

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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DATE: February 24, 2023

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director
Sarah Christie, Legislative Director
Linda Locklin, Public Access Program Manager

SUBJECT: **HOLLISTER RANCH COASTAL ACCESS PROGRAM –**
Update for March 8, 2023 Coastal Commission Meeting

This briefing identifies planning steps taken by the State Agency Team (staff from Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy, State Lands Commission, and California State Parks) since the last update prepared for the Coastal Commission on August 10, 2022.

Recap:

The State Agency Team has been working to hire consultants to undertake a Tribal and Cultural Resource Assessment and prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). Funding for the planning work is being provided by the Coastal Conservancy which was authorized on May 5, 2022. The authorization provides \$300,000 for the Tribal and Cultural Resource Assessment and \$ 1.5 million for the PEIR preparation. This funding is part of the \$10 million General Fund appropriation to the Coastal Conservancy authorized for public access at Hollister Ranch.

Chumash Tribal Working Group (CTWG): The State Agency Team (SAT) invited seven Chumash tribes to participate in a tribal working group to ensure ongoing tribal leadership in the planning process. Four Chumash tribes agreed to participate in the CTWG: Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians, Barbareño/ Ventureño Band of Mission Indians, Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation, and Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. The CTWG has met twice in the past six months to assist with the Cultural and Tribal Resource Assessment.

Cultural and Tribal Resource Assessment:

In October 2022, the Coastal Conservancy posted a public notice for Request for Qualifications (RFQ) informing prospective consultants to bid on the RFQ to prepare the Cultural and Tribal study. The Coastal Conservancy, in consultation with the CTWG, completed a scope of work for the study and has recently awarded a contract with Applied Earthworks. The consultant is expected to begin work in the next month.

Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR):

The State Lands Commission will oversee the preparation of the PEIR on behalf of the Coastal Commission, the CEQA lead agency, with funding provided by Coastal Conservancy through an Interagency Agreement. To facilitate preparation of the PEIR, the four agency Directors recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement to identify respective agency roles and form a Joint Review Panel (JRP) for development of the PEIR.

On February 21, 2023, the State Lands Commission posted a public notice for Request for Qualifications (RFQ) informing prospective consultants to bid on the RFQ to prepare the PEIR. <https://caleprocure.ca.gov/event/3560/0000026008>. This public notice announces the intention of the California State Lands Commission to hire a consultant to provide environmental services for the Hollister Ranch Coastal Access Program (HRCAP) Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Preparation. The purpose of this solicitation is to initiate the process by which the SLC will contract with a firm with the appropriate qualifications to assist in preparing a PEIR under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Responses to RFQ are due by March 28, 2023.

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Updates to the HRCAP planning process will continue to be posted at:
<https://www.coastal.ca.gov/hollister-ranch/>

Thank You,
HRCAP Planning Team
Coastal Commission
Coastal Conservancy
State Lands Commission
California State Parks