

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105
FAX (415) 904-5400



W6a

May 6, 2022

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: John Ainsworth, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, May 2022

Public Service Recognition Week & Acknowledgment of Staff Years of Service Milestones.

Last week was Public Service Recognition week. I want to express my deep appreciation and thanks to the Commission staff for their tireless dedicated public service in the protection of our State's precious ocean and coastal resources. We owe a debt of gratitude to all public servants across this nation who have dedicated their lives to public service. In addition, attached to this report is a list of our incredible staff who have reached milestones in their years of service with the Commission. Congratulations and thanks to the Commission staff for your many years of dedicated service to the Commission.

2022 NOAA Coastal Fellow

In April, Commission staff participated virtually as a host agency in the [2022 NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship](#) matching workshop process. After multiple rounds of interviews staff were pleased to match with its new incoming fellow, Liz Plascencia. Liz is a native Californian hailing from Los Angeles, and comes to the Commission with a Master of Environmental Management from Yale University's School of the Environment. Her fellowship project will create resources, training materials, and policy guidance critical for the agency's long-term implementation of its Environmental Justice and Tribal Consultation Policies. Liz will also add capacity to the Commission's ability to carry forward key projects within its climate change and sea level rise planning and regulatory work, particularly with regard to the intersection between environmental justice, climate change, sea level rise planning, and resilience. Staff are thrilled to welcome Liz to the team in early August 2022 for her two-year placement.

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 grants were approved over the past month:

- City of Pacific Grove, \$100,000: The City of Pacific Grove will build on past grant work by completing an updated vulnerability assessment. In particular, the City will fill a data gap by including new SLR modeling for the Asilomar Dunes area (which was not included in previous modeling work) and updating older, now out of date SLR modeling for other parts of the City. Minor updates to the recently certified LCP based on these studies will also be completed, most likely including an updated coastal hazards map overlay.

Meetings and Events

CSAC - Coastal Counties Regional Association meeting

On April 20, Deputy Executive Director, Madeline Cavalieri and I participated in the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Annual conference - Coastal Counties Regional Association Sub-Meeting. We provided an overview of the Commission's new Climate and Sea Level Rise Resiliency LCP Grant program, including the different types of grants that are available. We also outlined the type of planning studies and efforts that can be covered by the grant program.

State Science and Information Program

On April 4th, staff Senior Ecologist, Dr. Lauren Garske-Garcia, and Energy and Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Manager, Cassidy Teufel, participated on a California State University Council on Ocean Affairs, Science & Technology (COAST) State Agency Panel for its [State Science Information Needs Program](#). The RFP for this year's funding was developed with input from our staff and partner agencies, focusing on needs surrounding compensatory mitigation in the coastal and marine environments. The State Agency Panel participates in the review of technical proposals and provides COAST with feedback on their value relative to agency information needs. Previous funding rounds have supported research on microplastics and sea level rise.

Adaptive Rotational Grazing and Soil Carbon Sequestration Workshop

On April 21st, staff Senior Ecologist, Dr. Lauren Garske-Garcia, participated in the Central Coast Rangelands Coalition's [Adaptive Rotational Grazing and Soil Carbon Sequestration Workshop](#) at Paicines Ranch. The gathering brought together over 100 participants from ranching, science, and policy sectors to learn about emerging practices and opportunities in grazing management intended to simultaneously improve soil health, restore native ecosystems, and address climate impacts. As the Commission has approved several projects that involve the strategic use of grazing as a restoration tool, opportunities to expand partnerships and integrate climate benefits while also maintaining coastal agriculture and restoring native ecosystems represent an exciting

avenue our staff is examining.

Butano Forest Health Project Implementation

On April 29th, several staff including Dr. Lauren Garske-Garcia (Senior Ecologist), Dr. Mary Matella (Statewide Environmental Scientist), and Daniel Nathan (Wildfire Resilience Coordinator), joined the San Mateo Resource Conservation District, State Parks, and others to visit the Camp Butano Forest Health project site following its Fall 2021 implementation. This project was not only the first to be completed under one of the Commission-certified Forest Health Public Works Plans, but also the first project *statewide* to be completed under the Board of Forestry's Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Programmatic EIR. Review of post-treatment on-the-ground conditions highlighted significant progress in simultaneously creating a safer landscape and more resilient native ecosystem in the face of future wildfire risk. Discussion of lessons learned through the implementation process and preview of an adjacent site that will be considered for vegetation treatment in the near future were also valuable components of the day. As a whole, the effort demonstrates the Commission's commitment to ongoing coordination and partnerships on critical wildfire issues in the coastal zone.

Public Education Program

Climate Video Challenge

The results of the Coastal Commission's 2022 [Climate Video Challenge](#) were announced on Earth Day. California middle and high school students were invited to respond to the question "What is your vision for a thriving future?" First, second, and third place, and one honorable mention were selected and can be viewed [here](#).

Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop.

Also on Earth Day, Boating Clean and Green Program staff, along with California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service led a Freshwater Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention virtual workshop. Fifty people attended.

Emergency Permits

North Coast District

- G-1-22-0018, PG&E – Emergency Vegetation Maintenance along Trinidad 1102 kV distribution line (Trinidad, Humboldt Co.)
- G-1-22-0019, PG&E – Emergency Vegetation Maintenance along Trinidad 1102 kV distribution line (Trinidad, Humboldt Co.)

