

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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July 3, 2026

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

Federal Review of CCMP

On May 20, 2026, the Department of Commerce issued a [press release](#) announcing its intent to conduct a new full, formal review of California's Coastal Management Program, which includes the California Coastal Commission, the California Coastal Conservancy, and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Under this review, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration will open a public comment period to gather information from stakeholders that will be used to determine next steps related to the certification of California's coastal management program under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act.

[Federal Register Document #2026-12907](#) posted on Friday, June 26, 2026, includes the following information regarding how to engage in the public process:

Pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management will hold one in-person and two virtual public meetings to solicit input for a performance evaluation of the California Coastal Management Program. These public meetings will add to the input obtained from the previous public meeting held in August 2024. Comments on all aspects of the California Coastal Management Program will be accepted, and in particular, NOAA seeks input from relevant stakeholders regarding: spaceport infrastructure, offshore oil production, pipeline maintenance, desalination projects, and undersea cables. NOAA will hold an in-person public meeting from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific Time (PT) on Monday, August 10, 2026, in the Pacific Ballroom, Hilton Santa Monica Hotel and Suites, 1707 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Any person who wants to speak at the in-person public meeting must be physically present and register by emailing czma.california-evaluation@noaa.gov by 11:59 p.m. PT on August 8, 2026. Each speaker will have three minutes to speak. Any speakers who do not register via email can sign up on-site.

NOAA will adjourn the meeting at 6 p.m. or when all participants have spoken, whichever is earlier. The meeting will be livestreamed; however, comments for the in-person meeting will not be accepted via livestream. Registration for the livestream is available

at: <https://noaabroadcast.adobeconnect.com/euge1fzlgysm/event/registration.html>.

NOAA will also hold two virtual public meetings on Tuesday, August 11 and Wednesday, August 12, 2026, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. PT. NOAA will conduct the virtual public meetings via Adobe Connect. Each person who wants to attend either virtual meeting must electronically register by August 10, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. PT. Attendance at each virtual public meeting will be limited to 1,000 individuals; therefore, NOAA requests that individuals attend only one meeting, on either August 11 or 12. NOAA will call on speakers on a first come/first served basis through the raised hand function of Adobe Connect. Each speaker will have three minutes to speak. NOAA will adjourn the meeting at 5 p.m. PT or when all participants have spoken, whichever is earlier.

NOAA retains discretion to extend the virtual public meetings if appropriate and feasible. To register for either virtual meeting, use the following link:

https://noaabroadcast.adobeconnect.com/e23ewcr5d65q/event/event_info.html.

Each registered participant will receive an Adobe Connect link for the meeting.

NOAA will prepare written transcripts of the in-person and both virtual meetings, which will be available via email request to czma.california-evaluation@noaa.gov. Written comments may be submitted to NOAA's Office for Coastal Management by email at czma.california-evaluation@noaa.gov. Include "Comments on Performance Evaluation of the California Coastal Management Program" in the subject line. Written comments received by 11:59 pm PT on August 22, 2026, will be accepted.

Please direct any questions to czma.california-evaluation@noaa.gov.

Public Education Programs

The 27th Annual California Ocean and Coastal Amateur Photography Contest.

Pay tribute to the state's spectacular coast and ocean by entering our [annual photography contest](#). This contest is free and open to all amateur photographers. Entries close on September 30th.

California Fishing Line Recycling Program

Thanks to a message from Karen — a dedicated daily walker — we learned about dangerous discarded fishing line harming seabirds at the Cabrillo Beach Pier. The Clean and Green Boating team at the Coastal Commission and California State Parks partnered with LA City Recreation and Parks to install new fishing line recycling stations along the pier. The difference is already clear: cleaner walkways, safer wildlife, and a more mindful fishing community. If you want to help bring stations to your area, contact [Vivian Matuk](#).



Dockside Podcast.

In the new episode, **California's seabirds are in crisis — and the heroes at International Bird Rescue are racing to save them**, JD Bergeron, CEO of International Bird Rescue, talks about the massive 2026 starvation event hitting Brown Pelicans, Brandt's Cormorants, and Common Murres — and what it takes to rescue birds on the brink. Listeners will learn why it's happening, what rescuers are seeing in the field, and how YOU can help if you find a stranded bird. Listen in your podcast app or at dockside.podbean.com.

