

Staff Report 59

Informational Update on Efforts to Develop the Commission's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

INTRODUCTION:

The Commission is in the process of developing its new five-year Strategic Plan. This next plan will address key issues including public access, climate change and sea-level rise, environmental justice, tribal relations, sustainable economic development, and environmental protection. During recent months, the Commission has worked with a consultant to complete an extensive series of stakeholder interviews, representing various areas of interest. The Commission continues to seek public comment for the Strategic Plan and will also soon begin a series of Tribal Government roundtable discussions. Staff will use insight from public comment, and stakeholder feedback and Tribal engagement to create a draft Plan by fall 2020. This draft will be circulated for public review and comment.

California has an abundance of rivers, lakes, streams, and a spectacularly scenic coastline. The Commission manages much of these public lands on behalf of the people of California. Established in 1938, the Commission manages 4 million acres of tide and submerged lands and the natural beds of navigable rivers, streams, lakes, bays, estuaries, inlets, and straits. These lands stretch from the Klamath River and Goose Lake in the north to the Tijuana Estuary in the south, and the Pacific Coast 3 miles offshore to world-famous Lake Tahoe and the Colorado River, and includes California's two longest rivers, the Sacramento and San Joaquin. The Commission also manages state-owned school lands in the desert and the forested areas of California to support public schools. And it oversees waterfront land and coastal waters legislatively granted to cities and counties, including land underlying California's major ports and harbors. The Commission regulates large oceangoing vessels to protect state waters from marine invasive species introductions and minimizes the risk of oil spills by providing the best achievable environmental protection at marine oil terminals, offshore oil platforms and production facilities. The Commission applies the best available science and embraces public participation and intergovernmental coordination in its decision making.

BACKGROUND:

The Commission adopted its current [Strategic Plan](#) at its December 18, 2015 public meeting ([Item 117](#)). The Plan was the culmination of robust stakeholder input and collaboration to guide the Commission's stewardship of public lands and resources and promoting public access.

The Strategic Plan contains the following Strategic Goals:

- Lead Innovative and Responsible Land and Resource Management
- Meet the Challenges of Our Future
- Engage Californians to Help Safeguard Their Trust Lands and Resources
- Cultivate Operational Excellence by Integrating Technology

The Strategic Plan enables the Commission to adapt to emerging challenges, while creating a meaningful and rich framework to effectuate state policy goals, promote public access, generate revenue for the state's General Fund and for benefit of California's State Teachers' Retirement System, and enforce the protections of the Public Trust Doctrine. Annual updates on the plan's implementation can be found on the Commission's website.

UPDATE:

On February 4, 2020, the Commission held a special meeting to facilitate a public discussion and solicit input and engagement from various stakeholders to help inform the Commission's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. The Commission received insights and suggestions from Mark Gold, Ocean Protection Council Executive Director and California Natural Resource Agency Deputy Secretary, and various tribal governments. Through a panel discussion, the Commission engaged with various lessees, port representatives, environmental protection representatives, and environmental justice advocates. The robust panel discussions provided a wealth of information, perspectives, and priorities for the Commission's consideration.

At its February 28, 2020 public meeting, the Executive Officer provided an informational update on the status of efforts to develop the Commission's next Strategic Plan. In her presentation, the Executive Officer shared that the Commission was in the process of soliciting proposals for a consultant to assist staff in the public outreach and development of the new Plan. There were also five public commenters who provided input and recommendations for the Strategic Plan. The comments and recommendations included reducing harmful air emissions at Ports through the use of zero emission technology; encouraging renewable energy, including offshore wind energy; coordinating with other agencies to map out the permitting process for

renewable energy projects; promoting aquaculture; providing grant funding for public access; and providing increased public access to open space for environmental justice communities.

In April 2020, the Commission awarded the Strategic Plan consultant contract to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. Stantec has tremendous experience in providing strategic planning services to State agencies, including the California Tahoe Conservancy's 2023 Strategic Plan, the Delta Protection Commission's Vision 2030 document, the California Water Plan, and the Off Highway Recreational Motor Vehicle Strategic Plan.

Commission staff began working with the Stantec team immediately to identify stakeholders and develop questions and resources for stakeholder interviews. The stakeholders included individuals and entities interested in or associated with climate change/sea level rise, the blue economy, public access, California ports, renewable energy and utilities, the oil and gas industry, tribal governments, environmental justice, air quality and public health, land and wildlife conservation, public land and resource management and protection, and state and local agencies.

These virtual interviews included individual and small focus group sessions. Stantec interviewed 79 of the 149 identified stakeholders. Many of the stakeholders were unable to participate and others were not responsive. Several cited the COVID-19 pandemic workload as reasons for their inability to participate.

