

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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March 10, 2025

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties
FROM: Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

2026-2030 Strategic Plan Update

The Commission is launching a public engagement process for its 2026-2030 Strategic Plan update. We are holding a series of virtual listening sessions on Zoom next week that will include opportunities for English speakers, Spanish speakers, tribal representatives, and local governments to give input on what the new Strategic Plan should include. Zoom registration links for the listening sessions can be found below and at www.coastal.ca.gov/strategicplan. Feedback is also encouraged through our public input form found at the same website or by emailing StrategicPlanComments@coastal.ca.gov. The Commission and public will have additional input opportunities on the public draft in the fall and on the final draft Strategic Plan later this year.

Listening Sessions for English Speakers

- Monday, March 17th from 3:30-4:30 pm. [Click here to register.](#)
- Wednesday, March 19th from 5:30-6:30 pm. [Click here to register.](#)

Listening Sessions for Spanish Speakers

- Tuesday, March 18th from 5:30-6:30 pm. [Click here to register.](#)
- Friday, March 21st from 1:00-2:00 pm. [Click here to register.](#)

Listening Session for Local Governments

- Thursday, March 20th from 3:00-4:00 pm. [Click here to register.](#)

Listening Session for Tribal Representatives

- Friday, March 21st from 3:00-4:00 pm. [Click here to register.](#)

Key Metrics Report 2024

Every year the Coastal Commission publishes a Year in Review report, highlighting emerging trends, significant accomplishments and major milestones. In addition, we've launched a new effort this year to track and share important data points with the public. The first annual Key Metrics Report helps provide crucial context for understanding our agency, such as the number of Coastal Development Permits issued by district staff as compared to local governments. It provides average processing times for these permits as well as for amendments to Local Coastal Programs. The report also breaks down workload by agency district and provides important data on permit appeals. You can view the 2024 Key Metrics Report [here](#).

Beach Ecology Coalition (BEC)

On January 29, 2025, Commission ecologists, Jonna Engel and Kaylee Griffith, and Commission enforcement officer, Cameron Lee, attended the **21st annual winter meeting of the Beach Ecology Coalition (BEC)** held at the Palm Park Beach House in Santa Barbara. The mission of the BEC is "To enhance ecosystem conservation and beach management to balance natural resource protection and recreational use." The BEC has developed and identified best practices for beach management, such as grunion grooming protocols, that combine conservation and restoration of natural resources with human recreational opportunities on sandy beaches in California. The BEC promotes research, information and expertise exchange among beach workers, managers, scientists, and the public toward better understanding of natural resource management on sandy beaches.

In addition to a number of research and informational presentations including "Resilience of California's beach and dune ecosystems to climate change" by UCSB grad student Karina Johnston and "Santa Barbara beach grooming logistics: How we try to balance nature, lots of people, and safety" by Santa Barbara City, Parks Supervisor, Steve Biddle, the meeting also included a site visit to the Commission permitted Andree Clark Bird Refuge restoration project.

Broadband for All

On February 11, Statewide Transportation Team staff presented at a "Broadband for All" [Permitting Roundtable](#) hosted by the California Department of Technology and the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development. Staff presented on permitting the state's expanded Broadband Network in the coastal zone and the Commission's efforts to support and expedite such work, touching on a variety of coastal permitting best practices, coastal permitting guidelines, as well as highlighting success stories in implementing broadband in the coastal zone.

Environmental Justice Program

Our staff has been working with the City of San Diego since last Spring to adjust the City's permitting processes to better meet the needs of non-profits and tribes seeking to implement programs designed to improve access to the coast. As of January 1st, Assembly Bill 2939 (Rendon) now allows non-profit and tribal groups of less than 30 people to access local public

parks and beaches under the same rules that apply to the general public. This month, our staff reached out to the City of San Diego to clarify that compliance with the new law will satisfy the Commission's previous concerns about equitable public access and coastal resources protection. Hopefully this will resolve any lingering questions for non-profit surfing groups and other NGOs planning to organize outdoor access and education programming in time for summer beach weather. The Commission will continue to engage with local jurisdictions as needed regarding implementation of this new law in the coastal zone.

California Volunteers Fund “Corps to Careers” (C2C)

Last week I signed an MOU with the California Volunteers Fund “Corps to Careers” (C2C) program for the Coastal Commission to become a “host partner” for the purpose of posting Commission job openings directly to Climate Corps and AmeriCorps alumni who have a demonstrated interest in public service careers. C2C provides host partners with access to a diverse, qualified workforce, which helps to demystify the state's hiring process by providing support for potential applicants using innovative tools such as interactive software, Job Boards, and Career Fairs.

Public Education Program

2025 Dockwalker Program Trainings and the 2025 Boater Kits (March-June 2025).

Boating Clean and Green Program staff and Partners set up 13 statewide Dockwalker virtual and in-person trainings and refresher classes for 2025. Trainings are free, begin on March 1st and run through June 2025. Pre-registration is required. Visit the [Dockwalker web page](#) to view the training schedule, locations, and sign-up. Check the partner Dockwalker videos and learn what partner [Dockwalkers are saying](#) about the program. Dockwalkers are partners who inspire and educate boaters and other recreators to be safe and environmentally sound while boating in California. These partners distribute the [California boater kits](#) with educational materials anywhere boaters are, and while visiting marinas, boat launch ramps, boat shows, and boating events. Anyone from 15 to 100 years young and interested in water quality and sharing clean boating information (regardless of your background) can become a Dockwalker! This year we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of this Program.

Free Freshwater Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Virtual Workshop on Thursday, March 27th (9 am to 12 pm).

Everyone accessing California's waterways is invited to learn how to stop the spread of freshwater aquatic invasive species (AIS) into uninfected waterways. This free virtual workshop will help the public learn how they can recognize freshwater AIS in their region and how to take action to prevent them from spreading. Workshop participants will: Gain an understanding of the impacts freshwater AIS have on the environment, recreation and on our economy; Learn about the biology and how to recognize freshwater AIS including: Quagga, Zebra and Golden mussels; floating and submersed aquatic weeds including Water hyacinth, South American spongeplant and Uruguay water primrose, Brazilian waterweed, Curlyleaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil (Coontail), and fanwort; Learn about the management and control methods being used in our State for these AIS; Learn how to take action and prevent spreading freshwater invasive species by inspecting and cleaning equipment and watercraft.

Advance registration is required [HERE](#) (You must register to attend by March 24th, 2025)
The workshop is hosted by California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways,
California Coastal Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State
Lands Commission, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.