

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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June 10, 2024

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report, June 2024

SONGS public workshops

On April 8 and May 9, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) mitigation project public workshops were held to report on the current progress of the Wheeler North artificial reef and San Dieguito wetland mitigation projects. As reported at the Coastal Commission hearing in March, the 373-acre artificial reef is performing as well or better than the nearby natural reference reefs. The April workshop was held at the Community House in the city of Dana Point. The Commission-contracted scientists summarized the lessons learned for reef restoration for a diverse audience of stakeholders and practitioners. At the May workshop at Del Mar City Hall, the Commission-contracted scientists reported that the 150-acre constructed San Dieguito wetland is overall performing as well or better than reference wetlands. These annual workshops are a joint effort between the independent scientists at UC Santa Barbara, a science advisory panel, Southern California Edison, and the Coastal Commission.

Sand Mining in San Francisco Bay

The Commission's Coastal Engineer, Jeremy Smith, participated in a Technical Advisory Committee as part of an effort led by BCDC to study the potential effects of sand mining in San Francisco Bay. As required by BCDC permits for sand mining in Central and Suisun Bay in 2015, the studies on the Bay's sand budget, transport patterns, provenance, and potential effects of mining are now complete. The BCDC selected Independent Science Panel has reviewed the studies, deliberated on them, and made findings regarding this new information and the potential effects of mining on this part of the Bay sediment system. The report informs management questions crafted by the Technical Advisory Committee including questions around the potential for sand mining in San Francisco Bay to impact beaches on the open coast. The findings will be

presented by BCDC staff to their Commission on Thursday, June 20th. More information can be found on BCDC's website: <https://bcdc.ca.gov/cm/2024/2024-06-20-agenda.html>.

Nearshore Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Evaluation Workshop

On May 22, Coastal Commission ecologist Dr. Rachel Pausch attended a NOAA-sponsored workshop that brought together federal and state agencies, consultants, and NGOs to discuss the current state of methods used to measure impacts to kelps and seagrasses on the Western Pacific coast. Dr. Pausch served on a panel to discuss regulatory successes and challenges in avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts to kelp and seagrass systems. The workshop was meant to build a community of practice that will increase dialogue and transparency between regulatory agencies and permit applicants when considering projects located within marine habitats.

Offshore Wind and Fisheries Working Group Update

Group (Working Group) for its third meeting. The Working Group was formed in response to Condition 7c of the Commission's concurrences with CD-0004-22 and CD-0001-22, which the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management provided for its offshore wind area lease sales and subsequent survey and site assessment activities. The Working Group was codified, and its tasks were refined by State Senate Bill (SB) 286 (McGuire 2023). Members of the Working Group, representing commercial and recreational fisheries, leaseholders and California Native American tribes, along with state and federal agency expert advisors, have exceptional knowledge of California fisheries and coastal resources. The Working Group is tasked with developing a statewide strategy to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to fishing and fisheries from offshore wind development, prioritizing fisheries productivity and long-term resilience. The working group has spent many hours meeting together both in full working group meetings and in smaller subgroups to draft and discuss deliverables. Together, the working group members are doing the hard work of finding the common priorities and principles that will lead to a successful, meaningful statewide strategy.

In its first three meetings, the Working Group has developed and adopted its charter, begun work on developing best practices for surveys and site assessment, and prepared a detailed outline that will become a template fishing agreement as language is added. At its most recent meeting, the Working Group continued discussing protocols for communication and began discussing how to develop a comprehensive socio-economic methodology for assessing monetary values of direct and indirect impacts to fisheries. The fourth Working Group meeting is anticipated for October 2024 and the fourth meeting will be the halfway point towards an estimated completion of the working group process in the fourth quarter of 2025.

It has been a privilege to contribute to the work that is happening in these meetings. The working group members have approached this challenging and rewarding work with creative ideas, a willingness to learn from each other, and the shared vision of keeping fishermen fishing in

California. Consistent with SB 286, the Commission will have the opportunity to review, modify and adopt the completed statewide strategy at a future meeting. Meeting summaries with additional information about each meeting's objectives can be found on the Commission's website: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/upcoming-projects/offshore-wind/>. The Commission's website also includes a link to the working group roster.

