske-Garcia participated in the [Estuary Marine Protected Areas](#) Management Advisory Committee (MAC), at their biannual meeting. The MAC plays a key role in an Ocean Protection Council-funded project to develop a statewide estuarine monitoring program that is technically robust and directly responsive to coastal management needs. Thanks to the success of the pilot program to-date, funding has been extended for an additional year to support the transition of the pilot effort to a long-term state program, which will continue to be expanded and refined. The vision is to ultimately provide managers, researchers, and all interested Californians with standardized but flexible guidance and access to data, which can be used to address questions such as the relationships with and connectivity to other MPAs (estuarine and offshore), the effects of various management actions in estuaries (e.g., manual breaching of bar-built estuaries to prevent back flooding), and the effects of a changing climate on our estuarine ecosystems.

Public Education Program

7th International Marine Debris Conference.

In mid-September, Public Education staff person Eben Schwartz traveled to Busan, South Korea for the 7th International Marine Debris Conference. This is the longest running conference dedicated to the topic of marine debris and plastic pollution. The 5-day conference, which was attended by close to 1,000 participants, focused on emerging issues and solutions to the plastic pollution crisis. Eben chaired a session focused on how cleanup programs around the world adapted during the covid-19 pandemic, with presentations from representatives of Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Toronto, and the United States. Presenters highlighted societal changes that robust cleanup programs can bring, something that we are familiar with here in California as our state is widely acknowledged as a world leader in both our cleanups and our approach to public policy around plastic pollution.

Dockside podcast.

The sixth and latest episode of the Dockside podcast was released November 8th, and is about the California Boater Card. You can listen to all the episodes at <https://dockside.podbean.com/> This podcast is produced by the Boating Clean and Green Program in partnership with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and the California State Parks Safe Boating Education and Outreach Unit.

2022 Dockwalker Program

In mid-November Boating Clean and Green staff will recognize the 20 most active Dockwalkers of 2022. These dedicated volunteers will be joining the ranks of the [Dockwalker Hall of Fame](#). Dockwalkers provide face-to-face boater education and distribute [California Boater Kits to recreational boaters who](#) pledge to adopt clean boating practices. 170 new Dockwalkers participated in the 13 trainings conducted in 2022. In total, volunteers distributed 5,800 Boater Kits across the state in 2022. Program Partners include the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons, Save Our Shores, Lake Berryessa Partnership, Conservation Corps chapters, and many more organizations.

Emergency Permits

Central Coast

G-3-22-0032 (City of Santa Cruz). Emergency measures including a temporary sheet pile wall to protect and stabilize piles and rock anchors recently installed as part of the San Lorenzo River Culvert Project (CDP 3-15-0144, as amended through and including CDP amendment 3-15-0144-A5). San Lorenzo River Lagoon Temporary Sheet Pile Wall). City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County.

South Coast District – Orange County

G-5-22-0034 (OCTA/SCRRA). Emergency placement of 6,000 to 8,000 tons of riprap on a 1,000-foot-long segment of the seaward slope of the rail corridor to supplement an existing emergency revetment and includes a new segment of revetment. This emergency riprap is necessary to protect the railroad from on-going erosion, wave action and to stabilize a landslide that is damaging the rail line. Cyprus Shores residential area (within Metrolink ROW near milepost 206.8), City of San Clemente, Orange County.