New to State Service (Less Than Two Years)

ISABEL CASTANEDA

ALEXIS BARRERA

JAVIER PADILLA

ISABEL QI

JENNIFER DOYLE

AMBER LEAVITT

SOPHIA MAK

VAIL KRYGSMAN

AMANDA COUSART

CHRISTOPHER MARQUIS

SHAHAR AMITAY

MAX FELDBAUM

JEREMY SMITH

ESME WAHL

ELIZABETH MOORE

ROBERT MOORE

PETER BENHAM

KRYSTEN TOMAIER

ELLIE OLIVER

TATIANA GARCIA

BENTE JANSEN

NICHOLAS TEALER

HONORA MONTANO

VICKIE TSE

PARISHA BHAVSAR

KIANA FORD

SARAH ESMALI

MELISSA ESCARON

OCEANE RINGUETTE

CALIFORNIANS SERVING CALIFORNIA



CALIFORNIANS SERVING CALIFORNIA

Two to Five Years

MICHELLE KUBRAN 5	JENNY HUYNH 3
JIE YING LI 5	JIAWEN LI 3
AURORA ROBINSON 5	ALANNA CASEY 3
KARLA GALVEZ 4	STEPHANIE LEACH 3
ANNIE FRANKEL 4	ASHLEY REINEMAN 3
AMRITA SPENCER 4	ALEXANDRA MCCOY 3
ROB MODELMOG 4	ERIK MARTINEZ 3
DANI ZIFF 4	CHRIS LEE 3
ROBERT DEPPE 4	JULIA KOPPMAN NORTON 2
ERIN TOBIN 4	CATHERINE HOLLOWAY 2
ESTHER ESSOUDRY 4	KAITLIN CARNEY 2
BRIAN WOO 3	CELESTE LANGILLE 2
RUSSELL UY 3	AWBREY YOST 2
LILA NAZARI 3	LOGAN TILLEMA 2
MEGAN HALL 3	CHLOE SEIFERT 2
SIERRA MORGAN 3	CLAIRE WILKENS 2
SUMI SELVARAJ 3	SIMONE HILLARD 2
SEAN DRAKE 3	BRITTNEY COZZOLINO 2
TINA SEGURA 3	VINCE LEE 2
MEAGAN FLIER 3	SONORA VANDERBERG-JONES 2
KAREN VU 3	CARRIE BOYLE 2

Six to Ten Years

KATE HUCKELBRIDGE 10

ANDREW RICO 10

DENISE GONZALEZ 10

JACQUELINE PHELPS 10

ROBERT COOK 10

ALEX LLERANDI 10

STEPHANIE REXING 9

KEVIN KAHN 9

HOLLY WYER 9

PETER ALLEN 8

SHANNON VAUGHN 8

DONNA HUBBARD 8

ZACH REHM 8

JUSTIN BUHR 8

MELODY LASITER 8

JOSEPH STREET 8

CHRIS MARQUIS 8

RYAN MORONEY 7

SHANNON FIALA 7

LAURIE KOTEEN 7

ERIN PRAHLER 7

MARY MATELLA 7

MARLENE ALVARADO 7

MANDY REVELL 7

HEATHER MAYFIELD 7

JOSHUA LEVINE 7

NOAKI SCHWARTZ 6

DANIEL NATHAN 6

KELSEY DUCKLOW 6

RAINEY GRAEVEN 6

JORDAN SANCHEZ 6

WESLEY HORN 6

ERIN CHALMERS 6

DIANA GONZALEZ 6

CAREY BATHA 6

LAUREN GARSKE-GARCIA 6

CALIFORNIANS SERVING CALIFORNIA



11 to 20 Years

ALEX HELPERIN 20	JONNA ENGEL 15
VANESSA METZ 20	LUNA TAYLOR 15
MARSHA VENEGAS 20	MELISSA KRAEMER 15
PAT SEXTON 20	LOUISE WARREN 15
JONATHAN BISHOP 20	CASSIDY TEUFEL 14
MELANIE WONG 20	GINGER HERTZ 14
MEG VAUGHN 20	JESSICA REED 14
JESSICA CHAN 20	TAMARA GEDICK 14
PEGGY CHANG 20	TONI ROSS 14
LAURIE HARDISON 18	ADRIANA PALATO 13
BECKY HAMMONDS 18	LILIANA ROMAN 13
ANDREW WILLIS 17	ROBIN MAYER 13
JOHN WU 17	TAMARA DOAN 13
DEANNA CHRISTENSEN 16	TAMMY NGUYEN 12
MADELINE CAVALIERI 16	NURIA LIMA 12
GEORGE PASCUA 16	KANANI LESLIE 11
LISA HAAGE 16	ERIC STEVENS 11
	KATIE BUTLER 11

CALIFORNIANS
SERVING
CALIFORNIA



More Than 20 Years

LINDA LOCKLIN 43	PAUL LANGLEY 27
JO GINSBERG 42	DIANA LILLY 27
MARGARET CHEW 39	SCOTT COLLIER 26
CHRIS PARRY 36	STEVE HUDSON 25
AL WANGER 35	MARIA ELENA MARQUEZ 25
ANA RAMIREZ 34	JULIE REVELES 24
MELISA ARELLANO 33	KARL SCHWING 23
BARBARA CAREY 33	GREG BENOIT 23
JOHN AINSWORTH 33	KELLY CUFFE 22
LESLEY EWING 32	SARAH CHRISTIE 22
TAMI GROVE 32	JUANITA EVANS 22
ALISON DETTMER 32	AARON MCLENDON 21
DANIEL CARL 28	EBEN SCHWARTZ 21
DARRYL RANCE 28	FERNIE SY 21
VANESSA MILLER 28	JIM MCCUNN 21
SHERRY ZABALA 28	THOMAS LUSTER 21
	SHANA GRAY 21

**CALIFORNIANS
SERVING
CALIFORNIA**