Carmel Valley Bike Trail Connection

On May 23, 2024, Commission staff attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Caltrans State Route 56 (SR56) / Interstate 5 (I-5) Bike Trail Connection in Carmel Valley, a 1.2-mile bike and pedestrian path under I-5 and SR56.

Coastal Commissioner Paloma Aguirre attended and spoke at the event. Other speakers included San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, State Senator Catherine Blakespear, and members of the San Diego Bike Coalition. This improvement, [approved by the Commission](#) in February 2022, connects the SR56 Bicycle Trail from Carmel Valley Road on the east side of I-5 to an enhanced Park and Ride lot at Carmel Valley Road on the west side of I-5. This project completes an 8-mile connection between the SR56 Bicycle Trail to the North Coast Bike Trail and the Sorrento Valley Transit Station.

This enhancement is also part of the Sea-to-Sea Trail that will travel from the Salton Sea to the Pacific Ocean. The bike path extension was included as one of the many public access improvements in the North Coast Corridor Public Works Plan and Transportation and Resource Enhancement Program (NCC PWP/TREP) approved by the Commission in 2014.



Coastal Commission Employee Honored

On May 7, Joe Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, honored our Coastal Access Program Manager, Linda Locklin, for her 35 years of work to open new public access to the Malibu beaches. SMMC and MRCA re-named Carbon Beach East Accessway (opened in 2005), located just south of the Malibu Pier, to be called the Linda Locklin Accessway. SMMC and MRCA also honored recently retired Deputy Attorney General Jamee Jordan Patterson for her legal contributions that have protected public access and named Carbon Beach West Accessway (opened in 2015) in her honor. A ceremony was held on the Malibu Pier for these women who were called "Defenders of the Coast".



Joe Edmiston, Linda Locklin, Jamee Patterson

Many of the public accessways to the Malibu coast were created by Coastal Commission coastal development permit conditions to record an Offer to Dedicate a Public Access Easement. In order to implement the Offer into an on-the-ground public accessway, a managing entity is required. MRCA has fulfilled that role for a number of these public easements, including these two at Carbon Beach. The Coastal Commission thanks MRCA for their on-going partnership to protect and provide public access to and along the magnificent California coast.



[Click on for MRCA Press Release](#)

Kids Ocean Day Events

Over the last two weeks of May, Kids Ocean Day field trips took place in San Diego, Orange County, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Humboldt County. These trips were the culmination of programs that began with in-school in which students gained an understanding of the benefits provided by healthy coastal ecosystems. They learned about the interconnections between humans and the natural world, instilling a sense of responsibility and the power to make a positive impact on the planet. The field trips then brought students to the beach where for play and to participate in a cleanup or other restoration activities. At the end, the students used their bodies to create aerial art images sending a message to the world. The theme for this year's campaign, "Make Ripples," helped illustrate how one person's actions can have far-reaching effects making positive change that will reverberate throughout our communities and planet. Here is a [highlight reel](#) of the events.

Learn more and see aerial art images from the many years of Kids Ocean Day at <http://oceanday.net>

Dockwalker Program Trainings

On June 6th and 15th, Boating Clean and Green Program staff will be conducting the last two Dockwalker Trainings of 2024, for a total of 13 trainings this year. Dockwalkers are partners who meet boaters where they are, distribute [California boater kits](#), and inspire and educate boaters and other recreators to be safe and environmentally sound while boating in California. This program is implemented in partnership with The Bay Foundation.

Oil Spill Response Communication workshop

On June 20th, 2024, the Boating Clean and Green Program and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response will conduct a virtual Oil Spill Response Communication Workshop for boating facilities. Facility operators will learn about California's oil spill response structure and lines of communication, oil spill response resources, and best practices.

