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April 7, 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 held a series of virtual listening sessions on Zoom that included opportunities for English speakers, Spanish speakers, tribal representatives, and local governments to share their input on what the new Strategic Plan should include. We had over 100 participants across the listening sessions. We closed the early online feedback public input form on April 4th, but comments can still be submitted at any time by emailing StrategicPlanComments@coastal.ca.gov. The Commission and the public will have additional opportunities to provide input on the public draft in the fall and on the final draft of the Strategic Plan later this year.

Annual Washington, D.C. Meetings of the Coastal States Organization and NOAA Program Managers

In late March, I traveled to Washington, D.C., with our Deputy Director for Statewide Programs, Ashley Reineman, and our Federal Programs Manager, Megan Hall, for the annual meetings of the Coastal States Organization and NOAA Program Managers. Discussions during the meetings covered a range of issues, including continued discussions on possible cuts to federal funding and contraction of the federal workforce, as well as policy topics related to implementation of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act and potential policy threats to federal consistency authority provided to the states under CZMA. Staff from the Commission, the Coastal Conservancy, BCDC, and the San Francisco Bay, Elkhorn Slough, and Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserves also met with staff in California Congressional offices in support of FY25 and FY26 funding for California's Coastal Management Program. Staff emphasized the critical importance of federal funding for California's coastal planning, regulatory, enforcement, research, education, and public

access programs, particularly in the face of increasing threats to federal funding and nationwide coastal management policies. Staff look forward to follow-up discussions and opportunities for continued support during this unprecedented time.

UC Davis Environmental Law Society Symposium

On March 14, Kelsey Ducklow from our Statewide Planning Unit attended the annual UC Davis Environmental Law Symposium. This year's theme was "Resilient by Design: Climate Adaptation & the Future of Housing in California," and it included four panels discussing key issues shaping California's future, including affordable housing, climate-resilient communities, and resource management. Kelsey presented on a panel related to sea level rise and discussed the importance of proactive and holistic adaptation planning for ensuring long-term resilience of coastal communities, including for both housing and coastal resources.

Public Education Program

Public Education staff will be tabling at three public festivals this month to share with attendees how they can enjoy and protect the California coast. Join your staff at Whalefest Monterey at Old Fisherman's Wharf and the Custom House Plaza on April 12-13, at LA Sanitation Districts Earth Day in Whittier on April 12, and at the Stay Classy O'side Earth Day in Oceanside on April 26.

On April 22nd, the California State Parks and the California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program, along with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response, will conduct an online Oil Spill Response Communication Workshop for boating facilities. Boating facility operators will learn about:

- California's Oil Spill Response Structure
- California's Marinas and Yacht Clubs Spill Response Communication Packet
- Real Life Spill Case Studies: Lessons Learned and Best Practices
- Oil Spill Response Resources for Boating Facilities

California State Parks' Casa Gutierrez Art Gallery in downtown Monterey is currently hosting an exhibit with artwork from past winners and honorable mentions of the Coastal Commission's Coastal Art & Poetry Contest for k-12 youth. The exhibit is open to the public through June 28.

Emergency Permits:

North Coast District

G-1-25-0003-W, Pacific Gas and Electric – Emergency waiver for emergency repair work necessary to maintain essential gas service to 17,000 customers in the greater Eureka area involving excavation of 80 square feet of farmed wetlands to access a leaking gas line, repair of the line, and restoration of ~9,000 square feet of disturbed (from access, staging, and repair work) farmed wetlands to pre-emergency work conditions.

South Coast District

G-5-25-0009 Emergency permit issued to City of Long Beach to relocate/replace ruptured 12-inch water main at the Alamitos Bay Landing to maintain potable water quality and restore water supply for fire protection of the surrounding residential and commercial areas.