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Sea Level Rise and Climate Change

The Commission's Climate Adaptation and Special Initiatives team supports several statewide and regional climate planning efforts. In September, the California Natural Resources Agency released the [2024 Update to the California Climate Adaptation Strategy \(Strategy\)](#). The Strategy is California's framework for building community, economic, and environmental resilience to climate impacts, such as fire, floods, drought, and sea level rise. Our staff is committed to climate resiliency and continuing to integrate strategy actions and metrics into our day-to-day work.

Public Trust Guiding Principles BCDC Collaboration

Staff is working with San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to develop public trust [guiding principles](#) for resiliency in the San Francisco Bay. The project has just begun and will include a robust stakeholder outreach and engagement effort to understand how climate adaptation projects and development can meet the public's needs for their state lands around the Bay Area. We are working with an environmental planning consultant firm called [Ascent](#) and will provide frequent updates on the project, particularly on how and when the public can participate.

Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs

The California Natural Resources Agency recently released [Thriving Together: Equity Year in Review](#). This document highlights the advancements that natural resource agencies, commissions, and departments have made—from expanding equitable access to parks and natural resources, to strengthening tribal partnerships and land returns, to celebrating our diversity, to improving grantmaking and workforce practices across California. This report reflects the incredible range of work across more than 26 departments, conservancies, and commissions, including the State Lands Commission—spanning climate resilience, cultural heritage, tribal stewardship, water and wildfire safety, outdoor access and community-centered grantmaking. Together, these efforts show what it means to build a California where all people and nature thrive together.

When relevant, the Commission has long required external parties to contract tribal site monitors for projects on school and sovereign lands but has not yet contracted directly with tribes. Recently, staff developed Commission-specific

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tribal monitoring contract drafts in anticipation of an increase in forestry management projects requiring tribal oversight.

In pursuit of good faith engagement with tribes, staff is aligning our contract specifications and fee structure with those of other state agencies. The first contract was developed with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California for a fuel reduction project in Truckee that the Commission is undertaking on a parcel of land deemed culturally sensitive to the Washoe.

On September 26, staff attended the [58th annual California Native American Day](#) at the State Capitol hosted by the California Tribal Chairperson's Association. Staff uplifted this year's theme: Walking in Their Footsteps: Carrying Forward the Legacy of Strength and Sovereignty. The day included a Tribal Nations Flag ceremony, honoring ceremony for Tribal Elders and Veterans, cultural sharing and speeches from Tribal leaders, and a Cultural Heritage Pavilion, among other things. The event honors and celebrates the First people of the land now referred to as California.



As part of the California Natural Resources Agency's new [Tribal Stewardship Policy](#), staff led a webinar showcasing the return of ancestral lands to the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone. A recording and accompanying case study are on [the California Natural Resource Agency's website](#).

On a more somber note, the U.S. Department of Justice announced it is investigating CalEPA's hiring practices regarding advancing racial equity in its

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workforce. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration placed new conditions on federal funding that require recipients to certify that they do not operate any programs promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion and are in compliance with federal anti-discrimination laws. While this does not directly affect the Commission, it affects our coastal zone management sister agencies, such as the California Coastal Commission. The Ocean Protection Council is working closely with California's coastal zone management agencies on an aligned response.

Offshore Wind Energy

The federal government is continuing efforts to slow progress on offshore wind energy development. On August 29, the U.S. Department of Transportation revoked grants across the nation related to port improvements for offshore wind. Two grants to the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District totaling almost \$427 million were included in this action. However, at the state level, partial funding for port projects will be made available as a result of [SB 105](#) (Wiener, 2024), which allows the state to sell general obligation bonds totaling \$226 million. The Energy Commission will administer these funds, which derive from Proposition 4 passed by California voters last year.

Staff continue to engage in implementation of [AB 3](#) (Zbur, 2023), which 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. The Energy Commission plans to host a workshop on seaport readiness within the next couple of months. Staff also continue to participate in the [Offshore Wind Fisheries Working Group](#), which is nearing its deadline to produce a strategy to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to fishing and fisheries as required by [SB 286](#) (McGuire, 2023).

Wildfire Prevention

Consistent with California's 2021 [Wildfire & Forest Resilience Action Plan](#), staff continue to assess the condition of forested school lands and are working to identify and treat parcels requiring fuel reduction. Staff are seeking a forestry contractor for the [Prosser Dam Road Fuel Reduction Project](#) located on school lands near the town of Truckee. The project goals are to improve fire resiliency and forest health and reduce risk to critical infrastructure and the community of

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Truckee from wildfire in a dense 109-acre pine tree forest. This project, the first Commission-managed fuels reduction project in decades, is funded by the School Land Bank Fund and the Truckee Fire Protection District. Operations are expected to start in late Fall.

