



Highlights from the Coastal Commission's monthly meetings

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Kate Huckelbridge [updated](#) the commissioners on staff activities since the August hearing:

- The Coastal Commission awarded a \$500,000 grant to Seal Beach to help the city finalize its Local Coastal Program (LCP).
- Agency staff testified at the state Senate Transportation Subcommittee as part of an informational hearing on LOSSAN Rail Corridor Resiliency.
- Agency staff attended the Smart Coast California Policy Summit in Newport Beach, which brought together stakeholders to discuss sea level rise planning.
- The latest round of competitive [Whale Tail Grants](#) totaling \$1.5 million is now open for proposals from nonprofits, schools, government agencies and tribes. The deadline to apply is Nov. 4.
- The 2025 [Coastal Art and Poetry Contest](#) is now accepting entries from youth grades K-12. The deadline to submit is Jan. 31.
- The Coastal Commission received state approval for a new five-year interagency partnership with Caltrans. The new agreement focuses on increasing multimodal transportation in the coastal zone, including expanding the California Coastal Trail.

Sea Level Rise

Agency staff presented an overview of the proposed [update](#) to the Coastal Commission's sea level rise policy guidance, which emphasizes environmental justice principles and incorporates the most current science. ([video](#))

The Coastal Commission hosted its latest in an ongoing series of [workshops](#) with its Local Government Working Group to discuss land-use planning in the context of sea level rise. ([video](#))

Housing

The Coastal Commission [cleared](#) the way for the installation of 27 RV pads and utility connections to provide temporary shelter for farmworkers in the Marin County town of Bolinas.

The Coastal Commission [found](#) the local approval of an accessory dwelling unit in Encinitas raised public safety risks because of its proposed location on a bluff with a history of fatal collapses. A final decision will be made at a future hearing. The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the construction of an ADU in Seal Beach with additional conditions to protect coastal access and adapt to sea level rise.

Coastal Access

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the SURF! busway project in Monterey County, a nearly 4.5-mile, 30-foot-wide road to be built on an abandoned railroad line. The commission partly conditioned its approval on the addition of a new transit stop at Fort Ord Dunes State Park. ([video](#))

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a 190-room hotel in the city of Santa Cruz, including 20 lower cost rooms, 4 workforce housing units and 150 room-nights a year for underrepresented groups.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a new ADA-accessible coastal viewing platform and parking spaces for the public at UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) public coastal access improvements at Lechuza Beach in Malibu, including a public restroom, pathways, signs and ADA van parking, as well as reconstruction of an existing viewing platform and staircase.

Water Conservation

The Coastal Commission [reviewed](#) an appeal of a plan to convert an unused commercial building into a 26-unit motel in the San Luis Obispo County town of Cambria. The project will return to the commission for a full hearing to consider its impacts on the area's limited water supplies.

Habitat Restoration

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) the restoration of marsh and wetland habitat in the Eel River Estuary and removal of antiquated water control infrastructure.

Tribal Cultural Resources

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a project in Eureka to reestablish the Tuluwat Village World Renewal Ceremony, building new structures using traditional methods and materials.

**All actions taken at the Coastal Commission's [public hearing in Monterey on Sept. 11 to 13, 2024.](#)*

***Banner art by [Ronnie Goyette](#) of Morro Bay for the 2018 Ocean & Coastal Amateur Photography [Contest](#).*