

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

December 16, 2025



## **Bay Area Public Trust Project**

Staff continues to work with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to develop public trust guiding principles for waterfront development along the San Francisco Bay. Stakeholder outreach and engagement will begin in early 2026, with a focus on how climate adaptation projects and waterfront development can meet the public's needs for and uses of state tidelands around the Bay Area. This project is supported by the environmental consultant firm Ascent, with a grant from the Ocean Protection Council. We will keep the Commission and public updated on our progress and opportunities to participate in the process throughout 2026 and beyond.

## **Offshore Wind Energy**

In November, the Commission's Executive Officer moderated a panel during a California Energy Commission workshop on [AB 3 \(Zbur, 2023\)](#). AB 3 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 offshore wind assembly and manufacturing targets. The panel the Commission's Executive Officer moderated included representatives from the fishing industry, cargo shipping, and ports, and focused on maritime co-use and coordination. A recording of the webinar is available on the [Energy Commission's website](#).

## **Offshore Oil and Gas Pipeline Analysis**

The Commission retained a consulting firm to develop a report that analyzes impacts to public trust resources from offshore oil and gas pipelines under the Commission's jurisdiction. A project kick-off meeting between senior Commission staff and the consultant will be held in mid-December. The Commission [authorized development of this analysis](#) at its December 2023 meeting.

## **Wildfire Risk Reduction**

Consistent with California's 2021 Wildfire & Forest Resilience Action Plan ([ACTION PLAN - California Wildfire & Forest Resilience](#)), staff continue to assess the condition of forested school lands and are working to identify and treat parcels requiring fuel reduction. Staff recently selected a forestry contractor, BurnBot, for the Prosser Dam Road Fuel Reduction Project (Contract # C2025038) on school lands near the town of Truckee. Staff are in the process of finalizing associated

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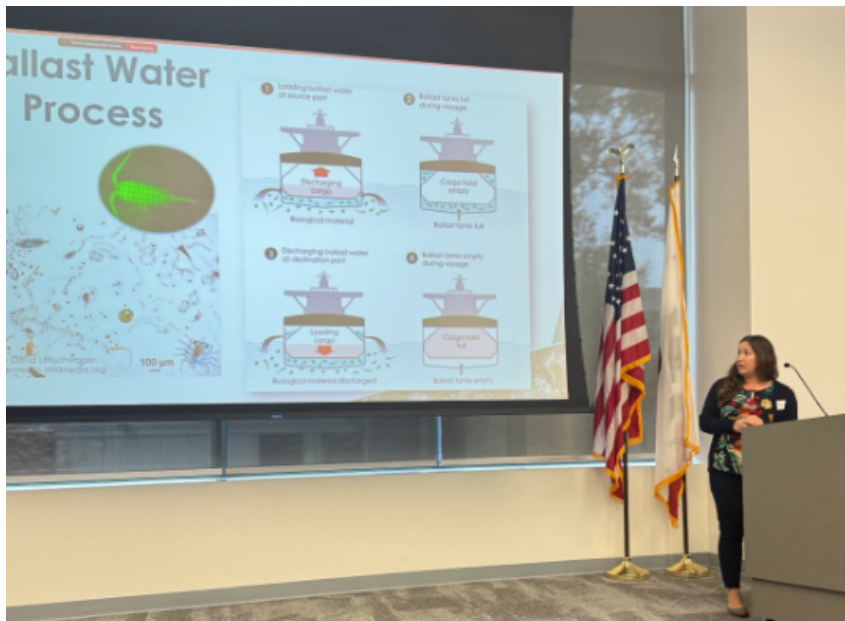
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permits with operations planned to start within the next month. The project goals are to improve fire resiliency and forest health and reduce risk to critical infrastructure and the community of Truckee from wildfire in a dense 109-acre pine tree forest. 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.

## Marine Invasive Species Prevention

On December 4, staff presented at the [2025 Delta Invasive Species Symposium](#) at the California Natural Resources Agency headquarters in Sacramento on the *Knowns, Unknowns, and Assumptions about the Role of Ballast Water in the Introduction of Golden Mussels to California and Potential Secondary Spread in the Invasive Mussels in the Delta* session.



