

ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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Budget

The [2025-26 state budget](#) includes \$4.08 million in 2025-26, \$4.05 million in 2026-27, and \$4.35 million in 2027-28 for the Commission to continue operating and maintaining the [Bolsa Chica wetlands](#) in Southern California. The budget also provides \$12.5 million to implement the [Rincon Decommissioning Project](#), and extends the availability of \$1.6 million and \$2.6 million in reimbursement authority for the Commission's cost-sharing contributions for the [Selby Slag remedial action plan](#).

Marine Environmental Protection

The new Shell Mormon Island Marine Oil Terminal at the Port of Los Angeles is anticipated to start operating in September. Staff recently completed engineering and operations regulatory compliance reviews for the terminal, a requirement for its operation, and will monitor its start-up during the initial oil transfer operations.



Commission and State Fire Marshall staff conducting a pipeline evaluation of the Shell Mormon Island Marine Oil Terminal

The BWC marine oil terminal at the Port of Stockton, a new renewable fuel marine oil terminal, is anticipated to start operations this month. Staff are reviewing final engineering and operations regulatory compliance to allow operations to start.

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New BWC Stockton Berth 8 Marine Oil Terminal with hose tower for transfer operations

Staff are preparing to update the Commission's [marine oil terminal regulations](#) to improve our oversight work and public health and safety. In September, staff will start auditing marine oil terminal pipelines, inspecting pipeline integrity, maintenance, repair, and record keeping. The audits, part of our Marine Oil Terminal Pipeline Preventative Maintenance Program, ensure the operational reliability of pipelines used to transfer oil over water at California's 35 marine oil terminals. Going forward, staff intends to conduct these audits on a five-year cycle, providing a roadmap for our marine oil terminal oversight.

Marine Invasive Species Program

The Office of Administrative Law approved the Commission's [emergency ballast water regulation](#) to better protect California's fresh and brackish water environments from nonindigenous species introductions. Our science staff hosted a [webinar](#) on June 25 for shipping industry representatives, regulators, and stakeholders to provide an overview and answer questions about the new regulation. One impetus for the new regulation is the recent invasive golden mussel discovery in California waterways.

Mineral Resources Management

Oil production from Platform Eva resumed on July 12. The restart follows extensive pipeline safety testing and will involve shipping produced oil (roughly

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900 barrels a day) to federal platform Edith then to shore in Long Beach for processing. Pursuant to the legal [settlement](#) approved by the Commission last December, the restart triggers the shut-in of oil production at Platform Esther in state waters and its decommissioning. As of August 10, 2025 at 3:00 p.m., DCOR confirmed that Platform Esther was shutdown. All wells are offline and no new oil is being brought to surface. The gas pipeline will remain in operation for the time being to handle small amounts of non-commercial gas associated with ongoing well abandonments. Staff received electronic copies of the lease quitclaims on August 12, 2025.

As part of the settlement, DCOR, the Platform Esther operator, will permanently plug and abandon Esther's 18 active wells and plan for the decommissioning of that Platform. Staff understand that DCOR has submitted permit applications to the California Geologic Energy Management Division to plug and abandon the wells and intend to start that work this year.

Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs

The Commission's new Community Engagement Specialist, Raquel Ramirez is officially onboard. Raquel was hired to support the implementation of our environmental justice and tribal consultation policies. Raquel, a descendant of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and the White Earth Ojibway Nation, earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from UC Berkeley and previously worked in the Governor's Cabinet Affairs unit.

Energy Justice Tour

In June, staff participated in an Energy Justice tour, visiting energy facilities in the City of Oxnard and learned from community organizers and advocates what they hope to see for the future of energy in their region. The [California Environmental Justice Alliance](#) and [CAUSE](#), the tour co-hosts, shared the history of fighting for environmental justice in the region owing to decades of pollution from power plants, other industrial operations, and port operations. There were about 40 participants, including a group from CAUSE's youth leadership program who spoke about their community and fight to alleviate pollution burdens. Staff toured the Ventura Energy Storage Facility, the Mandalay Bay Peaker Plant, and the Ormond Beach Generating Station.

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CAUSE leader speaking about the Mandalay Power Plant



CAUSE youth leaders speaking to Energy Justice Tour attendees



Energy Justice Tour participants outside the Ventura battery storage facility

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Climate Adaptation Planning

The Commission's Climate Adaptation and Special Initiatives (CASI) team is supporting several statewide climate planning efforts. These include updates to the state's best available science, actions and strategies to mitigate climate risks and support resilience, and guidance to support regional and local planning.