Environmental Justice Program

Tribal Affairs Program Newsletter

The Tribal Affairs Program launched its inaugural newsletter, which is distributed exclusively to Tribal Representatives across California. The newsletter was developed to provide updates on Coastal Commission initiatives, public meeting notices, and other information of interest to California Tribes. This new communication tool is intended to strengthen outreach and foster ongoing engagement with Tribal partners.

This month's issue includes relevant hearing items on the July 2026 Commission Hearing, the Peter Douglas Tribal Affairs Internship Opportunity, and the California Coastal Management Program Public Meeting Notice. If you are a Tribal Representative who did not receive the newsletter and would like to be added, please e-mail TribalAffairs@coastal.ca.gov.

Peter Douglas Tribal Affairs Internship

Current undergraduate students or recent graduates interested in Tribal affairs, environmental and coastal policy, cultural resources, or land use planning are encouraged to apply. This is a paid, part-time position with flexible hours (20 hours per week) for a period of 8 weeks, with a flexible starting date between September 28 and October 5, 2026. Deadline to apply is August 28, 2026. For more details, please [visit our website](#) or email [Courtney Owen, Tribal Liaison Coordinator](#).

Tracking University & College Housing Submittals

Consistent with the requirements of Assembly Bill 357 (Chapter 256, Statutes of 2025), the Commission's website includes a separate report that tracks [housing-related Public Works Plans, Long-Range Development Plans, and Notices of Impending Development](#) submitted by a state university or college or private university. Members of the public can find online a list of all pending items, which is updated monthly, as well as an inventory of Commission actions taken since January 1, 2026.



Share your Coastal Memory

As one aspect of our celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Coastal Act, we are hoping that the public will share some of their personal experiences with the coast. We are collecting coastal memories to use on social media and our website to illustrate the connections we have to our coast. They can be brief or more involved, and pictures or even short videos will help paint a more vivid picture. Memories can be submitted anonymously. Please visit [this page](#) to upload your story and help us understand how the Coastal Act has impacted you.

Interactive Digital History of the Coastal Commission

As part of our ongoing celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Coastal Act, staff has created an interactive digital history of the Commission, highlighting the most significant accomplishments and milestones from the last 50 years. It spans the breadth of the program, from the early wins on public access and conservation, and innovative uses of the law -- like integration of the Jonathan Club—to current issues such as environmental justice and sea level rise. It includes photos from our photo contest winners, news clips and important historic documents and concludes with a linked map of California showcasing the locations of the featured projects. Thank you to our two SeaGrant fellows Catie Barr and Miles Tepper, who worked with Alanna Casey in our mapping division and our de-facto historian Sarah Christie to create this incredible resource. You can find the digital history [here](#), or by navigating to the Highlights section on our Homepage.

From Act to Action: The First 50 Years of Coastal Protection

As part of our many initiatives to celebrate the Coastal Act's 50th Anniversary, Commission staff will be spotlighting key program achievements and a public access success at each monthly hearing. The goal is to educate the public, honor the Act's legacy, and highlight the Commission's ongoing work to protect California's coast. We will continue to show our Coastal Access Spotlight series to the Commission for the rest of this year, as well as post the videos on Instagram and YouTube via the Commission's website: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/access/highlights.html>

Program Spotlight: This month, the Access Program Unit will be highlighting the Commission's work to protect, provide and enhance public access to and along the coast and will highlight the California Coastal Trail.

Public Access Spotlight: This month, we highlight the Public Accessway at the Ritz Carlton – Laguna Niguel located in the City of Dana Point, Orange County. The Commission approved a 400-room resort in 1982 on the cliff top above Orange County’s Salt Creek Beach. The resort was required to develop and operate a public trail around the resort. This trail provides dramatic views of the nearby beaches and across the ocean to Catalina Island.

BEACH PARTY! I’m pleased to announce that we have confirmed the time and place for the Commission’s 50th anniversary beach party. It will be held in Long Beach, on October 10 at Junipero beach. The event will be free of charge and open to the public for an afternoon of speakers, entertainment, and activities to celebrate 50 years of coastal protection. So mark your calendars now, plan your public transit routes, and stay tuned for updates!

Emergency Permits

North Coast District

G-1-26-0015, Caltrans – Installation of immediate safety measures needed due to the unexpected discovery of a compromised pier structure including measures to shift vehicle traffic, detour bicycle traffic, and monitor bridge piles on the southbound bridge of the Highway 101 Eureka Slough Bridge crossing, Eureka, Humboldt County