

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COASTAL COMMISSION MOURNS PASSAGE OF PETER DOUGLAS, FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The staff and Commissioners of the California Coastal Commission grieve the passage of former Executive Director Peter Douglas, who died on Sunday night, April 1, 2012, at his sister's home in La Quinta after a long battle with cancer. Peter was 69 years old.

Peter was the Commission's longest-serving Executive Director, a position he held from 1985 to 2011. Prior to working for the Commission, he served in the Legislature as an aide to Assemblyman Alan Siertoy (D-Beverly Hills), and as a committee consultant. During that time he was responsible for the drafting and passage of Proposition 20 (the Coastal Initiative) in 1972, as well as the California Coastal Act of 1976 which created the Coastal Commission.

Over the decades, Peter's name has become synonymous with coastal protection. His accomplishments are too numerous to list, but he played a part in creating, acquiring or preserving many coastal parks and state beaches, campgrounds, trails and overnight hostels, including Crystal Cove, Garrapata, Tollowa Dunes, Steep Ravine and Sea West State Parks, San Onofre and Doheney Beach State Campgrounds, the Monterey Bay Recreational Trail, the Avila Lighthouse Trail, the Point Buchon Trail and many others. He also worked to protect California's ocean waters from offshore oil development and other industrial practices. For more information about Peter's career and accomplishments, and to read statements from Coastal Commission staff and Commissioners, please visit the Commission's website, www.coastal.ca.gov.

During his 34-year tenure at the Coastal Commission, Peter earned the love, respect and loyalty of his staff, and inspired environmental advocates and stewards statewide and beyond. He will be forever remembered for his kind heart and unpredictable sense of humor.

Peter is survived by his two sons, Sascha and Vanja Douglas, sister Christina Douglas, brother Dieter Claren, former wife Rotraut, and grandchildren Charlie and Madelina.

In keeping with his last wishes, contributions in lieu of flowers may be sent to:

- Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation: A fellowship fund to help train the next generation of coastal defenders has been established in Peter's honor. Contributions to the Peter Douglas Coastal Intern Fellowship can be made on line at: www.mbnmsf.org

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
299 Foam St. #D
Monterey, CA 93940
Or call: 831-647-4209

- The Wildlands Conservancy: TWC has created the Peter Douglas Coastal Project Fund, to honor Peter's commitment to protecting coastal landscapes and enhancing public access. These funds will be used toward the purchase of a critical coastal property and/or a public access improvement that will be dedicated in his memory and open and available to all. Contributions to the Wildlands Coastal Project can be sent to:

The Wildlands Conservancy--Coastal Project Fund
39611 Oak Glen Road, #12
Oak Glen, CA 92399
www.wildlandsconservancy.org
Or call: 909-797-8507