

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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



W6a

May 6, 2024

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, May 2024

Meetings/Workshops/Events

Senate Transportation Subcommittee on LOSSAN Rail Corridor Resiliency

On April 29th, I joined an informational hearing held in Sacramento by the Senate Transportation Subcommittee on LOSSAN Rail Corridor Resiliency. I had the pleasure of participating on a panel along with Commissioner Calfee and a representative from the State Transportation Agency to speak about the state's role in managing and planning for the future of the LOSSAN corridor. We were joined by a second panel composed of representatives from the City of San Clemente, the Orange County Transportation Authority, the LOSSAN Agency, and MetroLink, who spoke about management and planning for the rail corridor from the local perspective. One consistent theme among all the speakers on both panels was the importance of collaborative advance planning across all levels of government toward a resilient future for the LOSSAN corridor. I also had the opportunity as part of my presentation to inform the subcommittee about the Coastal Commission's critical infrastructure guidance and to discuss the importance of pursuing multi-benefit adaptation projects that maintain the reliability of the rail line as well as public access to the beaches along the corridor.

Roundtable discussion addressing access permitting challenges at San Diego beaches

On April 18th, Commission staff convened a roundtable discussion involving representatives from the City of San Diego and the Mayor's office, as well as various non-profit organizations to address access permitting challenges at San Diego beaches. The existing permitting process for non-profits offering water-oriented recreational programs has proven to be cumbersome and inaccessible, particularly for smaller organizations. These challenges have been further compounded by the ongoing Tijuana River Pollution Crisis, which has forced non-profit groups serving underserved youth in Imperial Beach to relocate their operations to San Diego's beaches. During the meeting, non-profits shared their challenges with the

program and Commission staff asked the City to find immediate and long-term solutions to this pressing access issue. San Diego City staff pledged to actively seek solutions to expand the number of available dates for impacted non-profits this summer, with a target completion date before June. Furthermore, the City has committed to enhancing its permitting procedures for the following year and to sustain ongoing roundtable discussions to address coastal access issues.

Humboldt Bay Symposium

On April 11-13, staff from the Commission's North Coast District, Statewide Planning Unit, and Technical Services participated in the Humboldt Bay Symposium, an event convened every two years to provide the public, local governments, state and federal agencies, tribal governments, and other community stakeholders an opportunity to hear directly from experts about the latest developments on a variety of timely topics related to Humboldt Bay. The theme of this year's event, hosted by the Coastal Ecosystems Institute of Northern California (CEI), was "Humboldt Bay in Transition: Navigating Change and Growth." Sessions and panels were focused on climate change, climate equity, sea level rise, ecology, restoration, fisheries, aquaculture, offshore wind, and port development. Program details are available from the [CEI website](#).

Transportation Leadership

On May 3rd, Statewide Transportation Program Manager Peter Allen participated in a moderated panel discussion among regional transportation agency executives focused on transportation leadership in addressing the impacts of climate change as part of the Calmentor Anniversary Awards Event with a key note address by Caltrans Director Tony Tavares.

Public Education Program

Earth Month Fairs:

Staff participated in several events during Earth Month, visiting with the public to let them know about the Commission's stewardship, beach cleanup, and grant programs. We attended the Los Angeles Sanitation Districts Earth Day event, Whalefest Monterey, and "Stay Classy O'side" Earth Day which is part of I Love a Clean San Diego's Creek to Bay cleanup series.

Dockwalker Program Radio Interview:

Vivian Matuk, the Boating Clean and Green Program manager participated in a radio interview from *The Boating Hour with Captain Rick* to talk about the Dockwalker Program <https://omny.fm/shows/the-boating-hour/the-boating-hour-04-13-24>

Boating Clean and Green Program Trainings and Workshops:

The Boating Clean and Green Program partnered with The Bay Foundation to conduct three **Dockwalker Trainings** in April: an in person training on the 13th in San Diego and virtual trainings on the 11th and 25th. On April 12th, the program partnered with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response on an **Oil Spill**

Response Communication Workshop for boating facilities, which was held at the Coronado Yacht Club and virtually. On May 2nd, program staff conducted a **Clean Boating Seminar** at the Barbary Coast Boat Club in Oakland.

