

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

April 7, 2026



New Strategic Plan:

Staff are conducting internal and external outreach and engagement to guide the development of the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. Building on the successes of and lessons learned from the 2016–2020 and 2021–2025 Strategic Plans, this early phase of work is focused on establishing the foundation for a thoughtful and inclusive process. Input will be obtained from government agencies, tribes, other stakeholders, and the public. Staff will use insight from early engagement efforts with the goal of creating a draft Strategic Plan by Fall 2026 that will be circulated for public review and comment.

San Francisco 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 shoreline development that both considers risks associated with sea level rise and maximizes public use and benefits. Public engagement is underway and has included interviews with local governments and review of supporting documents. Staff is preparing to engage with the business/developer community, community-based organizations, and tribal governments to further inform the development of relevant and meaningful guiding principles. The project is supported by the environmental consultant firm Ascent, with a grant from the Ocean Protection Council.

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council:

In March, staff participated in a panel discussion hosted by the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary [Advisory Council](#) about the offshore oil and gas decommissioning process. The Sanctuary Advisory Council is a community-based body that provides a public forum for consultation and deliberation on resource management issues affecting waters surrounding the Channel Islands. The Council's [membership](#) represent the public, tourism, business, recreational and commercial fishing, non-consumptive recreation, education, research, conservation and Chumash community interests, as well as government agencies. Staff discussed the decommissioning process, public engagement opportunities, and the decision-making process.

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Earth Day:

Staff is working with the California Natural Resources Agency and its departments, commissions, and boards to plan and coordinate a family-friendly [Earth Day 2026](#) open house/celebration where attendees can join in interactive exhibits and hands-on activities, and connect with teams across the Agency. Staff will host a table at the Agency Earth Day open house on April 22. This is an opportunity for staff to highlight the Commission's work and engage staff and the public. The event will be open to the public. Staff are also helping build an Earth Day social media strategy to build momentum for the celebration and highlight the Agency and Commission's work to protect our environment.



MOTEMS 20th Anniversary:

Our Marine Environmental Protection Division recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of California's marine oil terminal engineering and maintenance standards, commonly known as [MOTEMS](#). Since its adoption 20 years ago, our engineers have protected state waters from oil spills through these stringent engineering standards. We've overseen audits of every marine oil terminal, the correction of countless deficiencies, and the opening of three new terminals. Staff look forward to continuing to work with terminal operators and the regulated

community to modernize marine oil terminals, especially as California transitions to renewable fuels to achieve its climate and clean energy goals.



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City of Newport Beach Granted Lands Management:

In February and March, staff met with members of the Newport Beach mooring and liveaboard community, the City's Harbor Commission, and City staff to continue discussing the City's granted lands management and its plans for addressing concerns and recommendations in the [Commission's report](#).

Members of the Newport Beach mooring and liveaboard community expressed their concerns about the City's level of engagement as it works to address issues identified in the report. To help address this concern, Commission staff has emphasized to the City that meaningful public engagement is essential as it updates its granted lands management. Staff will continue to work closely with the City as it progresses with addressing the report's recommendations.

Contracting:

Staff launched a new contracting [new contracting webpage](#) to better connect contractors with certification resources and training tools and to make the procurement process clearer, more accessible, and transparent. The updated page, dovetailing with National Procurement Month, showcases how procurement supports the Commission's public land management work. Our contracting team manages about 200 agreements totaling about \$179 million. These agreements support fuel reduction projects that reduce wildfire risk, abandoned vessel removal in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and offshore oil and gas decommissioning that is essential to California's clean energy transition. Our refreshed webpage and corresponding social media outreach ([video 1](#) and [video 2](#)) make it easier for small or disabled veteran businesses, and others, to learn how to contract with the Commission and the State of California.

Offshore Oil and Gas Pipeline Analysis:

Staff, working with contractor Industrial Economics, Inc (IEc), are developing an analysis of impacts to public trust resources and values (APTR), to assess the long-term risks and impacts to public trust resources for offshore oil and gas pipelines under the Commission's jurisdiction. These pipelines are in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, and Orange counties. The direction to develop this analysis, was issued at the Commission's [December 2023](#) meeting. Staff

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anticipate providing an informational update to the Commission at a future 2026 Commission meeting.