Staff published a scientific paper titled [Debris capture during in-water cleaning of ship biofouling](#) in the peer-reviewed journal *Frontiers in Marine Science*. This paper focuses on minimizing the likelihood of nonindigenous species introduction and chemical contamination while cleaning the hulls and underwater surfaces of commercial vessels. The paper was produced in collaboration with colleagues from the University of Maryland Center for

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Environmental Science and the New Zealand Environmental Protection Authority.

## **Methane Emissions Reduction Program**

Staff have met the federal Department of Energy requirements to use [grant funding](#) it received in December 2023 to plug and abandon five wells in the West Wilmington field in Los Angeles County. The field contractor, California Resources Corporation, received approval from the Department of Conservation, and work is expected to start early next year. Staff, in collaboration with the California Geologic Energy Management Division, are working to identify additional wells outside of the Commission's jurisdiction that can be plugged and abandoned using the grant funding.

## **Annual Reports**

Staff have produced three reports for submittal to the Governor and Legislature at the end of 2025. The legislatively mandated reports provide information on the Commission's [Kapiloff Land Bank Fund](#), its [Coastal Hazard and Legacy Oil and Gas Removal Program](#), and [management of the Commission's school lands](#). Staff are finalizing the reports and will post them on the Commission's website in addition to submitting them to the Governor, Legislature, and other interested parties. These reports provide transparency and showcase the Commission's commitment to these reports and the Commission's achievements this past year.

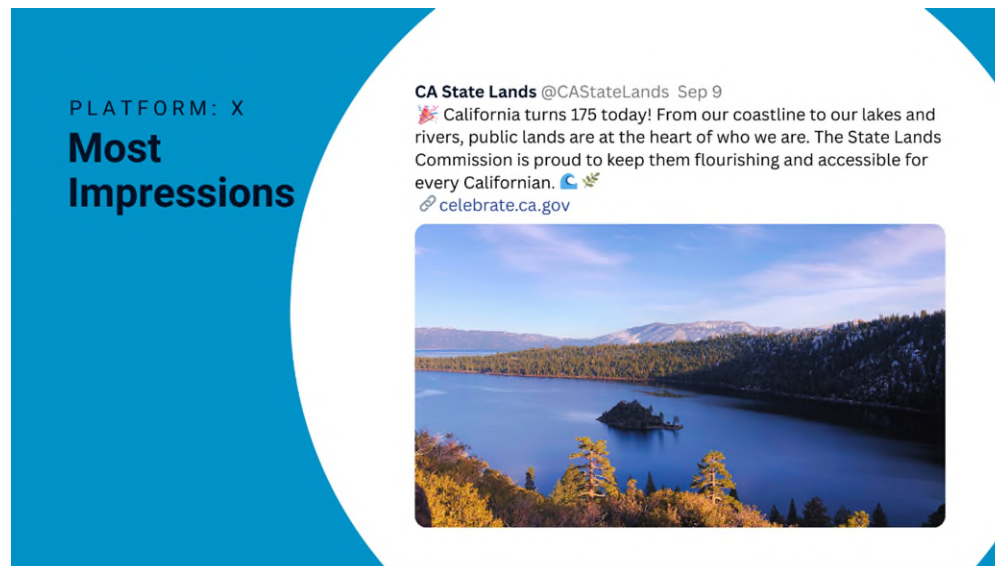
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## Communications and Social Media:

The Commission's top-performing social media post was our celebration of California's 175th anniversary. The post garnered 16,000 impressions, highlighting the public's enthusiasm for this milestone moment in our state's history.



Our most engaging carousel this year was our “What is 30x30?” post. It walked our audience through California's goal to conserve 30% of its lands and coastal waters by 2030, sparking strong interest. The clear visuals and simple breakdown of a big statewide effort made it one of our most informative and popular pieces of content.





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The Commission expanded its social media to Bsky this year, generating connections to 236 followers and counting. The Commission continued to use LinkedIn to promote job openings and share information about its work, and gained followers across all its social media platforms.

