

# ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

April 2, 2025



## Summerland Well Remediation

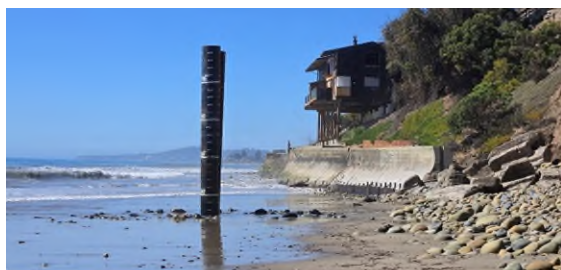
The Commission and its Contractor [successfully decommissioned two leaking legacy oil and gas wells](#) at Summerland Beach in Santa Barbara County. These well abandonments, part of our [SB 44](#) work, are the seventh and eighth we've done in past years and an example of our commitment to prevent oil pollution and uphold California's clean energy goals.



*Figure 1. Aerial view of pipe pile installation taken from Lookout Park.*



*Figure 2. Final welded well abandonment plates with API numbers.*



*Figure 3. Pipe pile installed prior to cutting, cementing and final welding.*



*Figure 4. Final welded well abandonment plates with API numbers. Photo credits: 2H Offshore*

The two wells, known as Well A and Well B, are remnants of the unregulated Summerland Oil Field development in the late 1800s and early 1900s. During this period, the California coastline contained hundreds of oil and gas wells with associated infrastructure, most of which were abandoned when regulatory oversight was nonexistent. There are no historical records detailing the drilling, production, or the original abandonment of these two wells.

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The condition of Well A and Well B was unknown until 2023, when heavy storms eroded the beach and exposed them. Upon discovery, both wells were observed to be leaking crude oil and classified as falling short of health, safety, and environmental protection requirements. The abandonment project involved excavating the wells during low tide, installing a 30-inch pipe pile over each well, filling the pile with cement to the surface, and sealing it permanently with a welded surface plate. The project was completed in four days.

## Offshore Oil and Gas Decommissioning Projects

### Platform Holly:

Platform Holly has been powered off and in caretaker status since November 2024. The remaining navigation and safety systems on the platform are provided through solar power. Staff visits the platform regularly to ensure the maintenance of navigation and safety precautions and to monitor its condition. Staff will prepare an Environmental Impact Report to analyze platform decommissioning and anticipate releasing the Notice of Preparation for that later this year. ExxonMobil will decommission Platform Holly at its expense after the Commission certifies a final Environmental Impact Report.



Figure 5. Seals in the water at platform Holly in March 2025



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## Rincon Island:

In 2024, the Commission [certified an Environmental Impact Report](#) for the Rincon Phase 2 Project concerning the final disposition of Rincon Island, an onshore facility, and onshore pipeline connections in Ventura County. In December, the Commission accepted a land donation from Coast Ranch Family, LLC, of a parcel that now allows unimpeded access to the onshore facility and more complete remediation of soil contaminants from nearly 80 years of onsite oil production and treatment. To integrate the donated parcel into the larger Phase 2 Project, staff is developing an addendum to the Environmental Impact Report that will analyze the effects of remediating the donation parcel. Staff expect to bring the Addendum to the Commission later this year and secure a contractor to start the decommissioning work, also later this year.

## Joint Legislative Town Hall



Figure 6. Sable Offshore Corp Legislative Townhall Panel.

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The Commission's Acting Executive Officer participated in a Town Hall in Santa Barbara hosted by Senator Limón, Assemblymember Hart, and California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot. The Town Hall focused on state oversight and roles involving pipelines owned by Sable Offshore Corp and the proposed Santa Ynez Unit restart. Eight state agencies presented during the town hall and staff from the Governor's office were in attendance.

## Renewable Energy

### Offshore Wind and Port Development

In March, the California Energy Commission announced [tentative awards](#) for the [Offshore Wind Energy Waterfront Facility Improvement Program](#), the purpose of which is to advance the capabilities of California waterfront facilities to support the development and operation of floating offshore wind projects. Funding of proposed projects from this solicitation is contingent on the Energy Commission approving these projects and executing a grant agreement. The tentative awardees are as follows:

Applicant	Title	CEC Funds Recommended	Category <sup>1</sup>
<b>Port Department of the City of Oakland</b>	Strategic Advancements for Offshore Wind: Feasibility and Business Case Study for Offshore Wind Infrastructure at the Port of Oakland	\$750,000	I
<b>Port of Richmond</b>	Port of Richmond Offshore Wind Terminal Conceptual Design and Preliminary Engineering	\$750,000	I
<b>Port San Luis</b>	Port San Luis Offshore Wind Operations & Maintenance Terminal	\$3,000,000	I
<b>City of Long Beach Harbor Department</b>	Port Offshore Wind Equity and Readiness (POWER)	\$20,000,000	II

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<sup>1</sup> Category I activities support developing individual or regional retrofit concepts and investment plans; Category II activities support final design, engineering, environmental studies and review, and construction of retrofits.

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Applicant	Title	CEC Funds Recommended	Category <sup>1</sup>
<b>Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District</b>	The Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Marine Terminal - Advanced Design and Public Engagement Project	\$18,250,000	II

## Tribal, Fisheries, and Environmental Justice Outreach - OSW

Staff continue to engage tribal governments and communities, members of the fishing community, and environmental justice groups on offshore wind energy development.

