

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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November 13, 2023

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, November 2023

LCP Grant Program

In line with the adopted [LCP Grant Program guidelines](#), I approved an LCP grant of \$500,000 for the City of Carmel to complete an LCP update that identifies areas of coastal vulnerability, addresses environmental justice needs, and plans for coastal resiliency and climate adaptation projects. This grant will build upon a City-funded Coastal Engineering and Hazard Assessment study, which is currently underway and will describe the sea level rise vulnerability of the City's shoreline, including existing armoring and beaches. The project will include public outreach, a social vulnerability assessment (which will include an assessment of non-market beach value as well as visitorship using cell phone data), analysis of adaptation strategy options and development of adaptation pathways, updates to the LCP hazard policies, and an update to the City's coastal hazard mapping.

Environmental Justice and Sea Level Rise Project Update

Commission staff are working to integrate the principles of environmental justice into the agency's sea level rise policy and adaptation work. This federally funded effort builds upon the Commission's existing EJ Policy and will provide guidance on how to address EJ communities, impacts, and benefits when planning for sea level rise. In early 2023, Commission staff selected eight EJ and sea level rise subject matter experts to serve as project advisors, receiving a stipend for their expertise. Last month, staff hosted the third feedback session with advisors on the consequences of sea level rise for EJ communities and coastal act resources. Staff will incorporate this feedback into the EJ Update to the existing Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance, which will be released for public input mid 2024. To stay updated on this project, please visit the project [webpage](#) and "Frequently Asked Questions" one-pagers in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) available on the Commission's website.

Public Education Program

24th Annual Ocean and Coastal Photo Contest

The Public Education Program has announced the winners of the Commission's annual amateur photography contest. These stunning pictures celebrate the incredible beauty and biodiversity of our coast, and we are pleased to share them with the public on our [website](#), as well as in numerous Commission publications throughout the year.

Dockside Podcast

The Boating Clean and Green Program released a new episode of the Dockside Podcast on Whales off the Coast of California. Listen to this and other episodes at <https://dockside.podbean.com/>.

The California Clean Boating Network

The Boating Clean and Green Program will lead an informative virtual meeting on 11/30 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Learn directly from California experts about critical topics impacting our waterways, including management of aquatic invasive plants in the California Delta and an overview of the copper bottom paint pollution issue including results of a Marina Del Rey Harbor pilot study of alternatives.

Other

Finally, I'd like to note the passing of two members of our coastal community. The first is David Lehrer, the former ACLU attorney who was central to the Commission's action to desegregate the Jonathan Club in Santa Monica in 1985. He and Peter Douglas devised a legal strategy to require the club to end its discriminatory membership practices through a condition to its coastal development permit that went all the way to the US Supreme Court. He was the sole member of the public to testify at the Commission's historic hearing on the Club's proposed expansion, and his compelling testimony helped inspire the Commission to take this unusual and prescient step despite lingering concerns over the extent of the Commission's legal authority. Public interest partners like the ACLU and David Lehrer are pillars of the coastal program, and we are grateful for their role in this historic decision. You can listen to a podcast about the Jonathan Club [here](#).

The second is Dave Grubb, who served as the Chapter Chair of the San Diego Sierra Club and a state and national Sierra Club representative. Most recently, he served on the board of the Environmental Center of San Diego. He was representing both at an EPA conference on wildlife protection when he passed away on October 25, doing what he loved best. He was a fixture at Coastal Commission meetings, likely attending hundreds over his career. He could usually be found working in the background and offering sage advice on a myriad of coastal issues. He had a warm smile and a thoughtful demeanor, and he will be greatly missed.

Emergency Permits:

South Coast District

Emergency Permit Application G-5-23-0060 (City of San Clemente, San Clemente) Application of the City of San Clemente to conduct slope stabilization work associated with a landslide located at 415 Avenida Granada, San Clemente, Orange County. (EG-LB)

Emergency Permit Application G-5-23-0073 (Bayside Village Marina, LLC) Application of Bayside Village Marina, LLC to make repairs to a sink hole in the parking lot located at 300 East Coast Highway, Newport Beach, Orange County. (MR-LB)