

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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W6a

August 10, 2026

TO: California Coastal Commission and Interested Parties

FROM: Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

Federal Review of CCMP

As noted in the July 2026 Executive Director's Report, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management will hold an in-person public meeting and two virtual public meetings to gather input for the performance evaluation of the California coastal management program.

Meeting details:

In-person public meeting:

- Date: Monday, August 10, 2026
- Time: 2:00pm to 6:00pm Pacific Time (PT)
- Location: Pacific Ballroom, Hilton Santa Monica Hotel & Suites, 1707 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Virtual public meetings (via Adobe Connect)

- Dates: Tuesday, August 11, and Wednesday, August 12, 2026
- Time: 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT each day

Registration and participation information

To speak at the **in-person meeting**, please register by emailing czma.california-evaluation@noaa.gov by 11:59 p.m. PT on August 8, 2026. Space is limited. Walk-in speakers will be accommodated as time allows, following pre-registered speakers. Each speaker will be allowed for three minutes. The in-person meeting will be livestreamed (view-only); registration for the livestream is available via [NOAA's Adobe Connect platform](#).

To attend a **virtual meeting**, participants may [register online](#) by 11:59 p.m. PT on August 10, 2026. Space is limited to 1,000 participants per session; NOAA encourages attendees to choose one day only. Speakers will be recognized via the “raise hand” feature and allotted three minutes each. Sessions will be recorded.

Written comments may also be submitted by email to czma.california-evaluation@noaa.gov with the subject line “Comments on Performance Evaluation of the California Coastal Management Program.” The deadline for written comments is August 22, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. PT.

For nearly 50 years, the Coastal Commission has worked closely with federal agencies to review projects under the Coastal Zone Management Act. Since California's coastal management program was approved in 1978, the Commission has reviewed more than 3,700 federal and federally regulated projects to make sure they are consistent with California's coastal policies. Ninety-six percent of the time, the Commission either approves projects as submitted or negotiates improvements so they can move forward.

The Commission votes to object only in a very small percentage of cases when parties reach an impasse. This signals that more negotiations are necessary to reach agreement. The federal government can override the Commission's objection and move forward, but most of the time the review process helps the Commission and federal agencies find practical solutions.

Californians Weigh In:

PPIC POLL:

I wanted to mention that the Public Policy Institute of California has released its annual poll regarding Californians' views on the environment. PPIC is a highly respected non-profit, non-partisan think tank based in San Francisco and Sacramento. It conducts rigorous, reputable surveys on all matters of public policy, including an annual poll that has been tracking public opinion on environmental issues since 1998. Because this is the 50th anniversary of the Coastal Act, and the 20th anniversary of the Global Warming Solutions Act (authored by former coastal commissioner turned state senator Fran Pavley), this year's poll focused exclusively on current attitudes about climate change and the health of our coast and ocean, including a question about the Coastal Commission's job performance. Outside of the questions related to the upcoming election, this question got the single highest positive response of any of the polls 55 questions about the environment:

Eighty-two percent of adults think the California Coastal Commission has been good for California

This is an astonishingly high approval rating that reveals the deep connection between Californians and their coast. Large majorities continue to oppose more offshore oil drilling and favor offshore wind power and wave energy projects. Six in ten think Marine Protected Areas are very important. Majorities see plastics and marine debris and declining marine life are big problems on the coast that is nearest to them. A combined total of Ninety-three percent say that the condition of our ocean and beaches are very or somewhat important to the economy and quality of life for the state's future.

It's a good reminder that 50 years after the passage of the Coastal Act, the public supports and values the accomplishments of this agency *by a higher margin* than the original vote to enact Prop 20.

You can read the whole survey here: <https://www.ppic.org/publication/ppic-statewide-survey-californians-and-the-environment-july-2026/>

UC Santa Barbara's Ocean and Coastal Policy Center recently recognized the California Coastal Management Program as "one of the world's most successful examples of integrated coastal management."

As you all know, California's coastal management program includes not only the Coastal Commission but the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the California State Coastal Conservancy. The program specifically reviews federal and federally regulated projects that impact coastal resources across the state.

UCSB released a policy brief that summarized the numerous successes of the program, including:

- Protecting nationally significant coastal habitats and landscapes
- Building one of the country's strongest state and local coastal planning systems
- Positioning California as a national leader in climate adaptation
- And demonstrated that environmental stewardship and economic prosperity can go hand in hand

You can read more at <https://ocpc.msi.ucsb.edu/projects/california-coastal-management>.

