

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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



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March 3, 2022

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, March 2023

Staff Training at Asilomar State Beach Conference Grounds

Approximately 145 Commission staff members attended a 3-day training at Asilomar State Beach Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove. The event was facilitated by NOAA coordinators, Rebecca Lunde and Sarah van der Schalie, with a plenary opening by Executive Director Huckelbridge with a vision and strategic planning for the agency and its leadership. In all, 14 separate training sessions were conducted, ranging from management, leadership, and workload planning to sessions providing training on technical specialties.

Tribal Summit

On February 6, Noaki Schwartz, the Commission's tribal affair lead, and I attended the California Tribal Nations Summit with our tribal affairs lead at the Natural Resources Agency. The all-day event fulfills the Governor's promise to tribal leaders to hold high-level, decisionmaker-to-decisionmaker meetings between tribal and state leaders. The event brought together California tribal leaders and Administration officials to discuss a range of issues important to tribal leaders, with an emphasis on ways we can work together to strengthen government-to-government relationships with tribes throughout the state. The event was co-hosted by the Governor's Office and the California Tribal Chairpersons Association.

State Parks Coordination Meeting

Thirteen Commission staff from a variety of locations and programs participated in the February 27, 2023, State Parks Coordination meeting at San Buenaventura State Beach, Ventura. Commission staff joined with State Parks staff to continue to deepen the understanding of each agency's mandates and constraints in context with the need to update, operate, and maintain State Parks in the coastal zone. The meeting included a site visit to McGrath State Beach as State Parks undertakes efforts to engage the public to reimagine the campground and protect wetland and dune habitat.

Kids Ocean Day Workshop

In February Public Education staff held a workshop for this year's Kids Ocean Day Program. Coordinators gathered in Costa Mesa at Orange County Coastkeeper's offices, both virtually and in-person, to discuss the Assembly Programs and to brainstorm themes for this year's aerial art. The assembly programs continue to evolve as coordinators incorporate new and emerging plastic pollution issues, such as microplastics, into the school assemblies. The program will take place over the next few months, culminating in the Kids Ocean Day events in May and June.

Kids Ocean Day Video

The Kids Ocean Day program recently released a new video, based on last year's aerial art theme, titled "Finding Joy in Nature." The video is up on the Commission's [Youtube](#) page and will be available soon on the statewide program website at oceanday.net.

CRN Public Trust Webinar

On February 6, 2022, Statewide Planning Unit staff Karen Vu and Awbrey Yost and State Lands Commission staff hosted a webinar with the Coastal Resilience Network titled, "Introduction to the Public Trust Doctrine and Its Implementation by the California Coastal Commission and State Lands Commission in the Face of Sea Level Rise." This was a public outreach and education event where staff introduced the basics of the public trust doctrine, discussed both agencies' roles in applying the doctrine, and discussed the challenges of implementing the public trust doctrine as public trust tidelands are squeezed between development and rising seas. Statewide Planning Unit staff also presented a summary of the Draft Public Trust Guiding Principles & Action Plan. This draft guidance was first presented to the Commission at the June 2022 hearing and a final draft is scheduled to be presented to the Commission for its consideration at the April 2023 hearing.

2023 Dockwalker Program Trainings

Boating Clean and Green Program staff and Partners set up thirteen Dockwalker statewide virtual and in-person trainings and refresher classes for 2023. The free trainings begin on March 4th and run through June 2023, with registration on the [Dockwalker web page](#). Dockwalkers are volunteers who inspire and educate boaters regarding safe and environmentally sound boating and distribute [California boater kits](#) while visiting marinas, boat launch ramps, boat shows, and boating events. Anyone from 15 to 100 years young can become a Dockwalker!

Sacramento Boat Show

The Boating Clean and Green Program, along with the State Parks Boating Safety and Education Unit and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership will be staffing a booth at the Sacramento Boat Show from March 9th through 12th. Staff will be sharing information about the [California Boater Card](#), boating safety, and clean boating practices.

Caltrans' Draft 2023 State Highway System Management Plan includes \$1.7 billion for SLR Adaptation

Caltrans has released the Draft 2023 State Highway System Management Plan for public comment: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/asset-management/state-highway-system-plan>. The SHSMP integrates the maintenance, rehabilitation, and operation of the State Highway System into a single plan and enables Caltrans to meet state and federal asset management requirements, while aligning transportation investments with priority state climate, health, and social equity goals. In the 2023 draft, Caltrans refined its analysis of the sea level rise vulnerability of bridges and roadways, which is estimated to require a \$14.7 billion investment by 2033, and the draft includes a proposed \$1.7 billion investment for SLR adaptation projects. The Commission's Statewide Transportation program staff continues to work closely with Caltrans to explore how adaptation needs along the coast can be addressed through this funding opportunity, including where those funds should be prioritized on the coast.

Emergency Permits

San Diego District

G-6-23-0002-W (Blacks Beach Emergency Access Road). Storms and high tides eroded the northwestern toe of the access road to the beach. City of San Diego lifeguards requested that the western of the road be smoothed out to bridge the gap between the road and the beach in order to maintain continuous lifeguard and first responder access. The work has occurred and no follow-up is permit required.

G-6-23-0024 (San Elijo Campground). California State Parks has requested the placement of a large amount of rock and cobble at the south end of San Elijo State Beach campground. The revetment at the south end of San Elijo State Beach Campground was severely damaged by the large surf and storms in late December 2022 and early January 2023. The rock is intended to repair the damage to the revetment at the southern end of the campground to provide protection for State Parks property and public service facilities necessary to maintain public access and camping and maintain service to the southern access ramp and the "turnaround" that is required for access to the remaining thirteen campsites at the south end of San Elijo.

G-6-23-0010 (Stonesteps Beach Access). The City of Encinitas has temporarily closed this access stairway due to storm damage. The emergency permit will cover the temporary closure, and depending on what is involved in the repairs, may cover repair and reopening. Any required follow-up permit would be processed by the City of Encinitas.