Fifth California Climate Change Assessment

The Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation is leading the development of the Fifth California Climate Change Assessment. The Fifth Assessment will contribute to the scientific foundation for understanding climate-related vulnerability throughout California. As part of the assessment development, the California Climate Change Assessment Team is seeking input from community organizations, experts on the ground, and residents to inform the Statewide Topical Reports on Racial Equity and Climate Justice, Climate-Induced Human Displacement and Migration, Climate Impacts to the Economy, and Tribal and Indigenous Communities.

The Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation held a workshop on August 7 to gather feedback on the scope of these reports and uplift community priorities. The public can subscribe to the [email list](#) for updates and announcements about upcoming public engagement opportunities.

General Plan, Special Plan, and Tribal Consultation Guidance Updates

The Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, California's principal planning agency, is kicking off a comprehensive update of the state's General Plan, Specific Plan, and Tribal Consultation Guidelines and the CASI team is a member of the Interagency Advisory Group. This update will engage diverse partners—planners, local staff and officials, and other community partners involved in planning processes—to shape guidance and resources that support local planning efforts and foster the growth of vibrant, resilient, and inclusive cities and towns across California.

If you are interested in learning more about this effort, sign up for email updates on the [Planning Update site](#).

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Other Update

California is the first state to develop an extreme heat ranking system, [CalHeatScore](#), that categorizes heat waves based on health risks to communities. Read more in the [Governor's press release](#).

California's 30x30 Land Conservation Initiative

California has made significant progress toward meeting its 30x30 goals, and our staff has contributed to that success. The [30x30 initiative](#), part of an international movement to conserve natural areas across our planet, seeks to protect and restore biodiversity, expand access to nature, and mitigate and build resilience to climate change. The California Natural Resources Agency is leading efforts to identify land to support the 30x30 biodiversity and conservation goals. According to a July [progress report](#), California is on track to meet its goals, having conserved nearly 25 percent of land and 16 percent of coastal water to date.



30x30 Summit panel discussion

The Commission manages nearly 200,000 acres of land that contribute to the 30x30 goal and is working to identify additional lands to protect. Commission land that counts toward 30x30 include forest and desert habitat and an inland

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marsh habitat. As part of the Commission's continued collaboration with the California Natural Resources Agency and contribution to the 30x30 initiative, staff attended the [30x30 partnership summit](#) on August 14 in San Diego. The summit, commemorating the 30x30 halfway point, included presentations, discussions, and connections with 30x30 champions throughout the state with a focus on the themes of sustain, strengthen, and succeed. Environmental science staff also convened a briefing for all staff to provide information and create awareness about 30x30 and the Commission's role. More information is available in [staff report 68](#).

Offshore Wind Energy

Federal tax incentives for offshore wind will be more difficult to obtain because of H.R. 1, known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" approved by Congress last month. This law restricts tax incentives to projects in service by 2027. Although it is widely reported that impacts from H.R. 1 on solar and wind energy projects may be seen within the next several months, the anticipated impact on offshore wind off California is less clear because these projects are years away from permitting and environmental review.

Staff presented at a [June 18 workshop](#) hosted by the California Energy Commission to develop a second phase seaport readiness plan to support offshore wind energy and to receive public comment. This plan, required by [AB 3](#) (Zbur, 2023), requires the Energy Commission to submit two reports to the Governor and Legislature on seaport readiness and supply chain and workforce feasibility to achieve in-state assembly and manufacturing targets.

In July, staff participated as a panelist in a [webinar](#) hosted by the [Schatz Energy Research Center, Cal Poly Humboldt](#), about port upgrades permitting to support offshore wind energy development. This webinar followed the release of their [May 2025 report](#) that reflects consultation with Commission staff.

The Climate Bond (Proposition 4), passed by voters last fall allows the state to issue bonds totaling \$10 billion, \$475 million of which is to support port upgrades to service the offshore wind industry. The appropriation for this year was discussed during the budget process, but decisions about Proposition 4 expenditures for port infrastructure will be determined through budget trailer bills later this legislative session.

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Wave and Tidal Energy

On September 9, EcoWave and AltaSea will launch the nation's first wave energy project at the Port of Los Angeles. Known as the [L.A. One project](#), it will result in the installation of eight floaters attached to existing marine infrastructure. Separately, the California Energy Commission released a new [report](#) on sea space considerations to site wave and tidal energy generation devices. The report found that, in the short term, wave and tidal energy is most likely to be used for applications that can directly access the power without the need for a transmission network (e.g. buoys; aquaculture and desalination facilities).

At this meeting the Commission will hear from the City of Fort Bragg on a wave powered desalination pilot project.

Lower American River Conservancy

The Commission is a member of the [Lower American River Conservancy](#), which works with local agencies and nonprofits to provide grants to restore, enhance, and improve public access to the Parkway's natural, recreational, educational, and cultural resources. Several of our Land Management Division staff toured the Lower American River by canoe to learn more about protecting these natural resources and expanding public access. This out in the field work better equips staff to serve on the Conservancy and aligns with the Commission's public access and public land stewardship responsibilities.