Swim California

Catherine Breed is president of Sea Dreamers nonprofit organization, whose goal is to empower women and girls to engage with the ocean through free, inclusive, community-led events focused on connection and conservation. Through her love of the coast and dedication to protect the coast for all, Catherine has set out to be the first person to swim the entire length of California; a four month adventure covering 900 miles, Catherine has now completed over 300 miles and has just arrived in Bodega Bay in Sonoma County. At various points along the way, Catherine holds land-based events to meet with local community groups and interested individuals who wish to participate in various fun and educational discussions. When she was recently in Ft. Bragg, Mendocino County, she held an event at the Noyo Center Marine Field Station. See photos below and note that local Commission staff attended. For details on other upcoming land-based events, such as the one scheduled in Monterey on September 3rd which the Coastal Commission is a partner, check Swim California's website: <https://www.swimcalifornia.com/>



Noyo Center Marine Field

Blues Beach Land Return

On Monday, July 6th, the Department of Transportation completed its transfer of the Blues Beach Property in northern Mendocino County to the tribal non-profit Kai Poma. As you may recall, in April 2025 the Commission [approved a CDP application](#) by Caltrans to divide three state-owned parcels for the purpose of transferring 136 acres of coastal land to Kai Poma, which is a tribally chartered, non-profit organization jointly governed by members of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, the Round Valley Indian Tribes, and the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians. With the transfer now complete, we are so pleased to see this spectacular piece of coastal land returned to Native American stewardship. Coastal Commission staff and Caltrans staff will continue coordinating with Kai Poma representatives to support their management of the property, which will be focused on maintaining public access for pedestrians and protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources.

Santa Cruz Wildfire Resiliency

Staff from the Statewide Planning, Ecology & Executive units attended the Board of Forestry Field Tour for the Empire Grade and CZU Lightning Complex Fire Projects. Staff engaged with a diverse group of practitioners to understand and discuss implementation of forest health treatments, defensible space, lessons learned in post-wildfire fuels treatments, and

biomass removal with the goal of increasing fire resilience and enhancing forest health. In addition, staff participated in the first interagency field inspection to understand how critical fuels projects approved under the Governor's emergency proclamation are being implemented.

Public Education Program

California Coastal Cleanup Day

We are proud to announce that the 42nd Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day will take place on Saturday, September 19. For the second year in a row, all 58 California counties will be represented in the cleanup, reminding us that we are all connected to the coast, no matter where we live. A map of cleanup locations is online and will be updated frequently as we approach September 19, helping volunteers find one of the more than 750 cleanups expected to take place during this year's event. Please visit coastalcleanupday.org for all of this year's information, download and print your own event posters (in English or Spanish), and purchase this year's t-shirt.



WHALE TAIL® Grantee Highlight

A recently completed 2025 [WHALE TAIL® grant](#) supported the [California Indian Museum and Cultural Center](#). Through hands-on ecological stewardship, cultural arts activities, and field trips, Native youth explored black bear coastal habitats and movements through riparian zones, as well as the intersection of first foods and bear foods as part of the program titled "Tribal Youth Ambassador: Being with Bears." The youth painted bear-themed artwork, cooked a meal inspired by bear diets using traditional Indigenous foods, and learned oral traditions and cosmology around bears and tribal culture. During a wildlife-monitoring field

trip, youth discovered a recent cougar kill and examined the deer remains. They also kayaked and practiced Miwok cultural activities such as making tule cordage during a camping trip to Marshall Beach and Felix Cove. These experiences connected youth to the land, their ancestors, one another, and themselves. As one participant wrote in their journal, it “reminds me to be proud that I’m Pomo.”

You can support the [WHALE TAIL® Grants Program](#) by purchasing a [WHALE TAIL® License Plate](#) and by donating to the [Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund](#) on the California state tax form.

"I didn't know how much I could learn just from being outside where my ancestors used to be." - Tribal Youth Ambassadors: Being with Bears participant



Summer Boating Newsletter

The Boating Clean and Green Program implemented by the Coastal Commission and CA State Parks has released the summer issue of the Changing Tide newsletter in partnership with the Bay Foundation. [Read it here.](#)



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.

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>

Public Access Spotlight: This month, we highlight the Cannery Row area, located in the City of Monterey. Six coastal development permits, approved over time, together all provide public access along this famous and very scenic stretch of the coast.

BEACH PARTY! As a reminder, 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 music, entertainment, speakers, 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-1-26-0022, City of Point Arena – Emergency replacement of two steel support pilings for the floating dock and boarding ramp structure on the commercial fishing pier, Arena Cove, Point Arena, (Mendocino County)

G-1-26-0024, Caltrans – Additional emergency work including emergency repairs to the damaged bridge piles and the construction of a temporary work trestle directly adjacent to the southbound Eureka Slough Bridge, Highway 101, Eureka, (Humboldt County)

South Central Coast District

G-4-26-0006-W, Caltrans D7 – Emergency permit waiver by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for removal of approximately 7,900 cu. yds. of debris/sediment from under and adjacent to the Las Flores Creek Bridge in order to avoid potential imminent flooding of surrounding residential and commercially developed properties in the City of Malibu.

G-4-26-0010-W, LACDBH – Emergency permit waiver by the Los Angeles Department of Beaches and Harbors (LACDBH) to open a temporary channel through the beach berm between the Zuma Beach Lagoon and ocean to relieve water pressure and allow excess water to drain from the lagoon in order to abate active flooding of the Arizona crossing between Westward Beach Road and the entrance to Zuma Beach public parking lot in order to restore public and emergency vehicle access in the City of Malibu.

San Diego District

G-6-26-0009-W, City of Carlsbad – Emergency permit waiver issued to the City of Carlsbad to repair an existing sewer pipe located within a city sewer easement and private property, including excavation of the damaged pipe and in-kind replacement of approx. 15 linear feet, at 4523 Adams Street, adjacent to the Agua Hedionda Lagoon.