Commissioner and Staff Updates

Staff Retirements

This past month, we celebrated Margaret Chew's retirement. Margaret has dedicated an impressive 40 years of service to the Coastal Commission. As our Accounting Manager, Margaret has exemplified fiscal integrity, professionalism, and hard work. Margaret has also inspired and mentored many of our staff, leaving a lasting impact on our organization. As Margaret embarks on her well-deserved retirement, we extend our deepest gratitude for her years of service and wish her a future filled with joy, relaxation, and many travel adventures! On May 3rd, Statewide Transportation Program Manager Peter Allen participated in a moderated panel discussion among regional transportation agency executives focused on transportation leadership in addressing the impacts of climate change as part of the Calmentor Anniversary Awards Event with a keynote address by Caltrans Director Tony Tavares.

The Passing of Former Huntington Beach Mayor Shirley Dettloff

Last month we lost another heroic coastal champion—former Huntington Beach Mayor Shirley Dettloff. As her long-time friend Linda Moon told the LA Times, she died with her boots on—active and engaged in civic issues around coastal protection, affordable housing, and civil liberties to the end. She was a member of the League for Coastal Protection. Her efforts to save the Bolsa Chica wetlands inspired her to become a founding member of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica in 1976, the same year the Coastal Act was passed. The Amigos grew into one of the most effective environmental organizations in Orange County and was instrumental in preventing the destruction of the wetlands against overwhelming odds with principled, science-based advocacy, that set the stage was set for successful restoration of to a fully functioning tidal marsh. Shirley went on to run for City Council and was serving as Mayor when she was appointed by the Senate Rules Committee to the Coastal Commission in 1998. She was a critical voice in the historic vote to preserve the Hearst Ranch the following year and was respected as a kind, measured, dignified voice of reason on the Commission. On behalf of the Commission, I want to acknowledge Shirley's lasting contributions to coastal protection and express our condolences to her family and her community. I've included a link to a wonderful video featuring Shirley and the Amigos de Bolsa Chica

https://www.google.com/search?q=Amigos+de+Bolsa+Chica+founded&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS998US998&og=Amigos+de+Bolsa+Chica+founded&gs_lcrp=EgZiaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOdIBCTqwNzVqMGoxNagCCLACAQ&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:208077a5,vid:ITVasxvE8nM,st:0

New NOAA Coastal Management Fellow

In April, Commission staff participated as a host agency in the 2024 NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship matching workshop process. After multiple rounds of interviews staff were pleased to match with its new incoming fellow, Margaret Campbell. Margaret hails from

San Diego and comes to the Commission with a Masters of Fisheries Science from Oregon State University. Margaret will be integrated as a core staff member of the offshore wind and environmental justice teams to help advance the agency's efforts on offshore wind, including playing a central role in the team's work on monitoring, research, and mitigation approaches. Staff are thrilled to welcome Margaret to the team in early August 2024 for her two-year placement.

Emergency Permits

San Diego District

G-6-24-0016-W – Emergency permit waiver issued to City of Oceanside to excavate approximately 5 cu. yds. of cobble rock to breach the berm at Loma Alta Creek mouth on April 11, 2024 to facilitate stormwater outflow and prevent flooding upstream in response to rain.

G-6-24-0018-W – Emergency permit waiver issued to the 22nd District Agricultural Association to place approximately five tons of six-inch rip rap in the void under a culvert that formed following the atmospheric river events of January at the Horsepark Facility.

G-6-24-0026 – Emergency permit issued to California Department of Parks and Recreation to place approximately 1,500 tons of 2-5 ton armor rock, 700 tons of 0.25-ton underlayer rock, and 16,000 sq. ft. of geotextile fabric along 190 linear ft. fronting the Cardiff State Beach North Day Use Lot, which had become undermined and destroyed by storms in December 2023 and January 2024, necessitating the closure of the entire lot.

G-6-24-0043 – Emergency permit issued to the City of Encinitas to excavate approximately 350 cu. yds. of sediment from around and downstream of the existing culvert located just south of Manchester Avenue and excavate an approximately 100 ft. long by 15 ft. wide channel to facilitate stormwater flows and avoid further flood damage to adjacent roadway and private properties.