

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: John Ainsworth, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, June 2022

CalTrans/Coastal Commission Annual Interagency Management Meeting

On May 5, 2022, Commission and Caltrans management and staff met virtually to review results of the Transportation Program over the past year, highlight 2022 workplans, and renew our interagency Partnership Agreement for the next five years. Since 2017, this Partnership Agreement has guided our efforts to advance a collaborative approach to our respective missions on several fronts, including improving project consistency with Coastal Act policies, resiliently responding to climate change, and advancing multimodal opportunities in the coastal zone.

The May 5th event led off by noting how our innovative partnership as California's coastal management and transportation agencies received recognition through several national-level venues this last year. These included a NOAA peer-to-peer case study entitled "Fostering Resilient, Multimodal Transportation Solutions Along the California Coast" that was widely distributed to other coastal states. Another was our participation in a NOAA and FHWA Congressional Briefing last fall focused on resiliency considerations for coastal transportation infrastructure and the subsequent release of a public [storymap](#) based on that presentation. And a third was the U.S. Department of Transportation making a 2022 Environmental Excellence Award to the Gleason Beach Realignment Project for its outstanding contributions to environmental stewardship and partnerships above and beyond traditional transportation project outcomes. The interagency meeting also included a variety of presentations by Commission and Caltrans staff covering a number of topics. These ranged from advancing programmatic approaches to projects to preparing Caltrans SLR analysis guidance to introducing upcoming special initiatives like broadband expansions and wildfire prevention treatment plans.

Coastal States Organization & NOAA Program Managers Meetings

In mid-May the Commission's Federal Programs Manager, Ashley Reineman, and Senior Deputy Director, Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, traveled to Washington, D.C. for the annual meetings of the Coastal States Organization and NOAA Program Managers. Discussions during the meetings covered a range of issues, from federal resilience funding flowing to coastal states out of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to reflections on the 50th anniversary of the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the past, present, and future of the law. In addition, Deputy Director, Al Wanger, gave a remote presentation on California's Critical Coastal Areas program that we work on jointly with the State and Regional water quality control boards as part of California's federally approved Non-Point Source pollution control program. Finally, staff from the Commission, the Coastal Conservancy, and the San Francisco Bay and Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserves also met together with staff from several California Congressional districts to discuss California's coastal management program on Capitol Hill.

Sea Grant Fellow - Korrin Davis

The Commission's 2022 California Sea Grant Fellow, Korrin Davis, was selected as an Emerging Leader for [Circularity 22](#), a conference hosted by GreenBiz Group. The Emerging Leaders Program aims to foster a community of diverse sustainability professionals who identify as Black, Indigenous, or a person of color and are working to become sustainability leaders. Circularity is the leading conference in the circular economy and brings together forward-thinking leaders who are spurring innovation, confronting climate change, and collaborating across the value chain to enact transformative change. As an emerging leader, Korrin received a complimentary all-access pass along with the opportunity to have lunch with top business executives from Google, Dell, and other corporations of the like. [Here](#) is the GreenBiz Group write-up on this year's emerging leader cohort.

Public Education Program

Kids Ocean Day 2022.

At the end of May and into early June, close to 5,000 students celebrated Kids Ocean Day at five locations up and down the coast. Kids Ocean Day events took place at Ocean Beach in San Francisco on May 24th, at Dockweiler Beach in Los Angeles and Mission Beach in San Diego on May 26th, at Huntington Beach on May 31st, and on Humboldt Bay on June 2nd. Students played on the beach and participated in cleanups and other stewardship activities. The culminating activity in each location was a group aerial art project – students sat in formation on the sand to send a message of “Joy” to people across California. The field trips followed in-person and virtual classroom assemblies that taught students about watersheds and how trash can flow from inland areas all the way out to our coast. Students from Bakersfield also participated in the presentations and will go to San Simeon in July. Organizers across the state were delighted to be able to bring kids back to in-person events after a two-year hiatus brought about by the

pandemic. To celebrate this year's return, a statewide video of the events from all the locations is being produced and will be shown at a future Commission meeting. Local partners included I Love a Clean San Diego, Orange County Coastkeeper, Malibu Foundation, Marine Science Institute, Friends of the Dunes, and Community Action Partnership of Kern.

