

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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September 01, 2023

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, September 2023

LCP Grant Program

In line with the adopted [LCP Grant Program guidelines](#), I approved an LCP grant for \$342,736 for Mendocino County's Sea Level Rise Resilience Strategy (SLRRS) project to assess and plan for adaptation of areas vulnerable to sea level rise along the County's coastline. The project will include an initial LCP update to include baseline sea level rise policies; an existing conditions memorandum synthesizing resources and assets on the County's coast to develop a baseline understanding of existing conditions; and a sea level rise vulnerability analysis and risk assessment. A more detailed update to the hazards section of the County's LCP (and other relevant portions) based on information developed as part of this project will be a part of the comprehensive update the County is working on under their Round 8 LCP grant. The grant work will also include coordination with other local jurisdictions within the County, including the City of Fort Bragg and City of Point Arena, to utilize existing data and develop sea level rise vulnerability information that can be utilized by these other jurisdictions for vulnerability assessments.

Santa Cruz Site Tour

Santa Cruz Site Visits. On August 21 and 22, I visited the Santa Cruz office for a meet and greet with Central Coast and other unit staff, where we all had a good discussion about agency happenings and other Commission issues. It was beneficial to meet and hear directly from staff, many of whom are new to the agency, about their perspectives and ideas for growth. Central Coast staff also showed me around various sites in Santa Cruz County to get a better sense of area issues and pending projects.

As part of this site tour, we met with State Parks staff for a ribbon-cutting ceremony commemorating the opening of the Manresa Uplands campground beach access stairway within Manresa State Beach. State Parks Director Armando Quintero was also present, and he and I were able to cut the ribbon and open the staircase together, highlighting the shared objectives our

two agencies have in terms of coastal resource protection and public coastal access. After the ribbon cutting, our two staff also had a tour of Seacliff State Beach, where State Parks staff showed us the damage from the January 2023 storms to infrastructure, camping, and public access, and discussed the future as they embark on a comprehensive sea level rise vulnerability assessment and rethinking of the park to make it more resilient in the face of climate change. I look forward to continued collaboration with our State Parks partners on this and other similar endeavors moving forward.



Cal Poly Sponsored Workshop

Staff from Statewide Planning and the Ecology Team attended a Cal Poly sponsored field workshop on July 27th titled: Fuels Treatments in the Wildland Urban Interface: Lessons Learned Post Wildfire at Swanton Pacific Ranch in Santa Cruz County. They engaged with a diverse group of practitioners and academics to discuss forest health treatments, hazard tree removal, lessons learned in post-wildfire fuels treatments, and biomass removal with the goal of increasing fire resilience and enhancing forest health in the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

Training

In August, the State Transportation and Environmental Partnership for Permitting Efficiency (STEPPE) team, comprised of staff from Caltrans, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB), and the Commission's Statewide Transportation Program provided an "Early Engagement for Permitting" training for 250 staff from the four agencies. The focus of this training was to provide an overview of the newly developed Early Engagement Guidance, which was recommended to be developed in the AB 1282 (2017, Mullen) Final Report. Although the Commission and Caltrans have emphasized early engagement

through our partnership agreement and our shared 'Plan for Improved Agency Partnering' for many years, this guidance document and process will improve collaboration between state regulatory agencies (CCC, CDFW, and RWQCB) and Caltrans, and it will also provide additional resources to Caltrans staff to conduct engagement earlier in the planning phase of projects. The goals of successful structured Early Engagement for a project include providing greater certainty of permit approval requirements, reducing costs, delays, and avoiding project scope changes, reducing permit processing time, establishing reasonable deadlines for permit decisions consistent with existing statutes and regulations, and improving environmental outcomes.

Public Education Program

California Coastal Cleanup Day

On September 23rd, the Commission will celebrate the 39th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day. With tens of thousands of volunteers expected to turn out to over 600 cleanup sites (and counting!), this year's cleanup promises to be the largest since 2019. We would like to invite everyone to join us for this year's cleanup by visiting coastalcleanupday.org, where you can find all the information you'll need to join your local cleanup event and even purchase this year's Coastal Cleanup Day event t-shirt. Thank you to all of our local partners and sponsors who help make California Coastal Cleanup Day the country's largest annual volunteer event.

Whale Tail Grants

The latest round of competitive [Whale Tail Grants](#) has opened. Approximately \$2 million will be distributed in this grant cycle, with a maximum award of \$50,000. Projects must relate to the coast and ocean and may fall into one or more of the following categories: 1) youth education programs, 2) programs for educating the general public or adults, 3) climate change education and stewardship, 4) shoreline cleanup and enhancement programs with community involvement. We strongly encourage projects that engage communities that have historically received fewer opportunities for coastal and marine education and stewardship, and applicant organizations based in and composed of the communities they are engaging. [Visit our website](#) for guidelines, application, and other information about this grant program. An online meeting will take place on September 20th with a detailed walk-through of the application and time for questions. Grant proposals are due November 6th.

Emergency Permits

South Coast District

G-5-23-0064 (Van Tuy) - in response to unexpected damage in the form of broken dock pilings and partial collapse and submergence of the dock float at 101 Bayside Place in Newport Beach, the applicant was authorized to remove those structures and to reinstall broken pile guides in order to secure the remaining dock in place until further work to replace the dock can be authorized.

San Diego District

G-6-23-0013-W (San Juan Place Sewer Pump Station) – in response to high tides and flooding associated with the August 2-3 king tide event, the City of San Diego removed water and repaired equipment within Sewer Pump Station 16, sealed exterior openings, and created a 5-foot-tall temporary sand berm around the facility at the eastern end of San Juan Place in the community of Mission Beach. The emergency work has occurred, and no follow-up permit is required.

G-6-23-0014-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 anticipation of Hurricane Hilary. The excavated cobble was placed on the back beach. The emergency work has occurred, and no follow-up permit is required.