

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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September 2, 2022

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: John Ainsworth, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, September 2022

Story Map for Understanding the Public Trust Doctrine

In partnership with staff of the California State Lands Commission, the Commission's Statewide Planning Program recently developed a story map called "[Who owns the beach?](#)" that explains the Public Trust Doctrine. The modern Public Trust Doctrine refers to the principle that the State of California holds certain lands for the benefit of the public. While there is private property ownership along some beaches and bluffs, the state owns most tidelands, in trust for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of the public. Presently, uses that may be considered consistent with the Public Trust on these Public Trust lands include maritime commerce, navigation, fishing, boating, water-oriented recreation, public access, and environmental preservation and restoration. The story map was developed using National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration federal grant funds pursuant to the Commission's five-year 309 Assessment and Strategy under the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Planning for Coastal Fire Resiliency

In August, the Commission's Statewide Planning and Ecology teams jointly kicked off a new internal monthly meeting to educate, support, and coordinate among staff on fire-related regulatory issues. The Statewide Planning team provided an overview of the scale of recent and historic fires, the State's response to increased fire threats, past permit and planning processes for fire-related projects, and the types of fire projects anticipated in the coastal zone. The Ecology Group offered perspective on ecological considerations such as applicable ESHA and wetland policies, vegetation management goals, treatment types, information needs, and the overarching contexts lent by geography and climate. Approximately 60 staff from across the state joined in and a survey among participants revealed strong interest in learning more about topics such as the fire ecology of different ecosystems, confluences of ecosystem health and fire prevention, updating LCP fire policies, addressing defensible space with fuel modification, and fire prevention

requirements for utilities. It is intended that these monthly meetings will evolve as our staff continues to develop a stronger foundation in fire issues and will offer a forum to discuss these with colleagues working throughout the state to foster a more cohesive approach across the coastal zone.

Public Education Program

California Coastal Cleanup Day

The 38th annual California Coastal Cleanup Day is coming up on Saturday, September 17th from 9 to noon in most locations. There are cleanups happening that day in almost every county in California. And if you are busy that morning you can still participate by doing a self-guided cleanup in your neighborhood, parks, and local areas anytime during the month of September. Trash flows downhill, and the California coast is downhill from everywhere, so no matter where you may be participating, you are helping to keep our coast and ocean clean and safe for all of us. Details on how to participate can be found at coastalcleanupday.org.

WHALE TAIL® Grants Open for Proposals

Competitive WHALE TAIL® Grants are now open for proposals through November 4th, for projects focusing on ocean and coastal education and stewardship. Details can be found online at www.coastal.ca.gov/whaletailgrant, and on an [FAQ page](#). A [webinar](#) to walk through the application will be held on October 4th. Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations, projects of a non-profit fiscal sponsor, schools or districts, government entities, Federally Recognized Tribes and other California Native American Tribes as defined by Governor's Executive Order B-10-11. The maximum grant is \$50,000 and there's no minimum grant amount. Approximately \$2,000,000 will be distributed in this grant cycle.

Emergency Permits

South Coast District – Orange County

G-5-22-0030 (City of Laguna Beach Fire Department). Emergency vegetation removal as necessary to reduce fire hazards at City-designated Fuel Modification Zones (FMZ) 10 and 11, City of Laguna Beach, Orange County.

San Diego County – San Diego

G-6-22-0029 (Ovard, HOA). Emergency retrieval of 15-20 existing rocks from the beach in front of the revetment and placement of these rocks within the void located in the northern half of the revetment using one tractor. Wave action during recent high tides and large swells have caused revetment rocks to migrate seaward out of the revetment, forming a void in the revetment leading to an unstable revetment configuration, as well as a danger to members of the public who may enter the void, City of Oceanside, San Diego County.