## Wave and Tidal Energy

Staff continue to work with the California Energy Commission and other agencies to implement SB 605 (Padilla, 2023), which mandates a report about the feasibility, costs, and benefits of using wave and tidal energy. The California Energy Commission will host a remote-only public workshop on April 2 regarding the Phase 2 report that will focus on identifying suitable sea space for wave and tidal technologies, mitigation measures, and monitoring and adaptive management strategies for projects. More information can be found on CEC's [SB 605 webpage](#).

## Environmental Justice and Equity

Staff hosted a hybrid (in-person and virtual) community outreach and engagement meeting at the South Oxnard Community Center on February 28 as part of its environmental justice analysis for the [Ormond Beach Generating Station lease amendment application](#). The meeting occurred in the evening and included Spanish interpretation.

The Commission released a job announcement for a community engagement specialist to support its environmental justice and tribal consultation work. The recruitment closed on March 26.

## Marine Invasive Species Program

Staff helped lead a course on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point planning in Reno, Nevada, for aquatic invasive species biologists from western states, including California. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point is a

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process-based invasive species prevention tool that broadly applies to all pathways and vectors of nonindigenous species movement by assessing and reducing the risk of moving species. This course increased national capacity to protect lands and waters, including those in California, from invasive species impacts by teaching natural resource professionals how to leverage this planning tool to prevent invasive species movement.

On March 20, staff gave a presentation to the [Delta Independent Science Board](#) about shipping, ballast water, and invasive freshwater golden mussels. Staff's presentation focused on the ballast water regulatory environment and addressed facts and assumptions related to the introduction of golden mussels into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

On March 27, staff participated in a State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways on Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop.

## **Abandoned Vessels**

The Commission's contractors removed and disposed of three abandoned commercial vessels from the Delta, including [a floating barge](#) in the San Joaquin River, a small [sunk tugboat](#) in White Slough, and a [sunk cattle boat](#) called the *Vaquero II* in Sand Mound Slough. A fourth vessel removal is also underway. Staff is reviewing information from a recently completed abandoned vessel inventory, tagging priority vessels for removal, and is preparing a comprehensive update for the Commission's June meeting.



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*Figure 7. The Commission's contractor removing the floating barge from the water at its pier. Photo credit: Silverado Contractors, Inc.*



*Figure 8. The Commission's contractor demolishing the Vaquero II in place before disposal. Photo credit: Lind Marine, LLC*

## **Tijuana River Valley Transboundary Pollution Crisis**

Regional storms in March have caused increased transboundary flows and debris to enter the Tijuana River. The United States International Boundary and Water Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Mexican officials have maintained regular communications to monitor and mitigate flows. As of March 17, Mexico was continuing to proceed with the Phase 1 repair of the International Collector and expects to complete the work by mid-April.

## **Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration appointed the Chief of our Environmental Science, Planning, and Management Division and our Tribal Liaison to serve on the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. The Advisory Council provides valuable input and advice on managing this [new sanctuary](#) and is a critical link between the federal government, the community, and partner agencies. Our staff's involvement will complement the Council's multifaceted membership, which includes public interest groups, local industries, commercial and recreational users, academia, conservation organizations, Indigenous Tribes and groups, government agencies, and the public.

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## Treasure Island Redevelopment:

Staff visited Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island and met with the Redevelopment Authority Director and the City and County of San Francisco to see the progress made since the Commission executed a boundary settlement and [exchange agreement](#) to facilitate redeveloping the formal naval station. The exchange involves seven phases, three of which have been completed. Work is underway to create a marina, shoreline promenade, and a ferry terminal, along with 8,000 new homes, restaurants, retail, hotels, and nearly 300 acres of parks and open space. The Commission was instrumental in facilitating the redevelopment and continues to work with the Treasure Island Redevelopment Authority and the City and County of San Francisco on its success. Work is underway to create a marina, shoreline promenade, and a ferry terminal, along with 8,000 new homes, restaurants, retail, hotels, and nearly 300 acres of parks and open space. The Commission was instrumental in facilitating the redevelopment and continues to work with the Treasure Island Redevelopment Authority and the City and County of San Francisco on its success.



Figure 9. Commission staff attend Treasure Island site visit



Figure 10: Yerba Buena Island

## Southern California Wildfires

Staff continue to monitor recent executive orders to expedite debris removal and rebuilding and facilitate recovery. Staff are also continuing to identify the Commission's role and responsibility for any lands under our jurisdiction and



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quantify fire-related impacts and the effects on state lands and public trust resources.

A reporter with the Los Angeles Times contacted the Commission for a story regarding the Malibu fires and rebuilding, particularly for properties on pilings. The reporter asked if the Commission could identify relevant sections in its Shoreline Adaptation Report, which the Commission approved in December 2023. Staff shared the relevant sections of the report, but emphasized that this information comes from the report and does not impact the ability to rebuild.

## **Communications**

The Commission is now on [BlueSky](#), a new social media platform that many of our sister agencies at the California Natural Resources Agency have recently joined. Staff looks forward to broadening its public engagement through this new platform.

Photos provided by Commission staff unless otherwise noted.

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