Hollister Ranch Public Access Program

The Legislature, through budget trailer bill [SB 105](#) appropriated \$20 million from Proposition 4 to State Parks for the Hollister Ranch Public Access Plan, including public access improvements at Hollister Ranch. Of this amount, \$5 million is available immediately for a pilot program to inform the final Environmental Impact Statement. The state agency team, comprised of staff from the Coastal Commission, State Coastal Conservancy, State Parks, and the State Lands Commission, developed the draft Hollister Ranch Coastal Access Program in 2022. The State Lands Commission will be performing CEQA on the draft Access Program on behalf of the lead agency, the Coastal Commission. The state agency team, along with the CEQA consultant, Ascent, anticipate initiating pre-CEQA early engagement with local communities in November. The appropriated funds will further the planning and implementation phases of the Access Program. Earlier this month, the state agency team briefed Senator Limon's staff on the status of the draft Coastal Access Program.

Marine Invasive Species Program: Mexico and Ecuador Biofouling Training

Staff traveled to Mexico and Ecuador to deliver invasive species prevention training to local port authorities and shipping industry representatives. The training workshops were organized by the [International Maritime Organization's TEST Biofouling Project](#) and focused on risk assessments and in-water ship inspections. Staff used modules and manuals developed by the TEST Biofouling Project, mixing lecture-style presentations with leading questions and planned activities to increase participation and engagement throughout the training. Staff weaved in the Commission's experience to augment the material with personal examples. Participants included ship owners, operators, ship agents, the Mexican and Ecuadorian Navies, local and state regulators, professors, biologists and oceanographers from regional universities, and private labs and researchers. Staff had the opportunity to build collaborations with Mexican and

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Ecuadorian Navy researchers and policymakers to improve biofouling management and invasive species prevention across the Americas.



Mineral Resources Management

Since August, staff have approved requests from DCOR LLC to plug and abandon 16 wells on Platform Esther in Orange County. The California Geological Energy Management Division permitted the work. DCOR has plugged and abandoned several wells this year and plans to plug and abandon all 13 remaining active wells by the end of 2025. [Staff report 32](#) includes more information, including an action for the Commission to accept quitclaims for Lease 3095 and 3394 and issue a 10 year maintenance and monitoring lease to DCOR while it develops a decommissioning plan.

City of Newport Beach Granted Lands: Mooring Permit Review

Staff has met with City staff to discuss its [Draft Report](#) and requested additional information that will be considered as the Final Report is prepared. Staff is reviewing public comments that have been received up to this point and will continue reviewing comments until the October 31 deadline. Our Final Report, which we will take to our Commission at the December 16 meeting, will respond to public comments and may include updates to incorporate additional analysis or information inspired by public comments.

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Offshore Oil and Gas Decommissioning Projects

Platform Holly

Staff are preparing a notice of preparation for an Environmental Impact Report to decommission Platform Holly and anticipate releasing the Notice of Preparation by the end of this year. 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. ExxonMobil will decommission Platform Holly at its expense after the Commission certifies a final Environmental Impact Report in 2026 or 2027.

Rincon Island

At its [October 2025 meeting](#), the Commission will consider authorizing the Executive Officer to retain contractors to undertake [Phase 3](#) of the Rincon Decommissioning Project. Phase 3 is the final soil remediation and pipeline abandonment on Rincon Island and the onshore facility, all a legacy of over 70 years of oil development. Solicitation and contractor procurement will occur in early 2026, with work to begin, pursuant to an Environmental Impact Report certified in 2025 and addendum, in late 2026 or early 2027. On October 15, staff will participate in a site visit to Rincon Island with Coastal Band of Chumash tribal representatives.

Staff Spotlight

Superior Accomplishment Awards

Pearl Tan and Chris Scianni received superior accomplishment awards for their quick response during a medical situation. Daniel He received a superior accomplishment award for his exceptional efforts in conducting a comprehensive MOTEMS review in a short time frame.

Personnel Updates

Shawn Nelson in the Land Management Division's Title Unit celebrated 25 years of state service last month. Thank you, Shawn, for your many years of service. Andrew Kershen in the Legal Division accepted a position with the Sacramento Superior Court. We thank Andrew for his many years of state service and his

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exceptional work on the abandoned vessels program. Michael Wells in our Climate Adaptation and Special Initiatives Unit accepted a position with the City of Santa Barbara as a Climate Adaptation Specialist.

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