

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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



W7a

December 8, 2023

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, December 2023

Meetings and Conferences:

Offshore Wind Fisheries Working Group

Senator Mike McGuire kicked off our inaugural meeting of the Offshore Wind Fisheries Working Group last week. The Working Group was an outgrowth of the Coastal Commission's federal consistency review last year and was further refined by Senator McGuire's SB 286. Last Wednesday was the first convening of the group of anglers, Tribal representatives, offshore wind lessees, and public agencies who will be meeting regularly over the next several months to forge a process to guide the state's decision makers on how to implement our offshore wind energy goals while maintaining healthy, sustainable commercial and Tribal fisheries.

California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Annual Conference.

On November 15, Commission staff participated in a panel presentation and roundtable discussion at a meeting of the County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) Flood Control and Water Resources Policy Committee, which took place at CSAC's annual conference in Oakland. Staff presented the Commission's approach to climate adaptation, particularly with regard to flooding and sea level rise, alongside a similar presentation from the Department of Water Resources Floodplain Management Office. CCC staff also presented at the Coastal Counties Regional Association (CCRA) meeting on November 14th. Madeline Cavalieri discussed implementation of recent legislation affecting coastal land use planning, while staff geologist Joseph Street provided an overview of the 2023-24 El Niño event and its potential impacts in coastal California.

City of San Diego Meeting

On November 28, Dr. Huckelbridge and senior San Diego staff met with City of San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, San Diego Councilman and alternate Commissioner Raul Campillo, Mayor of Imperial Beach and Commissioner Paloma Aguirre, and City of San Diego staff to discuss coordination and communication between our agencies, priority projects for the City, and ensuring the provision of equitable access to the shoreline.

Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) Scientists and Coastal Managers Summit.

On November 28, Deputy Director Steve Hudson, staff from the South Central Coast District, and members of the Commission's technical staff attended a convening by BEACON to discuss the state of regional sediment management and beach restoration projects in Santa Barbara and Ventura. The Commission's staff coastal engineer, Jeremy Smith, spoke about the Commission's longstanding support for regional sediment management and beach restoration projects including various past approvals of regional beach nourishment programs. A major goal of the summit was to identify key informational needs that coastal managers face that could be addressed by a regional monitoring program led by BEACON. The summit concluded with a site visit to the Surfers Beach Managed Retreat project where those involved in the project spoke to lessons learned and Phase II of the project, approved by the Commission in 2021.

Headwater to Oceans Conference

On November 29 and 30, several Commission staff attended the Headwaters to Oceans Conference organized by the California Shore & Beach Preservation Association (CSBPA). The conference included many talks and panel discussions focused on adapting to sea level rise, beach and coastal lagoon restoration, dam removal, nature-based solutions, flood risk, and coastal access in California.

Staffing Update

I'm pleased to announce that I have promoted Javier Padilla to the position of Environmental Justice Manager, which was formerly held by Sumi Selvaraj. Javier previously served as the Environmental Justice and Land Use acting manager at the SF PUC, and he joined the Commission in 2020. He's been an integral part of the EJ Team, and we are excited that that he has enthusiastically embraced his new role, as we continue to integrate the principles of equity and justice throughout the program.

Emergency Permits:

Santa Cruz District

G-3-23-001 (Capitola): Authorization for State Parks to install riprap at New Brighton State Beach related to damage from the 2023 storms. Specific work included addition of 300 tons of riprap in January to protect the coastal trail and parking lot; removal of a compromised stairway

and addition of 300 tons of riprap to protect the slope in April/July; and addition of 530 tons of riprap between May and July to protect the access road.

G-3-23-0070 (Carmel): Authorization for State Parks to implementation of lagoon management at the Carmel Lagoon to address flooding issues during winter 2023/24. Authorizes implementation of protocols developed collaboratively between the County, CCC, NOAA Fisheries, USFWS, ACOE, SLC, and MBNMS.

G-3-23-0076 (Aptos): Authorization for State Parks to add 20 cubic yards of concrete slurry and replacement of retaining wall and stairs at Seacliff State Beach after October storms threatened the trail and a restroom.

G-3-23-0078 (Pleasure Point): Authorization for the Docker residence to add an additional 2 linear feet of armoring previously allowed on the upcoast property via ECDP to extend onto the neighboring property.

San Diego District

G-6-23-0015-W (Loma Alta Creek Mouth) – The City of Oceanside Public Works Department excavated approximately 37 cu. yds. of cobble rock to breach the berm at the mouth of Loma Alta Creek to facilitate stormwater outflow and prevent flooding upstream in response to a November 16th rain event. The excavated cobble was placed on the back beach. The emergency work has occurred, and no follow-up permit is required.