

## CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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# W6d

DATE: September 25, 2025

TO: California Coastal Commissioners and Interested Public

FROM: Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director  
Shana Gray, Deputy Director, North Coast and Statewide Planning  
Karen Vu, Environmental Scientist

SUBJECT: **California Coastal Commission Public Review Draft Five-Year Strategic Plan. Public Hearing and Discussion only. No Commission action.**

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Exhibit 1: Public Review Draft 2026 – 2030 Strategic Plan

### Introduction and Background

In November 2020, the Commission adopted a five-year Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 to maintain consistency with state agency requirements as well as a requirement from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under the Commission's Coastal Zone Management Act Section 312 federal evaluation. As the current Strategic Plan planning horizon comes to a close, the Commission is now seeking feedback as it develops and updates the next five year strategy for the agency.

### Development of 2026 – 2030 Public Review Draft Strategic Plan (Draft Strategic Plan)

Commission staff have been working over the past 9 months to develop an updated draft strategic plan to guide the agency's work for the next few years. Considerable staff time and effort went into developing the proposed Draft Strategic Plan (Exhibit 1), including an internal survey to allow for individual staff input and many meetings and deliberations by the Commission's Executive Management Team.

In addition, the Commission solicited early input from the public for consideration in the development of the strategic plan. Commission staff received a number of comments through an online survey on the Commission's website and through a dedicated Strategic Plan email address. Commission staff also held public listening sessions with the general public, local governments, Spanish speaking communities, and tribal groups. In total, the Commission received 309 comments through the online survey, emails, and letters.

These comments ranged from project-specific feedback to broader recommendations on "high priority" topic areas on which to focus, such as maximizing public access, increasing affordable housing and lower-cost visitor serving uses, and improving multimodal/nonvehicular transportation routes. The public also raised concerns about short-term rentals, marine debris, and a loss of coastal resources due to development pressures. Local government letters focused on improving coordination opportunities, concerns over funding for sea level rise adaptation strategies, and discussed facilitating housing while also providing for short-term rentals. Other topics included recommendations to balance the needs of the public with private property rights and to reduce the regulatory burdens associated with permitting.

The public comments were reviewed in tandem with staff input and factored into the development of the goals, objectives and actions provided in the attached Draft Strategic Plan.

## **Draft Strategic Plan Overview**

The Public Review Draft Strategic Plan for 2026 – 2030 presented here centers on the Commission's mission to protect and enhance the coast and focuses on laying out a roadmap for the Commission to achieve this mandate in light of current and future challenges. This updated plan provides a framework of 5 goals, 15 objectives, and 67 specific actions to guide the agency's work over the next five years. Staff believe these goals, objectives, and actions will support effective implementation of the Coastal Act and achievement of the Commission's mission and vision.

Goals 1 and 2 focus on objectives and actions to ensure coastal access for all and plan for resilient communities. Goal 3 prioritizes objectives and actions related to improving external engagement and communication. Goal 4 implements the requirements of the Coastal Act to protect coastal resources. Lastly, Goal 5 focuses on the agency itself by aiming to build and maintain and resilient organization.

All objectives and actions in the plan are essential and they are not listed in order of priority. Importantly, equity and resilience are woven throughout the updated plan in an effort to ensure that the Commission's actions focus on addressing impacts to communities that face barriers to accessing and enjoying the coast. The Commission plans to implement these actions in the next five years, provided that adequate staffing capacity and funding are available or acquired (where noted). Many of these actions can be undertaken simultaneously during the five-year timeframe, as the tasks will be carried out by the relevant staff in the Commission's program departments and district offices.

## **Current Public Review/Next Steps**

Commission staff are now seeking input from the Commission, other agencies, tribal communities, and the public on the proposed goals, objectives and actions in this Draft Strategic Plan. The Draft Strategic Plan will be released for public review on the Commission's website and via email on September 26, 2025.

The public is invited to provide comments on the Draft Strategic Plan in writing or verbally at the Commission's October and November 2025 meetings. The public comment period for written and oral comments will remain open through November 10, 2025.

Written comments can be emailed to [StrategicPlanComments@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:StrategicPlanComments@coastal.ca.gov).

Alternately, comment letters can be mailed directly to:

California Coastal Commission  
Executive Division  
455 Market Street, Suite 300  
San Francisco, CA 94105

After the October and November Commission public hearings and close of the public comment period on November 10, 2025, Commission staff will review and incorporate feedback from the Commission members and the public into a proposed final 2026 - 2030 Strategic Plan. The proposed final Strategic Plan will be brought back to the Commission for a public hearing and Commission action at the December 2025 Commission meeting.