Expired Marine Flare Collection Event in Orange County

The Boating Clean and Green Program is partnering with Orange County to collect expired marine flares and educate residents about marine flare management safety, including the advantages of reusable distress signals, to protect California communities and the environment. The [free event](#) will take place on Saturday, June 22, 9am to 1pm, at 592 Superior Avenue, in Newport Beach.



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Defenders of the California Coast Celebrated in Malibu

Carbon Beach Accessways named for California Coastal Commission Coastal Access Manager Linda Locklin and Supervising Deputy Attorney General Jamee Jordan Patterson each of whom, for more than 40 years, have championed keeping California's beaches and coastline accessible to everyone

Malibu, CA (May 7, 2024) – On a stunning spring day, with a commanding view of 1.5-mile long Carbon Beach, a crowd of long-time colleagues and admirers gathered for a fitting tribute to two women who have worked effectively and strategically for over 40 years to ensure that the spirit and law of the California Coastal Act is upheld such that all people have access to the Coast.

Carbon Beach East Accessway, opened to the public after a protracted battle in 2005, will be named for Linda Locklin, the Coastal Commission's Coastal Access Program Manager since 1990. Carbon Beach West Accessway, opened to the public after an extended fight in 2015, will be named for Jamee Jordan Patterson, the Attorney General's Litigation Liaison to the California Coastal Commission since 1990. Each accessway will feature a commemorative plaque and new signage. In addition, under the brown rectangular "Coastal Access" marker familiar to travelers on Pacific Coast Highway will be new signs with "Via Jamee" at Carbon Beach West, and "Via Linda" at Carbon Beach East.

Linda Locklin, an accomplished swimmer and rower, joined the California Coastal Commission staff as a planner in 1977. As Coastal Access Manager for the past 34 years, Linda has worked to protect and provide new public access opportunities to beaches statewide, especially on the 21-mile Malibu Coast in Los Angeles--the most populated county in the state. In this role, Linda works to ensure public easements across private property, such as the Carbon Beach Accessways, are opened to public use as promised in development agreements.

Supervising Deputy District Attorney Jamee Jordan Patterson, a UCLA and Loyola Law School graduate, has handled numerous cases for the Coastal Commission at all levels of the courts, both state and federal, from trial to appeal, including several cases before the California Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal, and the United States Supreme Court, specializing in public access cases.

(-More-)

Some of those cases include:

Ackerberg v. Coastal Commission (access in Malibu)

Barrie v. Coastal Commission (access in Del Mar)

Whaler's Village Club v. Coastal Commission (access in Ventura)

Kretowicz v. Coastal Commission (access in La Jolla)

11 Lagunita v. Coastal Commission (access in Laguna Beach)

San Diego Navy Broadway Complex Coalition v. Coastal Commission (access in San Diego)

The California Coastal Commission was established by voter initiative in 1972 (Proposition 20) and later made permanent by the Legislature through adoption of the [California Coastal Act of 1976](#). A primary purpose of the Coastal Act is to maximize public access to and along the coast and maximize public recreational opportunities in the coastal zone consistent with sound resources conservation principles and constitutionally protected rights of private property owners.

The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is committed to providing maximum public coastal access to the spectacular Malibu coastline where the Santa Monica Mountains meet the Pacific Ocean. In partnership with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the MRCA manages a robust Coastal Access Program within the City of Malibu that includes 12 Malibu beach accessways and two coastal overlooks along various Malibu beaches, as well as Lechuza Beach, Escondido Beach, and Carbon-La Costa Beach.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is a local government public entity dedicated to the preservation and management of open space and parkland, wildlife habitat, coastal access, watershed lands, and trails in both wilderness and urban settings, and to ensuring access to public parkland and coastal resources. The MRCA works in cooperation with other government partners to acquire parkland, participate in vital planning processes, provide natural resources and scientific expertise, and complete major park improvement projects. The MRCA manages and provides ranger services and fire protection for almost 80,000 acres of parkland that it owns and that are owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy or other agencies.