## Hollister Ranch Coastal Access Program

The Hollister Ranch Coastal Access Program state agency team, comprised of the Coastal Commission, State Coastal Conservancy, State Parks, and the State Lands Commission, along with the CEQA consultant, Ascent, has initiated the second phase of access planning. This second phase is a pre-CEQA effort intended to develop an Environmental Evaluation Report and select a Proposed Project to evaluate in an Environmental Impact Report. In mid-November, the state agency team held two in-person community engagement workshops in the towns of Buellton and Goleta in Santa Barbara County, followed by a virtual workshop. The purpose of the workshops was to introduce and receive public input on six different draft access program options that offer ways for the public to access the coastline at Hollister Ranch while balancing natural and cultural resource sensitivities, protecting private property owner rights, public safety, and feasibility. Over 100 people attended the in-person workshops and about 200 people attended the virtual workshop.

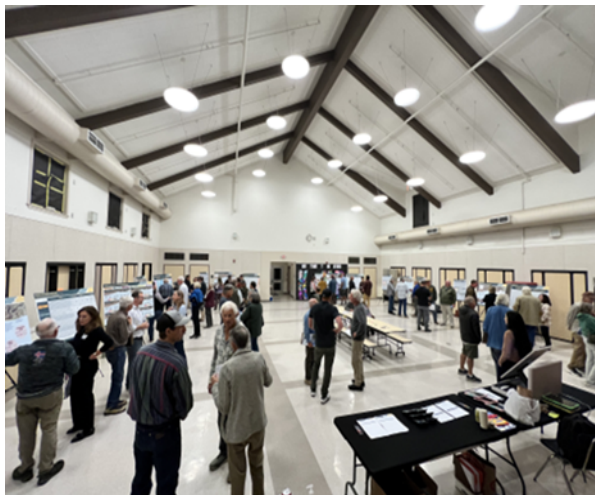


Photo Credit: Ascent Environmental, Inc.

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## Offshore Oil and Gas Decommissioning Projects

### Platform Esther

Production on Platform Esther ended this past August, leaving only two producing offshore oil and gas platforms in state waters. Platform Esther's operator, DCOR, has assiduously plugged and abandoned the platform wells since then. The 10 remaining wells are expected to be plugged and abandoned by next spring. This work follows a January 28 settlement between the Commission and DCOR LLC that ended offshore oil and gas production at Platform Esther off the coast of Seal Beach. Platform Esther had an operative life of about 15 years. The [settlement](#) establishes decommissioning deadlines and ensures that operators will pay all the decommissioning costs, including plugging and abandoning all the platform wells. More information is available in our November [staff report](#).

### Platform Holly

Staff are preparing a notice of preparation for an Environmental Impact Report to decommission Platform Holly. Staff anticipate releasing the Notice of Preparation in early 2026. 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.

### Rincon Island

The Commission's [adoption of the Addendum](#) to the [Final Rincon Phase 2 Decommissioning Environmental Impact Report](#) last month marked the end of Phase 2 of that project. Phase 2 involved the development and environmental assessment of a remediation plan to decommission and restore aspects of Rincon Island and the onshore facility, including the Coast Ranch Parcel and included preparation of a feasibility study, selecting a decommissioning project, and environmental analysis under CEQA.

Phase 2 was preceded by Phase 1, which included plugging and abandoning 70 oil and gas wells and removal of oil processing facilities and most appurtenant structures at Rincon Island, the onshore facility, and the adjacent

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privately owned (at the time) parcel known as the Coast Ranch Parcel. Phase 3 is to implement the decommissioning project. Staff are preparing a scope of work to hire a contractor to perform the work. Staff will release a contract solicitation and bid early next year.

## **Staff Highlights**

### **Superior Accomplishment Award**

Robert Davila in our Marine Environmental Protection Division received a superior accomplishment award for his exceptional work to prevent oil spills at California's marine oil terminals.

### **Personnel**

We welcomed six new staff to the Commission. Prashika Maharaj joined the Commission as an Accounting Administrator II. Danish Virgil Ibasco joined the Commission as a Marine Safety Specialist I. Brandon Elliott and Tenaya Ellis joined the Commission as Marine Safety Inspectors. Anthony Llanto joined the Commission as a Marine Safety Specialist. Apurva Behal joined the Commission's legal division as an Attorney III.

Photos provided by Commission staff unless otherwise noted.

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