



Coastal Currently August 2024

Highlights from the Coastal Commission's monthly meetings

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Kate Huckelbridge [updated](#) ([video](#)) the board on staff activities since the July meeting, including:

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency is reviewing the accomplishments and needs of the California Coastal Commission, State Coastal Conservancy and Bay Conservation and Development Commission.
- The 40th California Coastal Cleanup Day will be on Saturday, Sept. 21.
- Staff participated in a workshop hosted by the Grassroots Institute on Local Coastal Program updates in Mendocino County.
- The Boating Clean and Green Program is launching a six-week boater quiz campaign on social media in August.

Briefings

Staff [updated](#) ([video](#)) the commission on new guidance for sea level rise adaptation in coastal planning pursuant to SB 272 (Laird, 2023). The direction uses the state's recent [projections](#).

Staff [updated](#) ([video](#)) the commission on the Hollister Ranch Coastal Access Program.

Staff updated ([video](#)) the commission on efforts to address the sewage pollution from Mexico that continues to plague Imperial Beach in San Diego County.

Staff updated ([video](#)) the commission on enforcement actions, including efforts to address illegal dumping on a beach in Isla Vista and public access impediments in Malibu.

SpaceX

The Coastal Commission [concurred](#) ([video](#)) with a federal plan to increase rocket launches at Vandenberg Space Force Base in Santa Barbara contingent on specific environmental monitoring and other conditions to protect coastal resources and limit the occurrence of sonic booms. Space Force did not agree to implement all of the conditions.

Housing

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a land-use change to allow for multifamily development on a parcel currently zoned for office/professional in the town of Cayucos in San Luis Obispo County.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a land-use change in Newport Beach that would allow for the construction of a duplex on a site currently occupied by a small restaurant.

The Coastal Commission [preserved](#) existing housing in Orange County by requiring that the proposed demolition of a duplex to construct a single-family home also includes construction of an accessory dwelling unit of at least 1,000 square feet.

Sea Level Rise

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) ([video](#)) a plan by UC Santa Barbara to incorporate sea level rise adaptation into its long-range development plan.

Public Access

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) 100 miles of new Middle-Mile Broadband infrastructure in Marin and Sonoma counties, primarily along Highway 101, which will serve as the backbone for future broadband service in those counties.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) upgrades to the San Elijo State Beach Campground in Encinitas, including improvements to campsites, viewing areas, showers and water stations.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) upgrades and repairs to Highway 101 in Del Norte County, including ADA-compliant cross walks at a popular tourist destination.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) public access improvements in Malibu, including the construction of a new public restroom at Lechuza Beach.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a fireworks show for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Long Beach over Labor Day weekend with requirements to provide public access and monitor environmental impacts.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a plan that will protect public coastal access at a public parking lot adjacent to the Gladstones restaurant in Los Angeles, while also reopening a public parking lot next to Topanga Lagoon.

Conservation

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) more than \$460,000 in Whale Tail grants, including for Kids' Ocean Day, Heal the Bay, I Love a Clean San Diego and other programs.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a more than \$3 million, two-year blueprint for wetland restoration within the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge. Channelside Water Resources will provide the funding as environmental mitigation for the desalination plant in Carlsbad.

The Coastal Commission [concurred](#) with a federal plan to create a new national marine sanctuary off the Central Coast.

The Coastal Commission [approved](#) a plan by the California Department of Parks and Recreation to remove invasive plants near Topanga Creek in Los Angeles County.

**All actions were taken at the Coastal Commission's [public hearing in Calabasas on Aug. 7 to 9, 2024](#).*

***Banner photo was submitted by Todd Teetzel of Carlsbad for the 2019 amateur [photo contest](#).*