During these interviews, Stantec facilitators asked stakeholders a series of questions to assess familiarity with the Commission's work and current 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, gather insight into the structure and metrics for the next Strategic Plan, and identify important themes, trends, and new initiatives to inform the development of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

The Stantec team reviewed and organized the input across the various fields of interest in order to identify key topics and intersecting themes. Stakeholders frequently referred to public access, renewable energy, and climate change and sea-level rise as important topics to address in the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. Across these topics, Stantec identified key intersecting themes: Climate, Collaborate/Convene/Mediate (Building Alignment), Equity and Environmental Justice; Post-Petroleum Economy; and the Evolving Nature of the Public Trust Doctrine in land and resources management. Stakeholders also emphasized the role of collaboration and the value of innovation in addressing climate change and sea-level rise. During the August 2020 Commission meeting, Stantec will provide an informational presentation on the input collected during the stakeholder interviews.

The Commission is currently planning a series of virtual Tribal Government roundtable sessions and one-on-one consultations. The four roundtables will be based on the following regions: North Coast; Owens Lake and Mono Lake; Central Coast; and South Coast. Commission staff have recently reached out to 15 Tribal representatives for the North Coast roundtable and are preparing the contact lists for the other three sessions. These Tribal consultations and roundtable sessions, combined with the comprehensive stakeholder input, future public, and internal comment will inform the development of the new five-year Strategic Plan. Staff and the Stantec team will continue to provide updates on the development of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan to the Commission.

EXHIBIT:

A. 2021-2025 Strategic Plan Stakeholder Interview List

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

The public's voice, insight, and experience are important to the development of the Strategic Plan. Specifically, the Commission wants to hear perspectives on what should be eliminated, changed, or added to the next Strategic Plan, what will the Commission's biggest challenges be and how the Commission can balance sustainable economic growth (including revenue generation for the state), with environmental protection through the lens of equity and climate change.

Please share your thoughts and suggestions for the Strategic Plan by phone at (916) 574-1800, by email at StrategicPlan@slc.ca.gov, or by attending a future public Commission meeting. The current tentative schedule is:

- October 22, 2020 –1:00 PM
- December 17, 2020 –1:00 PM

While general geographic locations are listed, it is possible that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, upcoming meetings will be "virtual meetings." Specific meeting locations will be announced as they become available.

Exhibit A: 2021-2025 Strategic Plan Stakeholder Interview List

BACKGROUND:

Commission staff worked with the Stantec team to identify stakeholders and develop questions and resources for stakeholder interviews. The stakeholders included individuals and entities interested in or associated with climate change/sea level rise, the blue economy, public access, California ports, renewable energy and utilities, the oil and gas industry, tribal governments, environmental justice, air quality and public health, land and wildlife conservation, public land and resource management and protection, and state and local agencies. Stantec interviewed 79 of the 149 identified stakeholders. The list below outlines the entities represented among the interviewed stakeholder.

ORGANIZATIONS:

- American Whitewater
- Azul Project
- Audubon
- California Coastkeeper Alliance
- California League of Conservation Voters
- Californians Against Waste
- California Waterfowl
- Central Coast Alliance United for A Sustainable Economy
- Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technology
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Coastal Protection Network
- Comite Civico del Valle
- Communities for a Better Environment
- Environment California
- Environmental Defense Center
- Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Resource Legacy Fund
- Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples
- San Diego 350
- Surfrider Foundation

- Sustainable Silicon Valley
- The Nature Conservancy

GOVERNMENT:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Fish and Game Commission
- California Coastal Commission
- City of Alameda
- City of Long Beach
- City of Santa Cruz
- City of Solana Beach
- County of Sonoma
- County of Santa Barbara
- Department of the Navy
- East Bay Regional Park District
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Lake Tahoe Owners Association
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- Moss Landing Harbor District
- Ocean Protection Council
- Office of Spill Prevention and Response
- Port of Long Beach
- Port of Los Angeles
- Port of Oakland
- Port of San Diego
- Port of San Francisco
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- San Mateo County Harbor District
- State Coastal Conservancy
- Ventura County

TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS:

- Blue Lake Rancheria
- Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria
- Wiyot Tribe
- Yurok Tribe
- Karuk Tribe

- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
- Kashia Band of Pomo Indians/Stewarts Point Rancheria
- Manchester Band of Pomo Indians

BUSINESS/INDUSTRY:

- American Wind Energy Association - California
- Beacon West Energy Group, LLC
- Blue Nalu, Inc
- California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference
- California Resources Corporation
- Chevron
- DCOR, LLC
- EDP Renewables
- Equinor
- Hog Island Oyster Co.
- Magellan Wind
- Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association
- Pacific Gas and Electric
- Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
- Platinum Advisors
- Southern California Edison
- The Maritime Alliance Blue Tech
- Western States Petroleum Association

INDIVIDUALS:

- Frank Coates
- Past Executive Officer