Commission staff boarding the canoe

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Abandoned Vessels in the Delta

Commission staff joined [Insight Capitol Public Radio](#) on a live broadcast to [talk about](#) the environmental, navigational, and safety hazards abandoned vessels can pose, and the Commission's efforts to remove them and restore state waterways. Also of note is that the Commission has helped remove over 90 abandoned or derelict vessels from Northern California over the past 12 years.

Tijuana River Transboundary Pollution Crisis

The International Boundary and Water Commission published a [progress dashboard](#) to track the status of actions to expand and upgrade the [South Bay Treatment Plant](#) that treats raw sewage and wastewater flows originating in Tijuana. The dashboard is a helpful visual of the actions underway and those still to come. Staff continue to monitor the crisis, track progress, and collaborate with our partners to address this crisis.

In July, California legislators requested that the President declare a national state of emergency to address the transboundary pollution crisis. This followed the approval of [AJR 16 \(Alvarez\)](#) by the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee. This resolution urges Congress and the President to fully fund the U.S. EPA comprehensive infrastructure solution for the Tijuana River and to take additional action to address the crisis.

Methane Emissions Reduction Program

Staff continue to review methane emission data for wells at the West Wilmington field to plug and abandon leaking wells with the [grant](#) funding. In June, staff participated in the California Resource Corporation's quarterly leakage survey of 45 wells and provided this data to the Department of Energy. In August, staff received authorization to plug and abandon the first five wells in the West Wilmington field. Staff are coordinating with the California Resources Corporation, the city of Long Beach and CalGEM to plug and abandon these wells by the end of 2025. Staff continue to meet monthly with the federal grant project manager, the Department of Energy, to provide status updates. Staff has also met with the Department of Conservation about using a portion of the funding to plug wells elsewhere.

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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 visit the platform regularly to maintain navigation and safety precautions and monitor the Platform's 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.

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.

Website

Staff, working with the California Department of Technology, transitioned its website to a more modern and fresh presentation and continues to update the design and content. The updated design improves mobile accessibility and user-friendliness for public lease inquiries and other information we provide to the public. It also improves web accessibility and access to the services the Commission provides.

State Fleet

The Commission purchased four electric vehicles for its fleet, the first fully electric vehicle purchases in its history. This milestone coincides with a June

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gubernatorial [Executive Order](#) intended to advance California's clean vehicle transition by kickstarting development of next-generation policy to spur innovation, update state vehicle purchasing requirements, and direct the state to craft new actions to accelerate affordable clean vehicle adoption. For context, the Commission has 38 total vehicles in its fleet, including the four new electric vehicles.

Staff Spotlight

Chrysta Singleton, Jay Patel and Jeremy Liu in our Information Technology Division worked with consultants at SyTech to integrate a legacy database system on to the same platform as the Commission's online lease and permit application system, known as OSCAR, in less than four months and with extremely limited resources.

Superior Accomplishment Awards

Courtney Fujitani for developing the Commission's Telework Policy and Program during a critical transition period as an entry level Staff Services Analyst and outside the scope of her classification.

Vicki Caldwell, Jennifer Bryant, Andrew Kershen, and Kevin Beard for their ongoing work with the Abandoned Vessel Program, coordinating with state and federal partners to clean up the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and create safer, cleaner waterways and improve public access for the benefit of all Californians.

Cathy Chan for applying exceptional personal initiative and academic expertise—well beyond her role as a new contract analyst—to design structured, cost-controlled agreements that establish a sustainable model for vessel removals and responsible stewardship of public funds.

John Delaney for going above and beyond his assigned duties to relaunch and maintain the Commission's vessel enforcement program, ensuring safe, reliable field operations that support the removal of hazardous vessels and protect California's waterways.

Dan Folk, Ernie Guerra, Gabriel Chapa, and Pete Johnson for the Platform Eva restart completed under a tight timeframe and with zero incidents.

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Personnel Updates:

Dr. Matthew Dumlao will start as the Commission's Executive Officer on September 1.

Dr. Larry Rabin will start as the Climate Adaptation and Special Initiatives manager in the Environmental Science, Planning, and Management Division on September 1

Jeanette Francis started with the Human Resources Office on July 1.

Gabriel Chapa was promoted to Senior Mineral Resources Engineer in the Mineral Resources Management Division.

Michael Sapunor was promoted to Public Land Management Specialist II in the Land Management Division.

Michaela Moser with our External Affairs Division celebrates 25 years of state service as of August 2025. Thank you, Michaela, for your many years of service.

Photos provided by Commission staff unless otherwise noted.

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