Marine Invasive Species Program

Secretary Crowfoot appointed Chris Scianni, our Marine Invasive Species Program Manager, to the [California Invasive Species Advisory Committee](#). The Committee advises the agency secretary level Invasive Species Council of California. Secretary Crowfoot is a co-chair of that council. As a member of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee, Chris will represent the Commission's expertise in preventing invasive species introductions in California's marine and estuarine environments. Leveraging his experience in ballast water management and biofouling prevention, Chris will contribute technical guidance and policy recommendations that support science-based strategies to protect our coastline, ports, and inland waterways.

Methane Emissions Reduction Program:

In January and February, Tidelands Oil Production Company plugged and abandoned two marginal conventional wells at West Wilmington. Plug and abandonment activities have since been put on hold pending follow-up conversations with the Commission, Tidelands Oil Production and the Department of Energy regarding whether the company can comply with the Department's reporting requirements. Staff continue to collaborate with the Department of Conservation to find wells outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to use the grant funds. The decision to use the grant funding to plug and abandon wells outside of the Commission's jurisdiction is the result of an inability to identify leaking marginal conventional wells after almost two years of continued surveys of more than 185 wells in the Commission's jurisdiction.

Offshore Oil and Gas Decommissioning

Platform Holly:

In February, staff held two public meetings at the Goleta City Council Chambers to receive public comment on the [Notice of Preparation](#) to decommission Platform Holly. Various stakeholders attended the meetings and provided public comment, including residents, environmental leaders, and UC Santa Barbara students. The Commission received roughly 90 comments when the comment

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period closed on March 6. These comments will help guide the Draft Environmental Impact Report that staff are now developing and hope to release for public comment in early 2027. Staff anticipate that the Commission will certify a final Environmental Impact Report in early to mid-2027.

The Commission embarked on this decommissioning project after [Venoco filed for bankruptcy](#) in 2017. Platform Holly is currently in caretaker status, meaning that the wells have been plugged and disconnected from the reservoir, process fluids have been removed and equipment cleaned and the platform is unstaffed and remotely monitored for safety. The proposed decommissioning project that will be analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report is to fully remove Platform Holly, though partial removal, cutting the platform at least 85 feet below the surface and leaving the lower portion in place, will be fully evaluated.



Rincon Island:

Last November, the Commission adopted an [Addendum](#) to the Final Rincon Phase 2 Decommissioning Environmental Impact Report, marking the completion of Phase 2 of the project. Phase 2 focused on developing and evaluating a remediation plan to decommission and restore parts of Rincon Island and an onshore facility, including the Coast Ranch parcel. This work included preparing a feasibility study, selecting a decommissioning project, and environmental review under CEQA. Phase 2 followed Phase 1, which involved plugging and abandoning 70 oil and gas wells and removing oil processing facilities and most structures at Rincon Island, the onshore facility, and a nearby parcel. Phase 3 is to implement the decommissioning project. Staff are

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preparing a scope of work to hire a contractor to perform the work and expect to release a contract solicitation and bid soon.

Platform Esther:

DCOR LLC, the Platform Esther owner and operator, has continued to plug and abandon the wells on Platform Esther, with just one of the 30 that required abandoning after the Platform was shut in in 2025 remaining. Platform Esther offshore Seal Beach is one of California's last platforms in state waters, and its shut in leaves only two operational oil platforms in state waters. Platform Esther ceased production last year as part of a [settlement](#) between the Commission and DCOR LLC that ended oil production about 15 years ahead of its originally anticipated life and required DCOR LLC to pay decommissioning costs.

Offshore Wind Energy:

Staff, in their capacity as part of the [offshore wind energy fisheries working group](#), participated in the development of a draft statewide strategy to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to fishing and fisheries as required by [SB 286](#) (McGuire, 2023). The strategy was publicly released in late January, was presented to the California Coastal Commission as an informational item in early February, and the California Coastal Commission will consider adopting it at their April 15-17 meeting.

Staff Spotlight:

25-years of state service:

Three Marine Invasive Species Program staff, Craig Fultz, Dalia Keroles, and Jackie Mackay, celebrated 25 years of state service.

New Hires:

The Commission welcomed Ephraim Daryll Medina as a Marine Safety Specialist with the Marine Environmental Protection Division and Kenneth Noriesta as an Energy and Mineral Resources Engineer with the Safety Audit Team in our Mineral Resources Management Division.

Retirements:

Lisa Lloyd, Chief of our Administrative Services Division, is retiring after 36 years of public service.

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