

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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Governor Brown Signs Coastal Commission Budget Augmentation

The Governor's 2013-14 Budget, signed June 27, 2013, included a \$3 million augmentation for the Coastal Commission to address the existing backlog of Local Coastal Program (LCP) amendments. In addition, the Governor approved \$1 million for grants to local governments that wish to complete or update their LCPs. The augmentation is for a single year, with direction to work with the Department of Finance to address ongoing needs. (See signing message below).

Local Coastal Programs implement the statewide goals and policies of the Coastal Act at the local level. They provide for new development while protecting coastal resources, including public access, wetlands and habitats, rural scenic landscapes and coastal agriculture. However, more than 80% of California's LCPs were certified over 20 years ago, and 36 segments have never been completed. Updating these plans is essential for local governments' ability to adapt to sea level rise, as well as provide for responsive planning for economic development objectives and other concerns.

"This is a good day for the coast," said Coastal Commission Chair, Mary Shallenberger. "The Legislature and the Governor have signaled that they expect the Coastal Commission bring the state's coastal plans into the 21st century, and they've given us the resources to do so. This budget allows us to support the work of our local government partners, and hire the staff we need to do the job."

The Coastal Commission extends its thanks to Governor Brown, Resources Secretary John Laird, Assembly Speaker John Perez, and Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg as well as Budget Subcommittee Chairs Assembly member Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) and Senator Jim Beall (D-San Jose) for making this important, affirmative investment in coastal planning.

The Commission would also like to thank Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) for making LCP updates a top priority, and championing this issue in the Legislature from the beginning of the year. Finally, the Commission thanks the local governments, organizations and individuals that offered support for this increased LCP funding.

The Commission staff is preparing proposed LCP grant criteria for the new local government grant program for the Commission's consideration at the August or September 2013 meeting.

The Commission will be hiring additional staff to focus on LCP planning work.

Governor's Signing Message:

Item 3720-001-0001—For support of California Coastal Commission. I sustain this item. I am sustaining the \$3,000,000 augmentation for the California Coastal Commission on a one time basis. This augmentation is intended to address the current backlog of Local Coastal Plans awaiting review. I prefer to focus any additional resources on assisting local jurisdictions to complete and revise their plans in a timely manner. I am directing the Department of Finance to examine what level of resources, if any, the Coastal Commission requires for this purpose in 2014-15.